

Central Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
August 27, 2009 – 1:30 PM
Crook County Fire & Rescue

In attendance:

Doug Koellermeier, Bend Fire
Tim Moor, Redmond Fire
Jay Olsen, JCFD#1
Bob Schnoor, Crook County Fire
Art Hatch, Sunriver Fire
Don Webber, DC Emergency Management
Don Colfels, Three Rivers Fire
Dan Daugherty, La Pine FD
Craig Letz, USFS
Joe Stutler, Deschutes County
Ryan Karjala, Sisters Fire
Gary Marshall, Bend Fire

Katie Lighthall, Project Wildfire
George Ponte, ODF
Becky McDonald, DC 911
Dave Fields, OSFM
Larry Langley, Crooked River Ranch Fire
Kevin Benton, ODF
Chris Hoff, COFMS
Tom Fay, DCRFPD #2
Bonnie Bourne, Red Cross
Dan Tucker, Black Butte Ranch Fire
Brian Huff, OSFM

Meeting called to order at 1330 hours by Chief Moor. Previous minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

In savings COFCA has \$2,849.87 and in checking there is \$1,122.47 for a total of \$3,972.34.

Association Reports

County Fire Chiefs: Chief Schnoor said no report for Crook County. Chief Olsen reported that crop burning is underway in Jefferson County. He also said they recently conducted an aerial view to look at risk and discuss shelter in place around Three Rivers. Chief Hatch said there is no report for Deschutes County.

COFOG: Chief Koellermeier said the group meets again next month.

911: Becky McDonald reported that they've broken ground on the new building and it is due to be complete by next July.

COCC Public Safety Advisory Committee: Chief Langley reported that they continue to work on getting tuition waivers for students.

COFIA: Chief Hatch reported that COFIA is working on upcoming conference details. The group is reviewing the COWS budget to determine how future classes will be held.

ECEMS: No report.

CO Fire Prevention Co-op: Dave Fields asked COFCA for \$500 to print Firebusters sheets. Smoke trailer participated in each county fair along with the wildland fire house. Over the summer, the Co-op has seen a total of approximately 3,000 people through fair outreach. **Joe Stutler motioned that the Chiefs pony up \$500 to pay for printing, seconded by Kevin Benton. Approved.**

IAAI: Chief Langley said the group discovered a new paraffin flying balloon thingy (technical term) – the Kong Ming Flying Candle. You light a candle in the bottom of a tissue paper balloon, the wax melts and it floats around a room, dispensing aroma for relaxation...just before it lights your house on fire. These are

relatively new to the area although they've started a couple fires in Canada. Chief Hatch has seen a burned one in Sunriver. They burn away almost completely leaving two crossed wires to stump you with regard to cause. Gary White is getting more information. ♦ Brian Huff added that the state annual training will be in Sunriver on September 21-24, 2009.

OSFM: Brian Huff reported that the Spray Fire Dept recently disbanded. Crook County Fire provided needed training. They are now looking for turnouts and wildland gear donations from willing departments. Contact Dave Fields or Brian Huff if you can donate. ♦ Dave Fields reported that Oregon Outback was not responding to fires as per their agreement with OSFM. They are now tied into Klamath County 911 and working to re-establish the organization. They too are looking for equipment and gear so please contact Dave Fields if you have anything to donate.

OSFM Overhead Teams: Chief Koellermeier reported that group met to talk about spring training. There have been no team activations this season. There will be an S420 Class in February 2010.

OR-ARNG: No report.

FS & BLM National Fire Info: Chris Hoff said things have been fairly quiet – about 380 fires, close to average. However total number of acres burned is significantly down. Nationally, it's been quiet for Type 1 teams as well.

ODF: Kevin Benton reported on the slow fire activity except for the impressive lightning storm a few weeks back. ODF caught all but one that grew to about 10 acres. Special thanks to COIDC for expanded dispatch services. ♦ Economic stimulus grants have been approved for fuels reduction projects on private lands that align with CWPP priorities. ODF is also waiting for approval on Western States Grants. ♦ ODF is currently working on a lease agreement for a new Sisters Facility. ♦ Kevin has been assisting in CWPP efforts – wrapping up La Pine and Sisters. ♦ SB 360 reclassification efforts are moving forward with public meetings and the final hearing –just waiting for final funding to proceed.

Project Wildfire: Katie and Joe reported that Sweat Equity Fuels projects are winding down. Treated about 2,000 acres over the last 12 months in Odin Falls, Tetherow, Boonesborough, Ponderosa Pines, Crossroads, and Camp Sherman. In combination with other fuels and FireFree projects Project Wildfire has ground over 250,000 cubic yards of woody biomass in the last couple years. ♦ Sisters and La Pine CWPPs are out for public review now and will go in front of their respective city councils for approval and then the County Board. In the fall, Project Wildfire will revisit the Sunriver CWPP for revisions and updates. ♦ They are currently working under a FEMA grant for fuels treatments on private lands with Crook County and two NFP grants to treat private lands under CWPPs. This year, Klamath County will be a partner in another request to FEMA for about \$3million in funds for fuels treatment. ♦ Under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant they purchased 3,000 evacuation signs with hardware – the program includes mapping high risk neighborhoods and providing signs and hardware and the homeowners associations install them. Maps are then provided to the local fire department, SAR and the neighborhood itself. If anyone has any neighborhoods in mind for this program, please contact Joe Stutler at 541-322-7117.

Old Business

Website – Chief Colfels reported on the COFCA website. He was able to set up a new domain name with godaddy.com which will give us complete control over the site. Bob Sjolund and Dick Knorr will also have user names and passwords for the account. On Pro Web's server for now. Can change if group wants to. COFOG will follow up on whether or not to move the site. **Katie will send minutes and bylaws, etc to Chief Colfels in the interim.**

New Business

Wildland Interface Communications Plan – Chief Karjala led discussion about events over the last 30 days. There was some confusion over which channels to use to for interagency contact. There was some lack of communication during the changes. Black Butte Ranch, Sisters and Cloverdale all impacted in the situation, by costs to reprogram radios and inability to contact federal partners. Since then, there has been discussion about how to proceed with com changes. COFMS had to change frequencies but did not think it would change interagency communications on the ground. Does not think a change for interagency group is required for this year. Chief Hoff said he hopes to receive a new frequency for next year that will impact the whole group. Group agreed to coordinate better and communicate better in the future. For remainder of this fire season, everyone will use the ODF Grizzly Mountain site for interagency contact. Joe Stutler added that communication amongst this group is of utmost importance. Chief Hoff suggests that COFOG develop some sort of plan regarding mid-season changes and communication that should follow. **Please remember that Katie can email the whole group easily in the event that there is information that all departments should have.**

Sunriver Hazardous Materials Incident – Chief Hatch reported on recent Haz Mat call in Sunriver that required a response from Haz Mat #2 out of Eugene. It was a chlorine problem in a pool house. Sunriver Fire closed off the area and conducted some sheltering in place. Haz Mat #2 responded in 2 hours. Experienced some breakdown in communication and the overall process. Chief Hatch was pleased with response and handling of the chlorine incident. Teaching point – departments need to contact 911 dispatch center in future. 911 then calls ORS to put the ball in motion.

Red Cross Update – Bobbie Bourne updated the group about how Red Cross can assist departments on structure fires. If you have family that needs assistance – Red Cross can provide food, shelter, and clothing immediately for three days, utilizing a loaded debit card for use anywhere. All you have to do is call 911 and ask to dispatch the Red Cross. They also has team of disaster mental health professionals to assist with trauma counseling. The Red Cross also provides emergency messaging to families here from military contacts world wide and work with military families here. Bobbie is also the contact for short term pet housing.

Good of the Order - Roundtable

Jay Olsen – The community of Gateway is looking to annex into Jefferson County for fire protection. They have been working with Gordon Foster from ODF to form a Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

Don Webber – The ICS for Executives Class will be held November 12, 2009 from 1-5 PM at the MAC at Sheriff's Compound. Joe Stutler will be the instructor. The class is specifically for those outside the fire service who may find themselves wrapped up in a fire incident – a great class and opportunity for city council members, city managers, county commissioners, etc.

Chief Karjala – Tomorrow (8/28/09) at 1 PM at Sisters City Hall, Congressman Greg Walden will host a media event to announce three new legislative concepts about Healthy Forests Restoration Act and biomass utilization. This will be followed by a Town Hall meeting in Bend at 3:30. RSVP's are required for the Town Hall event.

Gary Marshall – City of Bend banned all debris burning inside city limits. The council's decision seemed to be more related to smoke issues than potential wildland fire issue.

Chief Hatch – recent ISO evaluation – going from a three to a four. Thanks to Joe Stutler, some county owned land might be donated to Sunriver to build a much needed training facility.

Dan Daugherty – The deadline for Chief's applications is today. He is looking for two Chiefs to assist with the hiring assessment on October 6th.

Don Webber – Caldera Springs obtaining fire permit for fireworks on September 5th. Brian Huff will follow up. ♦ If your agency does NIMS – must be completed by end of September. ♦ Don will be conducting an introductory class for Weapons of Mass Destruction. Please contact him if you have someone who should attend.

Chris Hoff – COFMS is still struggling with responses to unprotected lands. Recent situation involving a trapped engine – they handled it well, however it brought to light the situation and new operational guidelines about when and how to respond to those areas. George Ponte added that this could be an opportunity to address the unprotected issue again.

Meeting adjourned at 1450 on August 27, 2009.

Next meeting: October 22nd at Sunriver Fire Department @ 1330.