

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2011– 8:30 a.m.
Regional Fire Training Center – Modesto, CA

Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The flag was saluted.

2. Roll Call:

The following agency representatives were present:

CalFire SCU	Chief Barrett
City of Ceres	Chief Lillie
Denair Fire	Chief Doerksen
City of Modesto	Chief Kraus
City of Patterson	Chief Hall
Salida Fire	Chief Skiles
Stanislaus County Fire Warden	Chief Hinshaw
City of Turlock	Chief Lohman
Westport Fire District	Chad Hackett
West Stanislaus Fire	Director Kimball
Woodland Ave. Fire	Chief Passalaqua

Also Present: Hugo Patino, Mike Payton, Alicia Hinshaw, Modesto Fire; Ray Jackson, Ken Slamon, Fire Warden's Office; Chad Homme, Salida Fire; Paul Speer, CalFire TCU; Bret Presson, Westport Fire; Paul Spani, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire; John Borges, Burtons Fire Apparatus.

Guests- None

3. Public Comment:

- Chief Lohman and Chief Kraus will both be sworn in as fire chief of their respective departments on March 8th. They both expressed their appreciation for the support the fire chiefs have extended during the transition.

4. Approval of Minutes: Chief Hinshaw made motion to approve the minutes of 1/6/11 meeting, Chief Lohman seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

5. Staff / Committee Reports

5.1 Management, Fiscal, Legislative- Chief Skiles provided a report on the Quarterly Fire District Managers meeting. Dave Cogdill, the new County Assessor was present to answer questions and meet the district representatives. It was a productive meeting. He reminded all those members that have not turned in their Form 700 to do so. Redevelopment agencies may be going through some significant changes at the State level, which could impact local agencies that have Redevelopment Areas within their jurisdiction. FDAC and CSDA both have information posted on their websites.

- 5.2 Fire Investigations- Reports were distributed. Chief Payton was available for questions.
- 5.3 Fire Prevention- Report was sent out with agenda. Chief Slamon was available for questions; please contact him with any concerns.
- 5.4 Fire Communications- Chad went over items in his report including the MDC frame relay repair, CAD – no go live date yet, the Regional Fire RMS program, map books, changes to White Fire Channels #1, 2, 3. There is a Google calendar on the Salida web-site that has training and communications activities. The Communications Advisory Committee is the best way to obtain information on all communications projects and issues coming up.
- 5.5 Fire Training- A report was distributed with the agenda. There are many classes being offered this spring including 230/231 and ICS 300/400. More command and control classes to come. Please advise Stuart of any training needs.
- 5.6 EMS – Alicia reported on the exposure training classes that are on-going, 2 additional dates will be offered. She advised everyone to have their staff take appropriate precautions with flu patients.

Chief Kraus provided an update on the Modesto Regional Fire Authority (MRFA) joint powers agreement. In January the JPA was official, and the Board of Directors has been appointed. The first meeting of the Board will be held in April. The transition plans for many components of the organization will be completed by July, some sooner. There may be operational changes within the next two months. A strategic plan is also being developed. There were questions about Phase II of the project. Chief Hinshaw discussed the elements necessary for phase II participation: Support by the governing board, support by chief officers, and support by labor groups. There will be another Phase II workshop for interested participants; attendance does not obligate an agency to join. It is possible to have Phase II outlined by the end of summer. The new JPA will contract with the City of Modesto to provide H/R and finance functions until it is able to provide those services itself. Pension reform is an issue that is being watched closely with respect to other agencies participating.

6. Agenda Items

- 6.1 **Operational Area Coordinator-** Chief Jackson reported on the current Operational Area issues including the annual updates to the dispatch matrix and CFRIS. The annual XST CICCIS refresher will take place May 16th and 17th at the RFTC. Registration is on the Fire Warden website.
- 6.2 **Fire Dispatch** – A handout was provided outlining several issues that impact fire dispatch. The following issues were presented and discussed:
 - Infrastructure - Simulcast – they are hoping to have this completed by spring, if the Waterford site cannot be obtained they will move forward with another. It is \$30k per site per channel. A master plan for Stanislaus County has been completed with a \$60 million cost. During the time period from 2006-2011 Stanislaus County has spent \$2.5 million on radio equipment and upgrades and about \$6 million on infrastructure through grants. The County also spent \$450k on Fowler Peak.

- Call takers-Budget reductions have reduced SR-911 by 16 positions. There is no funding for the 3rd fire position. Two more years of budget cuts will have a further impact.
- Wireless Carriers- It is unclear whether SR-911 has the capability or capacity to take on AT&T or Verizon; handling an increased workload with 1987 staffing levels.
- SR911 Fire Liaison – Chad assists with this through his work in the field with districts. Other issues under consideration are administrative issues, and retirements that will cause greater voids that need to be filled.
- Fire Resource Officers assist with handling operational components, but how do we address this in the future? Automatic aid agreements and station coverage policies need to be formalized and submitted to SR911.
- Dispatch fees- The Fire Warden’s Office pays the dispatch fees for the districts. However, no one can find the written agreement that guarantees this. There may be a point where a dispatch fees are implemented.
- The fire service needs to stand together and create a business plan to address these issues.
- EMS Triaging- This is currently transferred by phone- this will not change immediately due to the need for an interface between LifeCom and SR911.
- Policies and Procedures-The Communications Policy was approved by the Fire Chiefs. There have been several requests to move away from standardized policies.

There was discussion on next steps. Should we be in a partnership with law enforcement, or at least share our concerns and try to work jointly? A joint public safety effort should be made to create a plan with fire service, law enforcement, and EMS.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,
Stanislaus County Fire Wardens Office