



# San Mateo County Fire Chiefs Association

ADVANCEMENT THRU UNITY IN ADMINISTRATION

John Healy - President  
Jim Skinner - Vice President  
Joe Telles - Secretary

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Minutes  
Operations Group

Meeting called to order at 0900 hrs.

## Member Attendance

Belmont/San Carlos	Doug Fry
Cal Fire	Scotty Jalbert
Colma	Geoff Balton
Foster City	Tom Reaves
Menlo Park	Frank Fraone
Millbrae	Ron Lavezzo
Redwood City	Stan Maupin
San Bruno	Joe Telles
San Mateo	John Healy
San Mateo	John Warren
North County	Bob Trap
Central County	-----
Half Moon Bay	-----
South San Francisco	-----
Woodside	-----

## Outside Representative Attendance

Fire Chief Liaison	Fire Chief Doug Fry
OES	Bill O'Callahan
PSC	Don Maynard
TO	-----
EMS	-----
FPO	John Mapes

## **Approval of Minutes**

Geoff Balton made a motion to approve the April 2007 minutes.  
Frank Fraone seconded the motion. Minutes passed.

## **Presentation on OES Resources**

PowerPoint presentation by Bill O'Callahan

- Reviewed OES command structure
- Sheriff's air squadron has two aircraft that can be used for a variety of purposes. The OES aircraft can be used for search purposes and overhead observation to assess damage caused by mudslides, earthquakes, etc. The aircraft can also be used for wildland fire observation if Cal Fire aircraft are not available. A reminder is that Cal Fire aircraft will not go into the airspace of an event if other aircraft are present.
- Specialty Units include the Bay Area Mounted Rescue Units (BAMRU), the Sheriff Communication Unit, the Emergency Service Detail, and the Sheriff's Explorer Units.
- There are two 41-foot Farallone boats. One boat is located on the bay side and the other boat is located on the ocean side of the county. It usually takes about an hour to get the boats into the water.
- OES has a variety of trailers that includes three mobile sign units that are solar powered, mobile light units, barricade trailers, PPE trailers with 100 sets of level C suits, EOC trailer, CERT trailer, Haz. Mat. Trailer, WMD trailers located in the North, South, and Coast, Coroner's trailer, and a Bomb Squad trailer.
- OES has a mobile communication unit that has all county fire and police radio channels. It also has ham radio channels. It has a satellite connection available for communications. It has internet access and is LAN capable.
- Mobile Field Force passenger vans are available for use. These vans can carry up to 15 passengers.

A liaison will respond with the equipment.

## **Presentation on Greensburg Kansas Tornado**

PowerPoint presentation by FEMA USAR Deputy OPS Chief Frank Fraone

- Satellite photography used before and after the tornado was very helpful in assessing the damage. Over 80% of Greensburg was destroyed by the tornado. Google now has a group working with USAR TF3 on the use of this type of imagery to help with disaster mitigation.
- Tornado touched down at Greensburg on Friday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 pm., twenty minutes after the event FEMA was notified. FEMA was in Greensburg on Saturday morning.
- FEMA provided technical support.
- Ground rescue teams and helicopters completed a search of the entire town.
- Local residents started the rebuilding process the day after the tornado.
- Local residents had the streets cleared of debris by Monday.
- Local residents were very generous to rescue workers offering food and water. Most of these people had all of their personal belongings destroyed.

### **Presentation on Roof Solar Panels**

Presentation given by Fire Marshal John Mapes

- Power produced from the solar panels supplement PG&E power.
- Solar panels operate twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Panels receive solar energy both from sunlight and moonlight.
- Solar panels produce DC current that must be ran through inverters.
- The current produced by the solar panels is 15 amps.
- If the roof must be cut for ventilation it needs to be cut on the opposite side of the panels.
- If PG&E shuts off power to the home the wiring to the solar panels are still energized.
- FPOs are working on getting a county standard for installation and maintenance of the panels.

### **Fire Chiefs' Report**

Report given by Fire Chief Fry

- A disaster drill will be held at SFO International Airport on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The San Mateo County Exposition will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds
- Chief Reaves has submitted an application for a regional grant for the county for 1.6 million dollars for communication upgrades to county radio system.
- Chiefs are trying to get all the fines paid by AMR for responding a BLS ambulance to be paid to the JPA.

### **EMS Report**

- No report given.

### **PSC Report**

Report given by Don Maynard

- 4th Quarter 06 and 1st Quarter 07 acknowledgment reports were reviewed. Each member was given copy of the report.

### **TO Report**

Report given by Battalion Chief Joe Telles

- Tentative date for Fall Recruit Academy is September 10<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that there will be 13 to 20 recruits.
- Firefighter Safety Stand Down to be the week of June 18<sup>th</sup> through June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Strike Team Leader Refresher training for Chief Officer CE to be held at Foster City Fire on June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>. Each Chief Officer is required to attend one of the classes. Class will go from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs.

- Next Chief Officer CE class will be October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> on high rise command and control.
- September 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> the RIC Committee will be filming a DVD on RIC command and control.

## **Old Business:**

### **Communication Response Plan Operations' Subcommittee**

No report given.

### **Rehabilitation Policy**

Report given by Battalion Chief Healy

- A draft of policy will be sent out to all the OPS members for a vote. Members are to respond via e-mail to OPS Secretary Telles. Vote to be completed by June 4<sup>th</sup> Results will be presented by Secretary Telles at the June meeting. If approved the policy will be forwarded to the Chiefs for approval.

### **Technical Rescue Equipment and Rescue Capabilities**

- No report given.

### **High Rise Committee**

- First meeting of committee scheduled June 6<sup>th</sup> at S34 at 1 pm. Ed Barton will chair committee.

### **Pandemic Flu Committe**

No report given.

## **New Business:**

No new business.

### **Significant Calls**

#### **FIRE INCIDENTS:**

Colma had a fire at a gasoline station on "A" street on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Workers were doing an improvement to the building without a permit. During welding operation the building caught on fire. The building was destroyed. The first alarm response quickly contained and extinguished the fire.

A Cal Fire Firefighter was injured during the extinguishment of a vehicle fire on 280 on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The firefighter during extinguishment operations approached the front of the vehicle at a 45-degree angle when the front bumper blew out and hit him on the knee. The firefighter sustained a tear to his ACL and is out on disability. The vehicle was a Volvo.

At a structure fire on May 15<sup>th</sup> in San Mateo on Plateau Avenue, life safety tape was placed around active downed power lines. The tape was crossed several times by firefighters. IC eventually had to post sentries to ensure that the tape was not crossed. IC also realized after the

incident was concluded that he did not conduct a role call to ensure that each company was aware of the power line hazard.

### **Roundtable**

Belmont/San Carlos:

- No report.

Cal Fire:

- Beginning May 28<sup>th</sup> wildland fire season officially begins in San Mateo County. Cal Fire to staff 10-type 3 engines.
- Any vegetation fire will get a full wildland response.
- At the STL refresher class BC Jalbert will review how local agencies and Cal Fire work together in Unified Command at a wildland incident.
- Judge has heard HMB issue and will decide soon if issue will go to ballot

Colma:

- In two weeks new Seagrave engine will be in service.
- Estimated that the North Zone Air Truck will be repaired and in service in one month.

Foster City:

- Jason Emmetts promoted to Fire Captain.
- Three new probationary Firefighters going through in-house academy.

Menlo Park:

- Chief orals with 20 Firefighter candidates. Menlo to hire 3 to 6 Firefighters.

Millbrae:

- Expect delivery of new Pierce 1500 gpm pumper.

North County:

- No report.

RWC:

- No report.

San Bruno:

- No report

San Mateo:

- Captain Bill Eichner promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal.
- Ed Hawkins retired.
- Two new Pierce engines coming in June.
- Two Firefighter openings.

Meeting adjourned at 1200 hours.

**Next Meeting: June 21<sup>st</sup> @ Foster City Community Center at 0900 hours**