

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Annual Report
2008-2009

INTRODUCTION

June 30, 2009 marks the completion of the third year of the Stanislaus County Fire Authority. Each year the Executive Committee compiles information from the contracted service providers on the highlights of their accomplishments during the past year. Each service provider has provided a brief outline of some of the objectives, projects and accomplishments that were achieved on behalf of the fire agencies in Stanislaus County this year.

The Fire Authority strives to keep the Board of Supervisors educated and informed of its goals, objectives and functions. It is the belief of the Executive Committee that, in order for future success, we must keep the Board, as our partner, well aware of the needs of the fire service.

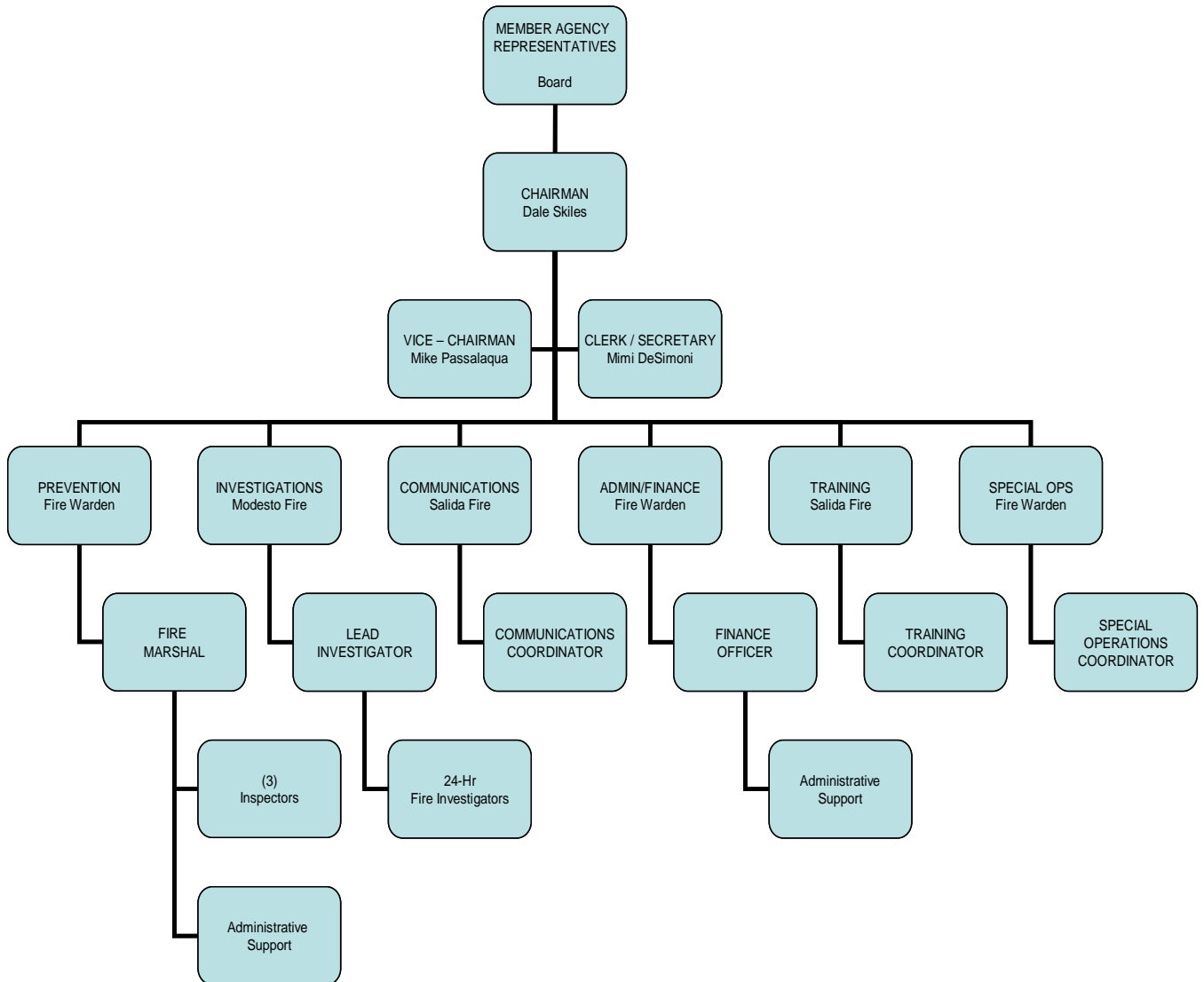
Equally important, our membership plays a vital role in directing the services they have identified as priorities. Each year, all member agencies are afforded an opportunity to review the financial status of the organization, approve an annual business plan, evaluate, and provide, in a written format, their opinion on performance expectations and service levels, and how service levels can be improved or enhanced to better meet their needs.

There are 20 member agencies in the Fire Authority. Each agency has designated a representative, most have an alternate, authorized to vote on issues brought before the Board. The active participation of the membership is important to the success of the organization, and attendance and participation is encouraged. During the past year there were 10 regular meetings, the average attendance was just over 12 agencies per meeting, which is up slightly from 2007-2008. The following is a breakdown by agency:

Number of Agencies	Meetings Attended	% of Attendance
8	10	100%
1	8	80%
2	7	70%
2	5	50%
2	4	40%
1	1	10%
4	0	0%

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The following chart is representative of the Fire Authority organization and service providers. The Executive Committee, made up of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk/Secretary, was re-elected to serve during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.



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Service:	Finance Administration
Provider:	Stanislaus County Fire Warden
	Salida Fire, Woodland Ave. Fire
Contract Period:	various
2008-2009 Program Cost:	\$131,914
Annual Increase	None
Funding Source:	
General Fund	\$0
Fees	\$0
Less Than Countywide	\$131,914

Program Highlights

During the 2008-2009 year the elected Executive Board positions were as follows:

- Chairman – Dale Skiles, Salida Fire District Chief
- Vice-Chairman- Chief Mike Passalaqua, Woodland Ave. Fire District
- Clerk/Secretary - Mimi DeSimoni, Stanislaus County Fire Warden’s Office

The Executive Board meets and communicates regularly to ensure that the membership is provided with accurate and timely information on the services that are being provided through the Fire Authority as well as about issues that affect the fire service. The Stanislaus County Fire Warden’s Office staff provides financial, administrative, and operational support to the Fire Authority and the individual fire agencies in the County. Also included is the support provided as the Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator as a resource to the fire agencies in the County. Some of the projects and accomplishments achieved this year include:

- Acted as budget manager for the County Fire Service Fund
- Developed 09-10 Business Plan for approval by Fire Authority
- Met on a regular basis with Executive Committee
- Tracked annual revenues and expenditures of the County Fire Service Fund and reported to the Fire Authority
- Managed all Fire Authority documents including Form 700s, agendas, minutes, agency representative designations, voting records, and reports
- Provided information upon request from CEOs Office and Board of Supervisors regarding fire agencies and Fire Authority

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Finance / Administration - Continued

- Monitored contracts and reimbursements between Stanislaus County and service providers
- Administered the financial cost sharing of the MDC program
- Worked with districts on budgeting, and dry period funding issues
- Provided analysis of assessed valuation for fire districts
- Took the lead in communicating with the Building Department regarding on-going issues related to development fee collections and reporting
- Provided administrative support to the Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator, coordinating daily conference calls, CICCIS Position lists updates, and the daily dissemination of information on deployed resources during strike team activations and overhead
- Provided support to fire agencies in the County on reimbursement issues related to out of county response
- Supported Fire Warden's Office with California Incident Command Certification System (CICCIS), Incident Qualification System (IQS), and Resource Ordering System Status (ROSS) data base programs administration
- Provided annual requalification and training for CICCIS positions
- Administered Homeland Security grants providing benefit to the fire service with funding for enhanced communication infrastructure, training, and portable transmitters
- Represented the fire service on the new CAD project

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Service:	Fire Communications
Provider:	Salida Fire District
Contract Period:	12/1/06 – 11/30/11
2008-2009 Program Cost:	\$141,124
Annual Increase	4% annually
Funding Source:	
General Fund	\$ 0
Fees	\$ 0
Less Than Countywide	\$ 141,124

Program Highlights

The Salida Fire Protection District has been providing Fire Communications services since December 2006. In addition to on-going projects, some of the services provided and accomplishments achieved during the 2008-2009 year include:

- Applied for and was awarded the AFG Regional Communications Grant. Through a series of workshops, the grant was implemented for the benefit of all fire agencies in Stanislaus County for the purchase of radios and pagers. Work continues on securing additional grant funding to further enhance communications equipment for the fire service.
- Represented fire agencies at the CAD working group
- Acted as chairman of the Communications Advisory Committee and MDC workgroup
- Developed radio programming standards for Stanislaus County fire agencies
- Completed Communications Unit Leader (COML) training
- Completed Communications Asset Survey Mapping (CASM) training
- Entered all Stanislaus County Fire information into CASM
- Completed updates for the county's Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
- Supported fire agencies with programming and paging needs
- Completed disaster planning work to prepare for interoperability purposes

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Service:	Fire Investigations
Provider:	Modesto Fire Department
Contract Period:	7/1/06 – 6/30/11
2008-2009 Program Cost:	\$507,861
Annual Increase	The greater of 4% or CPI annually
Funding Source:	
General Fund	\$ 0
Fees	\$ 0
Less Than Countywide	\$507,861

Program Highlights

On July 1, 2009, the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) of the Modesto Fire Department completed its third year of providing fire investigation services to the unincorporated areas of the County. During the 2008-2009 year, the FIU consisted of one 40hr/week supervisor, three shift investigators, one clerical support person and four relief investigators normally assigned to suppression crews. The FIU is managed by the Division Chief / Fire Marshal. The following is a summary of services provided during the fiscal year:

- From July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 a total of 339 investigations were performed in the County contract areas
- 255 were determined to be arson (75%)
- 44 were determined to be accidental (13%)
- 40 the cause could not be determined (18%)
- The FIU averaged over 22 hours of follow-up investigation per month
- This effort along with the cooperation of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department resulted in 18 arrests throughout the county
- A report of all activities, broken down by jurisdiction, was provided every month at the Fire Authority meetings

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Service:	Fire Prevention
Provider:	Stanislaus County Fire Warden
Contract Period:	7/1/06 – 6/30/11
2008-2009 Program Cost:	\$572,840
Annual Increase	4% annually
Funding Source:	
General Fund	\$282,381
Fees	\$167,385
Less Than Countywide	\$123,074

Program Highlights

The Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office began providing fire prevention services on July 1, 2006. This completes the third year as a service provider. The Fire Prevention Bureau is staffed with the Fire Marshal, 3 Fire Prevention Specialists, 1 full time Account Clerk, and is also supported by a Deputy Fire Warden as well as a finance manager. Periodically, special projects are done by a part time employee under a personal services contract. Some of the projects and accomplishments achieved during this year include:

- Continued learning and refining data in the electronic fire records management system
- Provided monthly reports to all fire districts of services performed in their jurisdiction, and a total of all hours of activities from fire RMS system
- Continued to represent fire districts at Environmental Review Committee meetings and provided documentation to districts of all comments made to the ERC on their behalf
- Continued with an aggressive force clean program for hazardous vegetation in accordance with the provision of the Ordinance
- Provided several training opportunities for fire prevention staff to enhance skills and knowledge
- Developed a water and access standards letter for fire districts to clearly define the standard they wish to apply in their jurisdiction
- Developed a fire prevention service level agreement so that all agencies may define the level of service they require from the Fire Prevention Bureau
- Continue Fire Code adoption process for next code cycle
- Worked on analysis for possible re-location of the Fire Prevention Bureau to the Building Department at 10th Street Place

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Service:	Fire Training
Provider:	Salida Fire District
Contract Period:	2/1/07 – 11/30/12
2008-2009 Program Cost:	\$168,455
Annual Increase	4% annually
Funding Source:	
General Fund	\$ 0
Fees	\$ 0
Less Than Countywide	\$ 168,455

Program Highlights

The Salida Fire Protection District has completed 2-1/2 years of providing regional training. The District continues to support and encourage the development of a standardized platform for regional training. During the 2008-2009 year, the Training Coordinator provided various opportunities for training and training program development. Some of the accomplishments during the year include the following:

- Planned and delivered the 2nd annual wildland drill in conjunction with the Fire Warden's Office. This event included the participation of over 100 participants and support staff. The training was provided by local personnel as well as support and training cadre from the US Forest Service, CAL-FIRE, OES and Department of Fish and Game. This year the training also included the use of a Training Specialist to work on the certification and qualifications of participants
- Helped design a training curriculum and identify coursework that will work towards a county-wide overhead team through the delivery of numerous command and control courses. Eventually working towards having personnel certified and qualified through CICCIS in various Command and General staff positions
- The Training Officer developed a working partnership with local, state and federal agencies to provide assistance and expertise in training materials and instructors
- Developed a regional wildland training program to train personnel from the firefighter to company officer. This program will be delivered in the fall of 2009 and run through the spring of 2010
- Continued to develop a cadre of instructors locally and state-wide to assist in delivery of regional training courses

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- Continued the effort in establishing a common training program for all fire agencies. This has been accomplished in part to the extraordinary participation of agencies attending the Stanislaus County Training Advisory Committee. The Training Coordinator has become the central collection point for many agencies in the dissemination of training materials

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Service:	Special Operations
Provider:	Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office
Contract Period:	12/1/06 – 11/30/11
2008-2009 Program Cost:	\$ 153,374
Annual Increase	4% annually
Funding Source:	
General Fund	\$ 0
Fees	\$ 0
Less Than Countywide	\$ 153,374

Program Highlights

The Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office has provided the Special Operations Coordinator position for almost 2 years. This position is supported by a Deputy Fire Warden and administrative support staff. During the 2008-2009 year, work continued on projects identified as priorities by the fire agencies including swift water rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous materials response, and other aspects of special operations. The following is a list of current projects and accomplishments:

- Completed the Water Rescue Emergency Operations Plan, which was adopted by the Fire Authority membership in April, 2009
- Completed the Permit Required Confined Space Rescue Plan, which is currently out for the review process required for adoption by the Fire Authority membership
- Currently in the process of developing the Urban Search and Rescue Plan
- Conducted Technical Rescue Group meetings each month