

Stanislaus County Fire Authority  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 6, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.  
Regional Fire Training Center – Modesto, CA



**1. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Chief Ernst called the meeting to order at 0830 hrs. The flag was saluted.

**2. Roll Call:**

The follow agency representatives /alternates were present:

Burbank Paradise Fire	Chief Golling
Cal-Fire	Absent
City of Ceres	Toby Wells
Denair Fire	Absent
Hughson Fire	Absent
Keyes Fire	Absent
City of Modesto	Chief Ernst
Mountain View Fire	Absent
City of Newman	Chief Armario
City of Oakdale	Chief Spears
Oakdale Rural Fire	Chief Spears
City of Patterson	Chief Armario
Salida Fire	Chief Weigele
Stanislaus Consolidated Fire	Chief Wapnowski
Stanislaus County Fire Warden	Chief Murdock
City of Turlock	Chief Talloni
Turlock Rural Fire	Absent
Westport Fire	Absent
West Stanislaus Fire	Chief Armario
Woodland Ave. Fire	Chief Passalaqua

Also attending the meeting: Eric Holly, Randy Crook, Chad Homme, Francine Gutierrez, Stanislaus County OES / Fire Warden; Tim Tietjen, Mike Payton, Modesto Fire; Joe Culvahouse, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire; Pat Burns, Salida Fire; Chief White, City of Turlock Fire; Ron Cripe, RFTC; Dave Hutchinson, Fire Investigation Unit; Lance Doyle, Jim Whitworth, MVEMSA; Wendy Silva, SR911; Rich Silva, VRECC; Becky Meredith, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office

**3. Public Comment:**

Assemblyman Heath Flora was present to discuss Senate Bill 870. The bill, expected to bring \$12 million to Stanislaus County for improving communication between emergency service personnel, failed to pass the senate. Assemblyman Flora shared the opportunity to revive the bill and hopefully receive approval by the House and Senate in the first quarter of 2019.

Ron Cripe introduced Harold Perino as the new full-time EMS faculty member. Mr. Perino will be instrumental in getting a paramedic program off the ground as soon as accreditation is conferred.

**4. Approval of the June 7, 2018 Minutes:**

Toby Wells made a motion to approve the minutes. Chief Payton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**5. Staff/Committee Reports:**

**5.1 Fire Investigation Report**

Dave Hutchinson reported a total of 193 investigations during the reporting period of May-July: 96 structure fires, 34 vehicle fires, 32 vegetation, 31 trash/dumpster/other. The total Modesto Fire Department investigations - 84; County agencies - 109. A full report sorted by department/district was included in the agenda packet.

**5.2 Fire Prevention Report**

Fire Marshal Randy Crook reported the Fire Prevention Bureau will begin inspecting schools the first week of September. There are 55 schools to inspect and they will be assisting Stanislaus Consolidated Fire inspect 21 additional schools. Next will be hotels/motels. 78 vegetation complaints have been received to date with 2 force cleans completed. The county building department is moving toward electronic plan review. The FPB will be part of this new process. The Fire Marshal is part of the county Cannabis Enforcement Team. The county will issue 7 retail cannabis permits. Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13. A full report was included in the agenda packet.

**5.3 Fire Communication Report**

Chad Homme reported many agencies are purchasing new MDC computers to replace existing units. Chad is working with agencies to get the new units deployed. He reported on radio infrastructure. On August 21, 2018 the FCC licensing to add the P25 designator on VHF frequencies was approved. Active911 is under a test environment. Fire RMS was reporting erroneous FDID numbers in agencies' data which was causing issues. This problem has been corrected. An upgrade to the latest version of Fire RMS is in the works. A full report was included in the agenda packet.

**5.4 Fire Training Report**

Ron Cripe reported the Rope Rescue Technician course and the Rescue Systems 2 course were both offered this spring and were very successful. Modesto and Patterson offered a new recruit Academy for 5 new Modesto firefighters and 3 Patterson firefighters. Carpet issues at the RFTC are being addressed as well as problems with the gate on Blue Gum. A full report was included in the agenda packet.

**5.5 Administration and Support Report**

Francine Gutierrez reported on the FY 2017-2018 Fire Service Fund budget. To date, the fund is running about 10% under budget and Less Than Countywide is coming in a little higher than the conservative expectation. A full report was included in the agenda packet. A separate sheet on the Fund Balance Reconciliation was provided at the meeting. There is currently a net of \$2,591,889. A full report was included in the agenda packet.

#### **5.6 Business Plan Committee Report**

Chief Ernst gave a verbal report of the Business Plan Committee. They met in June and July. They are discussing the priorities of using the fund balance and creating a Fund Balance Use Policy. This Policy will come before the Authority for approval in December.

### **6. Agenda Items:**

- 6.1 Review of the Conflict of Interest Code for the Stanislaus County Fire Authority and to Forward to the Board of Supervisor for Approval.

Chief Murdock made a motion to approve. Chief Armario seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- 6.2 Review Three (3) Communication Projects Recommended by the Communications Workgroup; Approve the Projects and to Expend from the Fund Balance an Amount Not to Exceed \$650,000; and, Forward to the Board of Supervisors for Approval.

Chad Homme and Chief Murdock provided a powerpoint showing the background of the radio system, benefits, progress to date, action items and conclusions. The powerpoint was included in the agenda packet.

The action items from the Communications Workgroup are:

1. Obtain funding for additional channels and related equipment, requested from RFA Fund Balance not to exceed \$650,000
2. Purchase P25 upgrades for existing Command 2 and Command 4, funding through HLSG FY16
3. Update Fire Communications Policies and Procedures to reflect changes
4. Dispatcher training
5. Countywide radio reprogramming to update P25 channels
6. Replacement of non-P25 capable mobiles and portable radios

Total anticipated cost is: \$483,855.33. A full report was included in the agenda packet.

Chief Spears made a motion to approve. Chief Armario seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed 11-1.

### **7. Announcements:**

7.1 The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2018, 0830,  
Regional Fire Training Center

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Chief Murdock. Seconded by Chief Spears.  
Meeting adjourned at 0926 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melba Hibbard  
Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office