

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2009

1. Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 0950, the flag was saluted.
2. The following agency representatives were present:

Chief Barrett	Cal Fire SCU
Chief Curnow	Denair Fire
Chief Watt	Keyes Fire District
Chief Miguel	Modesto Fire
Chief Botto	City of Oakdale
Chief Hoyer	Oakdale Fire District
Chief Skiles	Salida Fire
Chief Mayotte	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire
Chief Hinshaw	Stanislaus County Fire Warden
Chief Lohman	City of Turlock
Chief Barindelli	Westport Fire
Director Kimball	West Stanislaus Fire District
Chief Passalacqua	Woodland Ave. Fire

Also in attendance: Ken Slamon, Mimi DeSimoni, Bill Houk, Mike Wilkinson, Wendy Mirassou, Ray Jackson Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office; Mike Payton, Modesto Fire; and Lynn Rambo, Cal-Fire TCU; Chad Homme, Salida Fire; Rick Morgan, Oakdale Fire, Henry Benavides, Keyes Fire; RaeLene Brown, Ron Cripe, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire; Marilyn Smith, Mountain Valley EMS, John Burton, John Borges, Burtons Fire Apparatus.

3. Public Comment:
 - Chief Watt brought up payments to volunteers, he would like information on the different methods departments are using to compensate them. Chief Skiles suggested a committee, led by Mimi, to gather more information. Also on the committee: RaeLene Brown, Rob Hoyer, and Bob Watt.
 - Chief Passalacqua questioned the practice of EMS dispatches to volunteer agencies being toned out multiple times. There was some discussion regarding the SR911 policy that, if there is no response it must be toned out again from a technical aspect of ensuring that the tone was actually received. The other issue is the run cards; each agency has the opportunity to specify who should be toned out to assist them.
 - Ralene Brown is the President of the Elks Lodge for 09-10. The club would like to arrange a dinner to honor fire and law enforcement. She will handle most of the details, but would like assistance from someone in the fire service. Chief Skiles thanked her for her desire to honor the fire services and committed to provide any help she would need.
4. Approval of Minutes: Director Kimball made a motion to approve the minutes, Chief Mayotte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5 **Staff Committee Reports**

- 5.1 Finance / Admin- Mimi reported on the Quarterly Meeting that was held early in January. Meeting minutes were handed out. The first apportionment of property taxes was made in December, direct assessments were not all posted. Some districts had as much as 20% additional posted in January. The property taxes in the County Fire Service fund came in lower than projected. Additionally, the County has asked every department to target an additional 3% cut to their general fund support for the rest of this fiscal year. This will affect the \$300,000 the county originally pledged to the Fire Authority, it was already reduced to \$291,000 at the beginning of this fiscal year. More information will be provided as it is available.
- 5.2 Fire Investigation –The monthly report was distributed.

- 5.3 Fire Prevention- The monthly meeting is coming up and Chief Slamon requested everyone to attend if possible. There will be important discussion on fire codes and he would like to get everyone's input. Chief Curnow requested that the meetings be held later in the day so that volunteer chiefs could attend.
- 5.4 Fire Communications – Chad Homme reported on the Regional Interoperable Communications Grant that Salida was awarded. They are developing the timeline for obtaining quotes, establishing MOUs with all of the agencies requesting equipment, purchasing and closing out the grant. Other topics of discussion were the CAD project, and paging tone update.
- 5.5 Fire Training – Melba Hibbard, from the Fire Warden's Office, demonstrated the on-line registration tool for Wildland 2009 and XST Requalification. There is significant work being done in planning the event. Friday night April 24th will be the requalification for strike team leaders and trainees, and Saturday will be the requalification for certified and qualified positions and wildland training. There have been several classes delivered as outlined in the Fire Training Report.
- 5.6 Special Operations – Chief Houk reported that the Bauer air unit is in service and available at Westport Fire. There was some discussion regarding who will respond with the unit.

6. Agenda Items

- 6.1 Operational Area Coordinator- Chief Jackson attended the Region IV Operational Area Coordinator meeting in January. He handed out extensive notes covering reimbursements, CAL EMA Fire and Rescue, FireSCOPE Operations team vacancy, CAL Fire briefing, crew rotations, and upcoming fire season issues. ROSS and CFRIS is due to be updated, please call Chief Jackson if you need any help. This system will provide accurate information for efficient deployments. The CICCIS Task Force should be meeting again soon. Chief Hinshaw discussed Emergency Managers Mutual Aid (EMMA) requests that were made for overhead this year; reimbursement is not clear on this yet.
- 6.2 Budget Advisory Committee- Chief Skiles reported that with the challenges we will be facing in the next two years with budgets, he is recommending that a committee be formed to review the Fire Authority budget. As Mimi reported, property taxes are down and the general fund contribution is always in question. We may need support to go before the Board of Supervisors with our requests. The following agreed to be on the committee: Chief Skiles, Chief Mayotte, Chief Miguel, Chief Hinshaw and Director Kimball.
- 6.3 SCBA Equipment- Chief Barindelli reported that he had four SCBA vendors demonstrate their products, 30 people attended. He has narrowed it down to two; they will be asked back for further evaluation. His goal is a regional grant for breathing apparatus, but Westport and most other volunteer agencies do not have the resources to manage such a grant. He asked if any of the larger agencies would be interested in hosting. It was determined that Modesto, Salida, and Consolidated would not qualify for a breathing apparatus grant because an agency's airpacks must be pre-NFPA 1997 in order to receive grant funds for replacement. Chief Miguel agreed with standardization but suggested that the whole county should not be limited to one vendor. He is willing to have Modesto host a regional grant, this may not be the one. Chief Barindelli suggested that interested agencies revisit applying for this grant next year. Chief Skiles suggested a workshop to determine what needs could be addressed with regional grants.
- 6.4 Water Rescue Policy- Chief Wilkinson presented a power point presentation giving an overview of the revised Water Rescue Policy. The policy was handed out for a 30 day review period. During that time, Chief Houk will contact each Chief to set a meeting to discuss their specific agency's intent and level of participation in the plan. The plan will be brought back for approval at the March meeting.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1150 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mimi DeSimoni
Stanislaus County Fire Warden Office