



# San Mateo County Fire Prevention Officers Section

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Meeting Date March 19, 2008

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| <b>-President:</b>            | <b>-Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos Fire<br/>(650)802-4252</b> |
| <b>-Vice Pres./Treasurer:</b> | <b>-Denise Enea, Woodside Fire<br/>(650)740-9883</b>          |
| <b>-Secretary:</b>            | <b>-Angelina Ciucci, North County Fire<br/>(415)467-8617</b>  |
| <b>-Liaison Chief:</b>        | <b>-Jim Skinner, Redwood City Fire<br/>(650)780-7451</b>      |

**Attendance:** See Attached Sign-in Sheet

**Call to order:** President Palisi called the meeting of the San Mateo County Fire Prevention Officers to order at 13:35 hours.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Palisi, all present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Numbers from the January 31, 2008 statement:

- Savings: \$921.65
- Checking: \$67.15
- Dues: \$1402.63
- FEMA: \$0.00
- **Total: \$2429.10**

**Approval of Minutes:** The February 2008 meeting minutes were approved without correction and with a unanimous vote.

### **Presidents Report:**

President Palisi began the meeting by thanking the membership for their support during the past month with the passing of his father. The flowers and card meant a great deal to Jim and his family.

It was noted that two items were added to the proposed agenda. First is the discussion of fire resistant plastics, and second is to review the revisions to the FPO by-laws.

President Palisi then deferred to a report from George Devendorf that flame retardants are cancer causing. George stated that there have been attempts to get legislation passed regarding this issue. NorCal is working with the industry and an issue is that there are no materials to replace what is currently being used. If you want more information regarding this



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topic, George can put you in contact the woman who brought his attention to the issue. George wanted to know if anyone knew what NorCal's stance was on the issue and what measures they are taking regarding retardant materials. Ron Keefer reported that a bill regarding retardant materials was delayed last year, thus has been carried over to 2008 and is going through this year by Senator Calderon. The Cal Chief's position is neutral; not for or against since there is so much information. On national level, it seems the fire service has taken a proactive approach in favor of looking at the cancer side of it. Professional firefighters are leading the way with this subject, and the North American Fire Marshals are involved as well.

President Palisi asked if we have a contact with Laurence Livermore lab. It was reported that there was a group or committee doing some testing and research on Nomex and other such materials some years back.

George continued saying that the industry side of the issue, claim that there are no replacement chemicals available. President Palisi asked if this could affect the treated woods in mills. Ron clarified that the debate is strictly over plastics. George clarified that the investigation is also looking at beddings and mattress materials.

President Palisi switched discussion to the membership constitutional by-laws amendment to funds. All present were given a copy of the proposed revisions. Previously there was no language that stated what the funds could be used for. The revisions specifically address what the funds are used for. Christine Reed asked for clarification of what funds for professional training would entail. Vice President Enea felt it could be kept vague to prevent us being trapped by our own language, which is why most of the proposed language is wide range. Rocque Yballa suggested a change to the wording regarding Public Education to read "support public education programs" thus covering materials and other needs. Louis Vella asked for clarification on whether the items listed as approved to spend money on will be deducted from dues only, or could other fund means be used in other ways? Vice President Enea replied with an example of donation money, which could be used outside the new parameters. Discussion ensued about what fines are. President Palisi suggested we take the word "fine" out. It was also suggested that we change the wording of "all county fire agencies" to "all member agencies." President Palisi put the suggestion to a vote, with a first of Ron Keefer, second Rocque Yballa, and unanimous yes from the membership. The new revisions will be included in the staff report to the County Chiefs.

President Palisi made a general reminder of the upcoming NorCal meeting being hosted by San Mateo County. Door prizes are still needed and should be given to Angelina at the end of the meeting. Discussion ensued about the agenda of the May NorCal Meeting. It was discussed that for proper advertisement of the meeting, President Palisi should put a deadline on the flyer and send to the NorCal Board for distribution. It was noted that we will need to come up with



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our own speakers for the meeting. Discussion ensued and names like Mac Richwine and Ethan Foote were suggested as possible speakers. The time of presentation should be between 30 and 40 minutes.

It was noted that State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan is supposed to sign the proposed solar panel guidelines. It was suggested that for a presentation regarding this topic, Ron and Denise would be the obvious selections if they accept. Denise suggested including a local contractor to create a panel style discussion. It was agreed that our presentation at the May NorCal Meeting would be conducted by Ron and Denise. Discussion of catering ideas ensued and Christine reminded the Board to make sure we have a variety of foods.

## **QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM COMMITTEES**

**Standards:** Rocque reported having been working on the County Chief's goal of considering a county wide sprinkler ordinance. Central County compiled all San Mateo County city ordinances that were posted on each individual website, and are waiting for revisions to be submitted by each jurisdiction. He also reported that the committee met today and drafted a survey to fill out in regards to inspection and installation practices outside of 13D requirements. The goal is to look at how we can gain consistency, and create a cheaper scale.

**Training:** Louis reported that the training team met, and discussed lots of ideas. Two big suggestions were to look at the equipment we have both in fire investigation and public education to see what all we have; hence today's training with the pub ed trailer in Woodside. The committee has also been talking with outside groups to see if they are interested in coming in to do presentations to our group. An example of a new product presentation would be a working demonstration of a new device that can measure accelerants. The committee will be meeting again next week.

President Palisi asked if the training committee has thought about SMC hosting a week-long class since funds are available. He also questioned if we could host the Juvenile Firesetter level I and II? He noted that we have money and space for free at fire station training rooms. Louis said it was discussed and thought an idea for maybe later in the year. Selena reported that the NorCal Pub Ed committee is working to bring back the Juvenile Firesetter Coalition. Discussion ensued about training in this area in our county and Selena suggested we contact Contra Costa County to see how they've successfully done it.

**Pub Ed:** Julie Parenti reported that the Bike Ride is on for July 19<sup>th</sup>. Angelina is changing the solicitation letter to make sure that comes from the Burn Foundation, not us. The committee has changed the routes of the ride to 30, 65 and 100 mile courses. Mike Leong felt it would help to increase the ridership by adding 100 mile course. We will also be charging more for 100



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mile route. Julie asked who will pay gas for SAG vehicle picking up people on 100 mile ride. Chief Skinner suggested possibly using a green car. The membership reported that typically pick up trucks were used, and we will have support in that area from Cal Fire. Julie reported that we are currently working on donations for food, raffle prizes, etc. Mike Lantier will be providing a tent for the event. What the committee really needs is monetary donations since we lost our contact at VISA. AARBF is providing any start-up money we will need this year. President Palisi requested we provide a list to him of what we still need, and he might be able to help with donations. Julie reminded everyone that we will need volunteers on the day of the event.

Rocque brought up the San Mateo County Fair Grounds OSH Home Show in May and that it would be great to participate as an FPO group this year.

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Clyde Preston reviewed the update from last meeting for President Palisi since he wasn't at the February meeting (See February Minutes). The next meeting of the investigation committee will be next week. President Palisi suggested contacting Jim Acker from Santa Clara County to see what they do and what works for them. It was noted that Don Maynard will be the County Communications contact.

### **General Business:**

A joint meeting with the Santa Clara County FPO's is in the works for sometime late spring. President Palisi talked with Marty from Santa Clara County and discussed the gradual steps necessary to foster more joint meetings. SCC reported having trouble with the LRA maps as well. President Palisi asked for a roundtable update of where each jurisdiction is at with their maps. Discussion ensued about the date that the maps are supposed to go into effect (July 1) and the need to have the maps adopted within each jurisdiction. It was noted that fire departments can't take the maps to their councils until the final maps have been sent out. In relation to the topic, President Palisi suggested that there be separate permit cards for fire resistive constructed buildings as an addendum to the normal job card. Rocque posed that since Cal Fire is outlining the map regulations in moderate, high and very high, and we're only addressing very high, should we be meeting their standards. The question was tabled as an April meeting topic when the building officials would be present.

The idea of each jurisdiction's Disaster Preparedness Coordinators becoming a part of FPO's was suggested. President Palisi called for a show of hands of what jurisdictions have a Disaster Prep Coordinator on staff. He voiced his opinion that he would like to see them sit in at our meetings. It was motioned by President Palisi to send a staff report to County Chiefs to approach them for input on this request. The motion was seconded by Louis Vella, and carried unanimously.



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**Chiefs Report:** Chief Skinner reported that at the last County Chief's meeting there was much discussion about the Pandemic Flu, and what the response would be. If the situation happens, it will be a big deal, allowing only one third of resources to be available. Reports were presented on how we are going to respond if this happens. The question addressed was how we are going to staff our departments and triage the calls that we get. As of now we would not go to flu calls to prevent passing the flu on. No solutions are in place yet but a report was presented at the meeting regarding the EMS response's roll. Chief Skinner suggested that each city should be doing a plan.

President Palisi highlighted that the Pandemic Flu would kill our inspection programs so we should look at how we would address it. Also would it be feasible for prevention to be used in other capacities. Christine asked what the reality was of this pandemic starting soon. Chief Skinner replied that they don't know yet.

There was also discussion of fire buffs and how to create consistency in how departments donate to the cause. It was decided at the meeting that County Chiefs will probably donate to them on behalf of the chiefs showing their support.

Chief Skinner reported that the EMS JPA RFP is out. Currently, the Fire Chiefs are talking with the Board of Supervisors expressing their unhappiness about this. As of now, providers will be bidding on the County EMS services.

Chief Skinner announced that Gordon Graham will be coming to San Mateo on June 9<sup>th</sup>. A risk manager, Graham is known to say if it's predictable, it's preventable. Chief Skinner recommended to go and see him if you have never experienced his training.

**Ops:** John Mapes reported that CCAG did a presentation in reaction to the vehicle accident on 101 a few months back that caused excessive freeway closures. Currently they are working on strategic systems through surrounding streets if something like this should ever happen again.

Chief Skinner reminded everyone that if an emergency vehicle runs a red, and is not going code three, they are not exempt from a violation and letter will go to the chief of their department.

John also reported that County OES discussed the upcoming Golden Guardian Exercise on 11/13/08. Also discussed was the fact that radios will be going from broad band to narrow band and what the effects of it would be. One issue will be that the MSTs in rigs won't be able to do what it does now when the narrow bands go into effect.

**Training:** No representatives present



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**Roundtable:**

**Christine:** Christine reported that when she was in Palm Springs attending a code hearing, she met the Fire Marshal of Brighton ([www.inspector911.com](http://www.inspector911.com)). He has a website that is for inspectors helping inspectors, which includes a lot of information as it's a growing website. There are a lot of different states and organizations included. Email subscribing is available and in regards to quality control, he's primary administrator. Both CALBO and Cal Chiefs are links.

**Training Session:** Presentation by Selena Brown of the Woodside Fire Public Education Trailer

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 15:30 hours.

**NEXT MEETING**

**San Carlos City Hall, Second Floor, Room #207  
600 Elm Street, San Carlos, CA**

**April 16, 2008  
1330 Hours**



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## ATTENDANCE ROSTER

AGENCY	NAME	PURPOSE
Belmont-San Carlos Fire	Jim Palisi	FPO President
Woodside Fire	Denise Enea	FPO Vice President/Treasurer
North County Fire	Angelina Ciucci	Secretary
Redwood City Fire	Jim Skinner	Liaison to County Chiefs
Foster City	John Mapes	Operations Representative
South San Francisco Fire	Not Present	Training Representative
Millbrae Fire	Not Present	Training/Ops Representative
Belmont-San Carlos Fire	Not Present	
Cal-Fire	Not Present	
Central County Fire	Julie Parenti Rocque Yballa Christine Reed	Member Member Member
Colma Fire	Not Present	
Foster City Fire	John Mapes	Member
Half Moon Bay Fire	Not Present	
Menlo Park Fire	Ron Keefer Geoff Aus	Member Member
Millbrae Fire	Not Present	
North County Fire	Clyde Preston	Member
Redwood City Fire	Louis Vella	Member
San Bruno Fire	George Devendorf	Member
San Mateo Fire	Not Present	
South San Francisco Fire	Tom Carney	Member
Woodside Fire	Selena Brown	Member
GUESTS		