

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2008

1. Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The flag was saluted.

2. The following agencies were present:

Chief Barrett	CalFire SCU
Chief Miguel	Modesto Fire
Chief Fields	City of Oakdale
Chief Kinnear	City of Patterson, West Stanislaus Fire
Chief Skiles	Salida Fire
Chief Mayotte	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire
Chief Hinshaw	Stanislaus County Fire Warden
Chief Kinnear	West Stanislaus Fire
Chief Passalacqua	Woodland Ave. Fire

With only nine representatives in attendance, there was not a quorum.

Also in attendance: Ed Bartley, Salida Fire; Ken Slamon, Mimi DeSimoni, Wendy Mirassou, Bill Houk, Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office; Mike Kraus, Sean Slamon, Mike Payton, Doug Machado, Modesto Fire, and Dennis Wister, Stanislaus County Building Department

3. Public Comment: None

4. Minutes: Could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

5. Staff Committee Reports

5.1 Admin/Finance - report will be given under agenda item 6.2

5.2 Fire Investigation – A report of all of July's investigation activities was handed out. Chief Payton reported that there were 6 arrests last month related to fires in several districts. An arrest was made in Riverbank; the suspect was tied to 15 fires.

5.3 Fire Prevention- Report will be included in agenda items 6.3 and 6.4.

5.4 Fire Communications- Chad is spending a large portion of his time representing fire's interests on CAD implementation. The Communication Advisory Committee meets next week, CAD is the main issue. He encourages all agencies to send a representative.

5.5 Fire Training- Captain Bartley handed out and discussed the September Fire Training Report including a list of classes currently being offered.

5.6 Special Operations-Chief Houk reported that the Confined Space Rescue Policy is in the works, he has had meetings, is looking at the curriculum, standards and guidelines. Madera County officials came and provided information regarding spills they had at the ethanol plant in their county. The Bauer Air Support Unit is in service and stationed at the Westport Fire District. It can be requested through dispatch and is available to any district; however, only those trained and qualified may transport and operate it. It is available for dive air as well.

6. Agenda Items

6.1 Operational Area Coordinator-Chief Hinshaw spoke about a recent FEMA letter, requesting that first responders not self-dispatch out of state; they must be under EMAC. He also reminded everyone about the code of conduct for strike teams, as well as the issue of reimbursement for volunteers that respond to strike teams. Any payment to an individual whether from the district, or their association, is reportable income. The new OES engine 347 will be in service by the end of the month, and Engine 321 is down for repairs.

- 6.2 Annual Report- The Annual Report was distributed for comments, there being none, it will be brought back next meeting for approval. Mimi spoke on finances, the assessed valuation of the Less Than County Wide Fire Tax area is down by 10.2%, which translates into a proportionate reduction in property taxes; annexations by Turlock and Modesto also have a negative affect. As of June 30, 2008 we had a positive fund balance, which will help offset the reduction in 08-09 property taxes and fund our contracts.
- 6.3 Fire Code Amendments- Chief Slamon recommended we don't do anything until the next code cycle regarding the fire sprinklers amendments. This will occur in January, 2011. Fire districts can still require sprinklers in any structure they deem necessary under the CEQA process.
- 6.4 Fire Protection Water-Chief Slamon gave a presentation on water supplies. He would prefer that there be a standard throughout the unincorporated area of the county, but understands that may not be possible. He must apply the codes that have been adopted; however, if a chief is willing to exempt a project, Chief Slamon will need a letter stating so, on district letterhead. There was much discussion on fire protection water for single family dwellings, inspections and maintenance on tanks, and liability.
- 6.5 Swift Water Policy-Chief Houk asked for comment on the swift water policy, there were several issues that were brought to him: Communications, budgeting for training, legal responsibilities, safety officer, 1 boat vs. 2 boats. He has not found the person at Sate OES to help him. Chief Ellis noted that Butte County has a good program in place.
- 6.6 Technical Rescue-There are funds available for technical rescue training through Homeland Security, however, there needs to be a policy in place prior to applying for them. It was requested that the Special Operations Coordinator write a policy so that the grant funds may be applied for.

Announcements: It was suggested that the County Chief's Association meeting be moved up by a week to address the haz-mat issue. Chief Mayotte will contact the Chiefs to advise them of the change.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1050 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mimi DeSimoni
Stanislaus County Fire Wardens' Office