

Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

Minutes

April 7, 2010 – 1000 Hours

Carson City Fire Department
Station #1

1. **Roundtable Introductions** – Among those present were Tim Alameda (Reno Fire), Denise Baclawski (UNR Fire Science Academy), Kelli Baratti (DEM), Mike Brown (North Lake Tahoe FPD), Tod Carlini (East Fork Fire), Robert Charles (Carson Fire), Mike Dondero (NDF), Scott Draper (Mason Valley), Temple Fletcher (Care Flight), Andy Flock (Sparks Fire), Dave Fogerson (East Fork Fire), Stacey Giomi (Carson Fire), Gary Hames (Storey County), Mike Hernandez (Reno Fire), Kurt Latipow (Washoe County), Rob Loveberg (Smith Valley Fire), Chris Magenheimer (North Lake Tahoe FPD), Van Ogami (Tahoe Douglas), Lacey Parrott (Mason Valley), Kirsten Sherve (DEM), Tom Tarulli (Carson Fire), and Jim Wright (State Fire Marshal).
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – It was moved by Tod Carlini, seconded by Gary Hames, with motion carried, that the January 6 meeting minutes be approved as submitted.
3. **Board Member Reports**
 - a. **President's Report (Giomi)**
 - i. **Update on 4-County Regional Dispatch Feasibility Study** – Stacey updated the group on the regional dispatch consolidation study being conducted by the Galena Group for the four counties of Lyon, Douglas, Storey, and Carson. He said that a project kick-off meeting was held in January and that the group was now in the process of interviewing individual law enforcement and fire agencies in the four-county region. They have completed Carson City, Douglas County in the valley, Storey County, and Lyon County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management, and will meet next with Tahoe Douglas, Central Lyon, and North Lyon Fire Protection Districts along with the federal fire agencies. They have also toured the four dispatch centers in each of the counties and did extensive data collection from each of those centers. They will continue to compile issues as they are received and to conduct data analysis.

Stacey said that the group has a two-page listing of data compiled from the participating agencies, including such issues as call volume, staffing, training, etc. He mentioned that this is a feasibility study and that they were hoping to get recommendations out of it on what will work and what won't.

- b. **Vice-President's Report (Brown)** – Mike said that in November, the ITLS will be hosting its international trauma conference in Reno. He mentioned that they were looking for scholarships to give to volunteer firefighters and others throughout the state of Nevada and that he had told them he would bring this request to both the NNFCA and the Regional Chiefs to see if they could get some funds together to help out with these scholarships for people to attend this conference. He said this will be a five-day program to be held in November.
- c. **Treasurer's Report (Fogerson)** – Dave said that the Association has \$1,589 in checking and \$10,333 in savings and that all membership dues have been paid except for Reno, Fallon/Churchill, and Washoe County. As the funds in the savings account were designated for training, Stacey asked Mike to bring a proposal back to the Association for the scholarships mentioned above.

4. **Cooperator & Association Reports**

- a. **Care Flight** – Temple Fletcher said that she will be getting out to all departments very soon regarding the changes to the landing zones and that hopefully, with the restructuring of these positions, they might be able to offer more training and added benefits to the different agencies. She mentioned that the helicopter which recently experienced a hard landing crash due to mechanical problems was currently in Canada being fine-tuned.

Temple mentioned that they have instituted a satisfaction survey which has been sent out and asked anyone who did not receive it to let her know. She then distributed a copy of that survey and asked for any suggestions or comments so they could reevaluate it if necessary.

- b. **BLM** – No report.
- c. **USFS** – No report.
- d. **NDF** – Mike Dondero said that they were trying to interpret the recent edict from the Governor's Office regarding "no overtime" as they did not operate very well without incurring overtime and were waiting for a ruling on this matter. He mentioned that they have two seasonal pilots and will have seven-day-a-week coverage because if one was called away, there would still be one available. He said these helicopters will be getting carded from the federal agencies and should be in service by May 1.
- e. **Nevada State Fire Marshal** – Jim Wright reminded the group that the SFM had switched to the new joint system with SERC last year in regard to the on-line hazardous materials reporting. He said they have about 5900 businesses active in that system statewide, but about 1400 businesses have not yet submitted and paid their fees. The submittal time for each year is March, and as it was very important for them budget-wise to get those permits in by March (and definitely no later than June 30), he asked the various departments to look over the list of the facilities in their

jurisdictions (which he distributed) to see if they could get someone to physically visit them to determine if they were still in business and, if they were, to give them a reminder to submit their permit applications. Any facilities in the system that were no longer in business would then be removed from the database. Jim reminded the group that these permits were required by law and that the money collected went toward the haz-mat training the SFM provided throughout the region. He said he would appreciate any help the departments could provide, and if any department could not provide this service to let him know, so that his office could then have one of its people check that department's facilities.

In regard to NFIRS, Jim distributed the snapshots of the various jurisdictions which had been submitted and asked each chief to pull his agency's out. He said that they were in the process of compiling the information to come out with the annual report. He mentioned that he was disappointed from a statewide perspective with both the submittal rate and the quality of the information being received and that he was not getting a good picture of what problems needed to be addressed. He said that although his office was required to provide this service, in times of restructuring and looking at workloads, if this process was not giving the agencies anything of worth, he might not invest as much time and effort in it as before. He therefore asked the departments for feedback as to whether this process was giving them what they needed. He told the group to contact Danny Brennan (NFIRS Coordinator for the State) if they had any questions regarding this, and they would then see what they could do in this regard. Upon a question as to whether the agencies were not filling the information out properly, Jim replied that there were a variety of issues—such as some rural departments reporting fire deaths they did not have and other departments not reporting all they had. Jim suggested that the departments talk to their folks to make sure they stay refreshed in the instructions for these forms. He also mentioned that there were coding issues when vendors were used and the vendors did not hook the codes to the national system correctly. He mentioned that Danny has developed a good CD program on this which could be sent out upon request, and he could also conduct a class if necessary.

Jim said that they were moving ahead with the 09 Fire Code adoption (proposing only minimal changes) and that they have worked up a draft which will be posted on their website along with the date for the workshop regarding it. He said that although many jurisdictions were not moving forward with this, he felt from a statewide perspective he needed to, and that they will then have to adjust the differences between 06 and 09.

- i. Nevada State Board of Fire Services** – Jim mentioned that Mike Brown filled the vacancy on the Board behind Chief Wagner, and another appointment was pending with a volunteer chief from Churchill filing an interest.
- f. Nevada Fire Chiefs Association**
 - i. Fire Service Bookstore** – Stacey Giomi reemphasized that the Nevada Fire

Chiefs Association was partnered with the Western Fire Chiefs Association and the IFC in regard to the Fire Service Bookstore and that if books were ordered through this bookstore, money would come back to the state of Nevada from them. He then distributed a flyer on the bookstore, stating that they would match any price obtained anywhere else and still give money back to the NFCA.

- ii. **Fire Shows Reno** – This conference (fireshowsreno.com) is on track and will be held October 25-27. There will be a haz-mat component this year to replace the Haz-Mat Explo formerly held in Las Vegas. Stacey said that the conference was well attended last year, and because of their partnership with the Fire Service Manufacturers and Vendors Association, they had very good vendors for a conference this size and were hoping to expand their participation this year. He also said that during one day of the conference, they plan on conducting a tabletop statewide mobilization exercise, which will basically wrap up the grant with the ICHIEFS for the development of a statewide mutual aid plan. Stacey said that the various departments should plan on attending this exercise and that it would not be part of the conference registration.
- iii. **Fire-Rescue Med (Las Vegas) – Roundtable on Fire-Based EMS** – This conference will be held in Las Vegas the first week of May, with Stacey saying that one interesting component of that conference will be a roundtable discussion regarding fire-based EMS versus private-based EMS on May 5, with industry experts on both sides participating. The Nevada Fire Chiefs will send out more information on this topic, and Stacey asked anyone who was not on that e-mailing list to let him know and he will provide them with Ken Riddle’s contact information to get on it.

5. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Mutual Aid Committee (Baratti)** – Kelli said that they were in the process of rolling out their Duty Officer training for 2010 and had the first one that morning in Carson, with the next one scheduled in Reno at Station 11 on the 14th and the following one in Storey County on the 28th.

She said there had been discussion in regard to applying for a grant to obtain assistance for the development of the Nevada Fire Assistance Agreement. Stacey mentioned that because one problem in getting this Nevada master mutual aid agreement together was a lack of time and coordination, he felt that a regional application for an AFG prevention grant could be put together in order to hire someone to spearhead this project, interface with all the agencies, write an agreement, and then bring it to fruition. Kurt mentioned that they might think about filing under operations and training rather than prevention as prevention was not yet open. Stacey said that he’ll send the Chiefs an e-mail when this comes up, and they could then get together to discuss whether or not they’d like to put together a regional application.

Kelli said that she, Chief Oberson, and Bob Charles were working on the Nevada Strike Team Leader Program document and that it should be ready to go within the next month. Mike mentioned that they have two Type 3 teams that will go on call in May. The teams have been selected, and there are still some training openings for some of the positions. He said the first team meeting will be done together at the end of the month.

Kelli mentioned that she will be revising the Region 1 documents to reflect more of Southern Nevada and ship those documents to the Southern Chiefs in anticipation of the tabletop exercise in October. She felt that once reviewed by them, there will probably need to be some discussions between north and south as the Southern Chiefs will not know what to do with them.

Kelli said that DEM would be participating in a tabletop exercise on April 21 between California and Nevada and that the goal was resource management coordination between the two states. They will be looking at not just fire, but also EMAC as well as other things. She mentioned that she was also working on agreements outside of the fire realm between DEM and NDF as well as DEM and the Nevada National Guard, and was hoping this will make things go more smoothly in the future than they have in the past.

Kelli has been assigned the credentialing program under NIMS and said that Bruce Van Cleemput has been hired and will be asking questions of them in regard to this matter.

- b. Legislative Committee (Brown)** – Mike mentioned that AB 494 was coming up in regard to regionalization and consolidation, and that Washoe and Clark Counties were working toward making a presentation to the Legislative Control Board in September. There have been meetings taking place between all the agencies to see what could be agreed upon to regionalize—and that a lot of it in Washoe County was the communications system.

Mike said he's seen 288 being frequently mentioned in the newspapers and that they will send out information on this as they receive it. He said they spoke to the Nevada Fire Chiefs regarding this issue last year trying to get someone identified to work for the Chiefs Association on this but have not as yet received a lot of statewide support. Stacey said that he will try to push this issue with the NFCA.

Mike said that the announcements for the Peer Review Committee for Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader and any 300-level positions through ALS have been sent out, and mentioned that some of the procedures have changed. These applications should be returned by the 23rd, with the Peer Review group meeting the week after, and training then assigned to the Strike Team and Task Force Leaders on the list.

Tod Carlini asked whether anyone had seen the combined resolution from the Senate and Assembly regarding the shared sacrifice, which was basically directed toward the labor associations and the desire to make negotiations a public process. Stacey asked Tod to send him the e-mail regarding this resolution and he would then send it out to everyone else.

- c. **Fire Prevention and Code Committee – Need Replacement** – Stacey asked for any suggestions regarding who could take over the role of chair for this committee, but since there were no suggestions, it was decided to leave this position vacant for the time being.
- d. **Safety and Training Committee (Fogerson)** – Dave said that a Northern Nevada Training Officers Association meeting will be held April 21 at Sparks Station #1 and that they will be trying to formalize it a bit more so they can bring back to this group some more funding uses and get together more regionally for some of the training opportunities.

They are trying to put all their training on the training calendar on the Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs website (with a link to that site on the training portion of sierrafont.net).

Bob Charles is involved in the Courage to be Safe Program and can be contacted for delivery of this program to the departments' officers.

The wildland conference is coming up from the IFC, and TMCC has wildland classes going on as well.

He said that they were looking at the Fire Officer I series that was now being done regionally—with all departments having representatives in class.

He also mentioned that Tahoe Douglas has a Command IC class coming up.

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business

- a. **Presentation on Programs at UNR Fire Science Academy (Denise Baclawski, Executive Director)** – Denise made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the UNR Fire Science Academy relating to its history, its challenges, its core programs, and its current status.

The Academy operates on two of the four UNR campuses—Redfield Campus in South Reno and in Carlin. She mentioned that the original facility was established in Stead and was created by the Western Oil and Gas Association and Western States Petroleum and operated successfully for several years. The program was then donated to the University. but eventually because of the growth of the community, the

Department of Environmental Protection was going to close the facility—and land was then donated in Elko where the facility moved in 1999. However, because of various design and construction problems emerging shortly after this move, it closed after only 18 months of operation. After \$9 million of repairs, the facility reopened in 2002.

The Academy is mostly known for its industrial firefighting—flammable liquid fuels—and represents about 45 percent of the national capacity for flammable liquids training. They also offer other programs—such as hazardous materials, aircraft rescue firefighting, technical rescue, etc. Although the petroleum industry remains the largest contributor to the Academy’s enrollment, they have expanded greatly into other industries, including training many governmental agencies. Denise said their vision was to become a worldwide leader in educating emergency response teams.

In an attempt for the Fire Science Academy to achieve financial sustainability, a couple of plans were created. One option occurred when the Nevada National Guard approached them about their using the facility in Elko for its armory and transportation logistics unit, and if this occurs, the Academy would co-locate its program with the Guard at that facility, thereby reducing its costs. Another plan brought forth by the stakeholders was what they termed a long-term financial sustainability plan, by which they will pay money to the University to assist with operating and maintenance costs while pursuing longer-term federal funding opportunities. They want to be designated as an urban national training asset in the flammable liquids area and possibly in the homeland security budget. In lieu of finding this long-term federal funding, the Fire Science Academy will close as it will not be sustainable.

Denise asked the Chiefs for any support they could give the Academy and distributed a handout regarding its overall goals and proven track record along with why the flammable liquid firefighting training program should be offered at the Academy.

- b. Truckee Meadows Community College Update (David LeBaron, Program Director)** – No presentation as program director was not able to make the meeting.
- c. Tahoe Regional Interoperable Communications Partnership (Chiefs Brown and Magenheimer)** – Mike said that Chris has been assigned for a year on a DEM grant to work on this program between California and Northern Nevada. He then read the mission statement for this partnership and said that they were working on pathways between the two areas to get them interoperable and get a process to where they can link all their services together with the new technology available. He said that they have been back to Washington, D.C., to talk to their various stakeholders about money and were now getting a lot of national attention because of their bringing two states together along with numerous counties (17 in California and all in Northern Nevada). The pathways are in place, but they need to get the avenues to make them work.

Washoe County just approved the next generation 911 system purchase for the three PSAP centers, which will make them interoperable with other organizations in California as well as linking them to Las Vegas. Mike mentioned that they were also receiving interest from their federal partners because Nevada brings to the table a statewide communications system, which is the Washoe County's shared radio system that is linked throughout the entire state of Nevada. He mentioned that because of the gateways and causeways they can set up through the 800 system, everyone would not have to purchase 800 MHz radios as they can take any radio system and link it through with the next generation 911 systems.

Chris then made a PowerPoint presentation, saying that you can now travel through the state of Nevada fairly effectively on an 800 radio. They are now trying to see how they can expand this system into the two states, but one main difficulty is the money being stove-piped between the two states.

There is currently a demonstration project in California where Alpine County is currently linking into Calaveras County, which is on a small scale what they are looking at for the entire area. The areas they are looking at to start for the regionalization are the 18 counties in Northern California above Sacramento to the Oregon border and the Tahoe Basin communities. It was felt that the best way to start this process was having some IP switches—one in Washoe, one in Roseville, and one in the Redding area—and then start linking all the disparate radio systems in these counties through microwave IP switching and linking dispatch centers together.

Chris said that as they had to create a bi-state entity in order to accept federal funds and Alpine was already making progress, Washoe and Alpine Counties looked to form a JPA, with that JPA forming the bi-state entity which can accept federal funding (including various communications grants). They have already filed appropriations with all four senators and have received many ideas on how they can secure funding through this process. Also, as they expand to other counties, those counties can become part of the same JPA—and once the equipment is put in place and the counties accept ownership, those counties will then maintain it.

Chris then asked the Chiefs for letters of support to be sent to the senators regarding this project and that he would send them letters to be placed on their letterhead which could then be scanned and e-mailed to the senators. In answer to whether they were looking at consolidating the dispatch centers, Chris responded that they would not be consolidated, but rather combined—meaning they would be housed under one roof in a large complex, with both traffic management and public safety dispatchers in one facility.

Stacey mentioned that in regard to the Quad County area, he felt that it would be all but impossible to convince those four counties to go to a combined dispatch center in Washoe County. He felt that the first step would be to combine just the four counties and, then, if there was success on that level, they might be able to sell more cooperation. Chris then mentioned that these were actually two separate projects—

one being the linking of disparate systems together through IP switches and the other being the combined dispatches. Another obstacle that was brought up was that some agencies might not want to have letters of support written as they could potentially interfere with other grant funding being sought by those agencies.

8. Items for Future Meetings, Discussion

None.

9. Good of the Order

- Andy Flock said that he had just been to a homeland security commission meeting that morning and felt that the fire service wasn't pushing hard enough to obtain all the money available through this funding. He also mentioned that they had a briefing from Bob Wideman, the new Interoperability Communications Coordinator for Nevada, who was directed to provide some information at the next meeting regarding what interoperability was already out there at the state level. Also, the 2009 Governor's Report on Homeland Security just came out, which he will send to Stacey.

In regard to the grant monies being available, Stacey said that since so much of it was going to the threat assessment centers in Nevada and to Silver Shield (infrastructure protection), he felt that in order for the fire service to receive more of it, it would need to get itself united and the Homeland Security Commission would need to change its priorities.

- Kurt Latipow thanked those who participated in last week's WUI conference in Reno and said that they received many positive comments about both the program and the field trip. He said they're already starting to work on next year's program, which will be at the same site as this year's, and because the vendor show had sold out, it will be expanded next year.
- Gary Hames said that they will be hosting an S-232 class on April 28-30 and have an instructor coming in to teach S-390 from New Mexico on May 8-11.
- Van Ogami said that the Forest Service's Engine 44 has been relocated from Spooner Summit to their Zephyr Cove Station #4 temporarily (probably for the rest of the year) while they build a new station on top of Spooner.

10. Adjournment – The next meeting is scheduled for July 7, and this meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Recorder: Judy Dietrich