

## Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Grants Pass Fire Rescue

**Date:** 05/21/2024

**Time:** 0900

**Call to Order:** 0900

**New Members / Special Guests:** Oregon Department of Forestry, Tim Holschbach DC of Fire Policy, and Derrick Wheeler legislative coordinator and responsible for the risk map.

**Approval of Last Month's Minutes:** Motion to approve Wolfard / 2<sup>nd</sup> Anders, Motion Passed by all

**Approval of Financial Report:** \$6,534.65 Motion to approve Wolfard / 2<sup>nd</sup> Anders, Motion Passed by all

**Additions to the Agenda:** No Additions

### Old Business:

- Strategic Plan (Thompson): Chief Thompson met with committee leads and will be sending them out information to fill out and get back. Hoping to have a first report at August's meeting.

### New Business:

- Letters of support for Special Districts Grant Accessibility Act (H.R. 7525)- Motion made by Wolfard to support, 2<sup>nd</sup> DeLonge Motion Passed unanimously.
- OSHA Letter- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, reviewed information and encouraged agencies to also support. RVFCA support was approved last meeting.
- FDBC Position- Chief Painter has requested to not be an alternate FDBC. Chief Wolfard nominated DC Joe Hyatt from Grants Pass Fire. No other persons were nominated. Hyatt was voted in unanimously from the group, and Hyatt accepted the position.
- Wildfire Hazard Map- ODF leadership listed under guests above gave a presentation on the wildfire hazard map and the future.

### Section Reports:

- **Operations (Fire/EMS):** (Brown): Met earlier in May and discussed a couple of big topics. One of them is moving the standing orders over to RVFCA best practices. The group requested to hear from agencies which ones they wanted to have moved over, and are currently waiting to hear back from them.
  - Chief Prince is leading the updates to the RVTF/ST recommendations. They are focusing on the mobilization guidelines, and the makeup of the TF/ST's. Options for ST will have T1, T2, T3, and T6, all of which will also come with an additional tender with the exception of the Tender ST. Then they have a wildland taskforce mixed with T3's, T6's and a tender. Other updates are word smithing and error corrections.
- **Training (RITA):** (Marshal): RITA met last week. MTU unit is in the GP area for a month and then go over to D5 next. Rick from DPSST wanted to remind us that the maintenance recertification

packets will be coming out and are due by Dec. 31. The DPSST DLO position for our area is currently unfilled. The application process for that position will remain open until filled.

- The training calendar project goal is to have a 6 year training calendar established. This will help with budgeting and or having folks prepared to teach the class and know when it will happen. They also hope to reduce redundant classes from agencies.
- Insurance- The chiefs had requested a person meet with Blakely to review the history of the insurance issue. Due to schedule conflicts this has not been able to happen. RITA is reviewing this month and plans to vote on this issue next month. We as a group discussed this and feel that this issue is related to the strategic plan. It is preferable to see if agencies can use their insurance to cover classes. The fact that RITA pays for and or has folks volunteer to teach on their behalf was also brought up. If this should continue then RITA has some liability. Again, clear direction from the Chiefs on the intent and support of RITA will help clarify this.
- Gavlik will be taking over RITA starting in July.
- There was a request to bring back HIC training, possibly through OSFM. OSFM members present stated that is currently not funded.
- **RCC-** (Riis via Marshal): RCC- Plans to do live fire instructor training and live fire instructor in charge training. As of last week they still have a couple slots open in the instructor 2 class starting May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **RV Prevention CO-OP:** (Kassab): The COOP continues to work on requests from local fire departments to help accomplish their missions.
  - Smokey is done and the Feds and State agencies really stepped up. There were some challenges, but they were able to overcome them. As a reminder this was done in 2 counties for 40+ schools, so coordination to ensure the support that is needed was critical. Any ideas to improve will be moved on to next year.
  - Green Waste Day. Update from Ian on green waste days for the areas. Overall it was successful with a huge shout out to Ashland for leading the community involvement. Some money is left for this but needs spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - CWPP funding came out. Dates for 3<sup>rd</sup> round will be out soon. This round funded 109 CWPP's this time. They expect that the next round will fund less CWPP's and involve more projects. There is some funding available for clean air. If you have questions, please reach out to Ian.
- **Fire Defense Board** (Holmes/Thompson): 3 weeks ago, fire defense board chiefs were at the state conference. Seven of the eight made it up there to represent our area. The 2024 mobilization

plan was presented and passed unanimously. Biggest change is the volunteer rate structure to help support volunteers leaving the community.

- Prepositioning- If you get prepositioned plan on camping. Also if you are at 48 hours and you get assigned to an incident you may or may not stay longer than 72. The state is finding that it is easier to get these groups for 72 hours, than for a 14 day assignment. Any additional past the 72 hours will involve the TF/ST, and the FDRC to come to a final agreement if they can or cannot commit.
- The 2025 mobilization radio plan is out and you need to review it.
- Last week kicked off our weekly rotation. Survey goes out to those agencies that want to participate every Monday morning, and it is critical to get those back.

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### **Advisory Membership Reports:**

- **911- ECSO-(Harris)** Nothing
- **ASA-** ○ Mercy Flights(Whipple)– Mercy Flights is in midst of offering revamped helicopter training. Reach out to Mercy to get this training.
  - AMR-(Mathews)Things are going well but call volume is up and down. AMR has offered jobs for all of their open positions and will be full this fall.
- **HazMat Team #8 (Howard/Thompson)** – Responded to assist on police event in the IV for some chemicals in a cooler. Cleanup company was not able to mitigate without air monitoring or sampling.
  - Both HazMat rigs have been rebranded with OSFM logo. HazMat conference next week for 75 members.
- **Technology Group:** (Goodnough) Currently reviewing the master radio frequency list. Will be adding in two optional groups at the end one for MCI in Josephine County and one for Jackson County. This group was built for a recent Josephine County training and having all the needed frequencies on one bank really helped out communications.
  - Rural Metro was able to obtain the old County Fire Frequency and has offered it up as a replacement for the tach 3 frequency that is being used by SORCC.
  - They are also reviewing the 2025 MOB update radio frequency plan.
  - Tach 3 repeat will need to be looked at and either utilize PL tones or update the repeaters to the new frequency from RM.
- **OSFM - (Vonn):** Have banners for anyone that wants them.
  - CWRR Grant came out which will be 3 million dollars in funding and must be used by July of 2026. 2 types of projects funded the first of which is defensible space projects within 100' of the home and 70% of funds will go to that and then the second is community protection projects that are beyond 100' of the home, but must be tied to protecting the community.
  - (Lashley) Governor's fire service policy council for behavioral health was successful in its recommendation to the board and established the fire service health and safety collaborative, which will serve as a hub with access to services on behavioral health, physical health, cancer

prevention and incident safety. Web site may be a little empty right now as they are moving content over. Goal is to establish regionalized peer support programs to deploy as needed for incidents.

- **SWOCG –**

- **(Larson) – ODF Nothing new to add except going into fire season so they will be meeting more.**
- **(Stuart)-BLM** is busy burning. Should be wrapping up the majority of the burning at the end of this week. Most of which is in the Applegate Unit. Grants Pass is completed with the exception of one that is wrapping up in Williams, Butte Falls is also wrapping up one. Resources assigned to help will be de-mobbing this week.
  - Current project in Williams that does with park service or park service in communities. Will be rolling it out to them at an upcoming meeting. Will be sharing information on what to do before, during, and after a fire.
  - If you are interested in slip on units, the BLM has some available so please reach out. She is working on getting the agreements done which are a 5-year length.
  - About 3 weeks ago she sent out a bunch of information about grants that are available or coming out. However, she has learned it didn't go to the right spot so she will be resending that out. In addition, there is an email called community navigator which will help navigate these grants. They have partnered with the Forest Service to help get these grants into the small departments that need them.
  - Crew 10 the Type 21A crew will be on by Mid June. Doing their critical onboarding right now.
  - 12 fires with the largest at 7 acres and they have all been transient fires. They are working on patrol but they have 1 officer for 800,000 acres.
  - Also if you are anywhere near the Monument area please review the resource management plan that is out for input.
  - FS Chief 1 detail will end early July and then it will transition another 4 month detail through fire season. Mike McCannan is now lead fuels for Butte Falls area.
  - Solar Flares did affect some critical transmissions during burn days last week.

**(Winslow) – ODF Medford** is wrapping up fuels and prevention season. Next Tuesday onboarding their forest officers and fire school. On June 17<sup>th</sup> the rest of the crew members will be on. By June 30<sup>th</sup> they should all be on.

- Camera update tallow box, half of tombstone, Ashland, and Round Top are up and operational. SODA and Viberstat are likely to be operational by the end of the month. Still working on Floutz and half of tombstone.
- Will have 2 type 1 helicopters in stead of an air tanker. 1 chinook long line out of Roseburg and one Blackhawk with belly tank in Medford. Possible one will be able to do night ops by end of the season. One request was made to bring a LAT from Redmond to Medford instead of 3 in Redmond, but have not had a confirmation on that plan.
- **(Fumasi) GP-** Filling in for the rest of the month and then they will have someone in a developmental position starting in June.
- One new camera on King Mountain.

- **Emergency Management – (Powers)-** Held safety and preparedness fair and want to say thank you to those that showed up. A lot of good learning points came from the event.
    - Jackson County implemented May 14 know your zone alert. One thing we learned was that people fail to update their information in the system. Zone haven is now genesis, so you will see info coming out to the Jackson County folks about know your zone in the system. There is a massive front side map to use, but also there is a backend for agencies that has very valuable information and tools, such as intersections counts, disabled folks, etc.
    - Jackson County will be conducting their own CWPP, Chris Adams was hired and will be at June meeting and hope to have it done in next 4 months so we can have access to grants.
    - Crisis Comms plan- Will review the plan next week, and Jackson County will do a table top exercise end of June and beginning of July.
    - Grants- HSAP Homeland all grants must go through the county. All ODEM grants through the County.
  - **Medford EM (OTT)-** Management 317 MG 317 is open tomorrow with some seats still open. Chief Karnes tabletop exercise for the airport will be on 29<sup>th</sup> 1330-1600.
  - **Ashland EM (Kelly)-** July 11<sup>th</sup> hosting an evacuation summit. Will be sharing lessons learned from the Oroville dam break. Updating CWPP. Also asking for a potential EOC channel, or EM channel, this is in the planning for radio projects.
  - **JoCo-** Grants Pass Fire was given notice on Monday that the Firewise position they house is up to be discussed for termination of contract today at 1330.
  - **OFCA – (Brown/Hussey)**
    - The special district funding support is an important thing. If your governing body will allow a letter of support, we recommend sending one in.
    - They are reviewing and updating their strategic plan.
    - There was an email that went out on OHA delayed funding. This will affect those that bill for EMS services. OHA stated they are delaying payments until a new program is out, but there was no given timeframe. Even if you didn't get an email, if you bill it will impact you.
  - **PIO – (Powers/Weber)** No Report
  - **Chaplains- (Saada)-** No report
  - **SOCERT-(Saada)-** Training for Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Subsidized, normally 600, and it will be done for \$300, in Rogue Valley most likely GP. Need to try and get 20 folks.
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## Agency Brief Out:

- **Ashland-** Opened up applications for firefighter paramedic. They will have a vacancy through attrition. The T3 and T6 are scheduled to arrive on time. Single roles will finish up training and on streets early June.
- **Medford-** Squad 14 has started. So they will have 2 medical squads on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Graduated the recruit class and will complete probationary checkoff in next couple of weeks, prior to fire season. Concentrating heavy on succession planning. They are allowing for folks to ride up in positions to help develop people. You may see 2 BC's in service or 2 people in the BC rig. With upcoming retirements, they want to be ahead of turnover. Also have an RFP out for replacing fire station 15. Hope to have the contract solidified the first part of July.
- **District 3-** Welcome to Will Clelland who is now the deputy Chief of District 3. Later today they will promote a new Battalion Chief, and soon a new Captain and Engineer. Shared an email about an illegal burn to the north end of the district, so I am looking for those that want to be part of this conversation. It will take some creativity to get this figured out.
- **ODF-** Fully staffed, 12 million budget which is double from 7 years ago. Same compliment of aviation as last year. Dan Quinoes will take over as coordinator for the SW Oregon district on July 1. Still working on night 1 helicopter with night vision. Will have the Chinook in Roseburg and the Type 2 in GP. Fire season will start June 1 and ODF will coordinate a release of that soon. ODF will have 3 Type 1 teams available for the season. Long term forecast is higher temperatures and below normal precipitation. Also working on a fire funding fix to solve long term issue for Oregon, report to legislature by December 1. Have a new deputy director of fire, Kyle Williams. Worked for ODF and then OFIC, and now back at ODF with full emphasis of fire program. Chris Kline is the interim Chief of Fire Protection. Working on BLM western Oregon operating plan will have an agreement by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Applegate-** Changes to radio programming, will send an email out to the operations group later today. Type 2's are now classified as heavy brush. Shift officer position in background for a vacancy. Station 51 is now fully staffed at night, during the daytime hit and miss during school. Starting June 15<sup>th</sup> will be fully staffed 24 hours. Applegate fire plan is being updated for the first time in 22 years, and is being run through partnership groups. Working on an agreement with the FS to participate on teams. If anyone else has an interest just reach out.
- **Illinois Valley-** Chipper program is up and running. Doing OSFM assessments, and the wildland upstaffing will start in July.
- **Williams-** Have until Friday to get apps in for Chief. Received 3 separate small grants to replace bay doors. Another recent donation which allowed them to buy several new training manikins.
- **Evans valley-** RCC has a fire advisory meeting today at 3pm.
- **District 4-** Fully staffed and have hired all of the seasonal and fall positions hired. If anyone is short let him know as they had a couple they didn't pick up. Our internal academy is going on and they are doing well. 2 volunteer spots left to fill and then they will be full on the volunteer roster.
- **EC SO-** For those with fire view they just added the fire mob plan, and the FD BC DO schedule in the documents. If you need other documents let them know and they will update it.
- **Grants Pass-** Graduated the one firefighter to shift this week. We are still looking for a Chief and back to taking initial applications. I will be out and not available all of June so Hyatt will be the go to for GP.
- **Lake Creek-** Received staffing grant for the summer. Also thank you to D3, and d4 for helping stop a large fire this last weekend.
- **Wolf Creek-** In the middle of 1.8 million seismic retrofit grant. Moved out of the station and into the old County yard that they had purchased years ago. Effective June 1<sup>st</sup> they will have 1 person on duty 4 days a week for 10 hours a day. May have 2 later in the season and this will go through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Next Meeting: June 18<sup>th</sup> at D3. Look for the survey to RSVP for food.**

**Adjournment 10:23AM**