



# Trinity County Fire Chief's Association

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## MEETING MINUTES February 1, 2010

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Dave Loeffler at 1902 hours.

### **Personnel in Attendance:**

Justin Kerwick	JCF	Joe Hernandez	CALFIRE
Stew Richter	USFS	Alex McBath	USFS
Tim Spiersch	PMT	Joseph Judnick	PMT
Mel Deardorff	LEW	Gene Benassini	DOU
Bob Hansen	OES	Kathy Ratliff	TCLS
Larry Masterman	TCOES	Gary Standley	HBV
Nancy Standley	HBV	John Fletcher	DWN
John Hall	TC Com	Pat Frost	TCRCD
Stan Ehler	HYF	David Murphy	SLV
Roger Chatterton	CCV/TCC	Bill Britton	WEA
Scott Alvord	WEA	Dave Loeffler	HYF
Andy Reiling	CAL FIRE		

### **Approval of Minutes:**

M/S/C to approve minutes as submitted.

**Rural Fire Protection Working Group report:** ( Dave Loeffler, Dave Murphy, and Scott Alvord)

The Trinity County group of Fire Chiefs went to the workshop with two topics that were of interest; DMV license issues and training.

- The DMV problem of being able to administer a driver license program with in departments is a state wide issue with no fast fix foreseen in the near future.
- In training there appears to be a growing riff between the North and South. The feeling the group received from the workshop was that the North departments are incompetent and untrained.
- A suggestion was made at the workshop to reinstate Arson and Bomb Investigators.

**Community Wildfire Protection Plan:** (Pat Frost)

A tentative schedule for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update meeting dates was distributed to the Association (see attached). With in the Title III Grant is \$500.00 for each Department that assists in update of the plan. The Resource Conservation District has developed an invoice that is preloaded with the information needed to adhere to the Grant guidelines. The Trinity County CWPP is used as the state wide template for Protection Plans.

**Grant Training:** (Scott Alvord)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has funds available for certain classes for the 2010 grant cycle. Trinity County is slated to receive the S 130, S-131, and S-190 classes. The classes will be held on a Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday. It will take two weekends to complete the classes with a one week break in between. In order for a student to receive the maximum benefit from the classes a task book for Firefighter will have to be initiated prior to the class starting. Tasks book can be found on the NWCG web page and initiated by the students Department Chief. Contact Scott Alvord at Weaverville Fire for further information. In order for this class to be held in Trinity County, there needs to be enough personnel to attend the class. BLM has sent out the application for the next training cycle. The application is due March 1, 2010. M/S/C to have Scott Alvord complete the BLM application for the Association, Scott will determine which classes are included in the application.

**CSFA Recruitment:** (Dave Loeffler)

California State Fire Association (CSFA) has provided Trinity County with recruitment posters. Contact Dave Loeffler if you need posters for your department. In addition, the funds used for the posters can be used for advertising in papers. M/S/C to explore whether CFSA can pay for the upcoming 1/2page ad in the 2010 "Be prepared for Wildfire" Insert in the Trinity Journal. Cost for the 1/2 page full color ad is \$190.00 with a 5% discount if paid before March 31, 2010.

**Proposed By-Law Amendment:** (Dave Loeffler)

Currently Article V of the Association By-Laws states "The Government of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors, consisting of four members: President, Vice President, OES Operational Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer". The proposed change would add a fifth member, the past President of the Association to the Board of Directors. The proposed change will be on the March meeting agenda.

**Proposed forming of County Communications Committee:** (John Hall)

With the up coming narrow band switch, questions on frequency lists and inter-operability between agencies, it maybe time to form a committee to assist in developing the time lines and answers needed in order to minimize the impact on services or enhance the current communications. Through out the agencies and departments, frequencies have different names which could lead to confusion during an incident. To have a broad scope, the committee should have multiple agencies with representation from all reaches of the county. The fire representation should be from the north (Trinity Center/ Coffee Creek), east (Lewiston), Down River (Salyer, Hawkins Bar , Down River), center (Douglas City, Hayfork, Junction City, Post Mountain, Weaverville), south (Zenia-Kettenpom, Southern Trinity), USFS (Shasta Trinity, Six Rivers) and CAL FIRE Humboldt, Shasta Trinity). Other agencies with representation should include but not be limited to the Sheriffs Department, Public Health, Public Works, Transit, and schools. The committee would work on the following items:

- Trinity County Interoperable frequencies
- A suggested fire frequency list
- Narrow Band Transition Plan
- Medical radio System
- Dispatch Console : New repeaters, Paging and Digital Messaging
- Redundant communication plan
- Frequency identifier control

The top three will be the priority of the first meeting to be held at 5:30 on the first Monday of the month at Weaverville Fire Department. It was brought up that there may be up to a 30% loss in coverage when narrow banding is used.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

There is \$1315.46 in the checking account. Receive one check for due from Weaverville Fire Department. Dues for the Association are \$25.00 per year.

### **CAL FIRE:** (Joe Hernandez)

- State Personnel Board has abolished the Firefighter II Fire Apparatus Engineer, Captain and Battalion Chiefs lists. Until the list is reestablished by the State Personnel Board CAL FIRE will not be permanently hiring in these classifications.
- Starting the Firefighter hiring process
- The state property that was burned during the Coffin fire, behind Fawnlodge Station, will be replanted
- New Hires to have background checks
- Corrections Department working on a plan to reduce inmate population by 40,000. This may affect camp populations
- The process of finding a new location for Redding Head Quarters continues. Assessing the old Redding Kenworth site on Churn Creek Road near South Bonneyview in Redding

### **USFS:**

- Stew Richter is the new Battalion Chief for the Weaverville/Coffee Creek area
- The Forest Service will not be conducting classes for hired equipment this year. All hired equipment training will be done by vendors such as College of the Redwoods
- Operating agreements still on hold. Administration is working on new wording
- Working on the Integrated Fuels Strategy. This prioritizes fuels projects around communities and sets time lines

### **CALEMA Op Area:**

- Up-grading Water Tender 32 with the OES Radio Plan
- Working with the Board of Supervisors to reinstate the money adjusted for Workman's Compensation reimbursements.
- Had a conference call of Operational Area Coordinators. The 2010 Emergency Response Initiative is being rolled out.
- Updating Operational Area equipment list
- Ordering new fire shelters

### **County OES:** (Larry Masterman)

- Training Haz-Mat FRO Feb 27-28 only two have signed up
- The Haz-Mat training in March is being moved to a new date in March due to a scheduling conflict
- Natural gas line runs thru the south part of the county (parallels Hwy 36). Pipeline Emergency Response Guide line with CD handed out
- Assessing training opportunities with PG&E
- Need to know what the department needs in the way of training
- Would like to develop an instructor cadre data base for EMS, Fire, and Haz-Mat
- Finishing the Haz-Mat Area Operation Plan started two years ago

- The Grant acquired (with Shasta County) robot is in service. Able to move 200lbs, transmit video and audio data back to the controller
- Had limited contact on flood preparedness training. Anticipate training in the fall of 2010
- ISC 420 being given to some department heads and the Board of Supervisors.
- Emergency Operations Plan draft being given to the Board of Supervisors on the February 16, 2010
- Assessing whether grant funds are available for Haz-Mat FRO instructors.

**TCLS:**

The ten Zoll AEDs have been ordered. The contract is \$1590 off the regular price, for departments like would like to purchase one.

Hayfork Fire has sent in information to update personnel Red Cards. This is a good time of year to provide TCLS with the updates.

**County Communications:** (John Hall)

The county repeater system is working as designed with no problem so far.

- Pickett Peak cell tower stopped working last week. With the help of a faller from the County a snow cat was able to make it to the site effect repairs (added oil to the Generator). The County vault is under snow but the snorkel is providing the oxygen needed.
- Ironsides: nothing new from Velocity Technology on their lease with the USFS
- Digital Radios: Several questions have come up recently regarding the possibility of the county going to a digital radio system. The hope is that the county does go to this system until technology improves
- Kudos to Lewiston Fire for recently moving an incident onto Command Net when Trinity Control started dispatching another incident in Junction City.
- During the recent earthquake in Haiti the only communication established was from amateur radio operators. Currently the County Gateway can not link up with the HAM system.
- Nor-Cal EMS attempted to impose a penalty of \$50.00 for those First Responders and EMT's that did not file their requests online. John brought up the fact that there are still fire departments that have difficulty keeping fuel in the gas tanks and that there are people that do not have easy access to high speed internet. Nor-Cal was advised that they were going to lose \$73000. from Butte /Colusa leaving Nor-Cal
- Assessing the possibility of acquiring the license for the med-com radios on Oregon and Hayfork
- The Emergency Services Foundation will be discussing possibly dissolving the Foundation at their next meeting. They have been instrumental in providing Backboard, Jaws, Air bags, Rescue 42 stabilization devices and AED,s through out the North State

**Open discussion:**

- Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA) (Stan Ehler) it has been brought to the attention of the Hayfork Fire Board that there is an interpretation of FLSA that could affect Volunteer Fire Departments. One of the areas the Act addresses is employee compensation. A paid employee can not volunteer for the same employer, carrying out like duties that they would normally be paid for. The interpretation being that a department would have to

pay volunteers for like duties if that volunteer received compensation from the department for strike team or fire assignments. With in the research uncovered so far there are two exemptions. One is; that there are less than 5 employees and the other is 20% of the pay of a full time firefighter (in the same geographic area) performing like duties. More research is being conducted and updates will be brought back to the Association.

- Douglas City will be receiving a grant for safety equipment
- Hawkins Bar will be receiving a grant for a type IV engine

Next meeting March 1, 2010

Adjourned 2045 hours

Andy Reiling

Secretary-Treasurer