

Tuolumne County
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

David Goldemberg, *First District*
Kathleen Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*
Jaron Brandon, *Fifth District*

DRAFT MINUTES

**Fire Safety Advisory Committee – July 26th, 2023, at 10:30 am
Board Chambers, 2 South Green Street, Sonora CA 95370**

1. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Goldemberg at 10:37 AM. Roll call taken. Quorum Established
 - a. Committee Members present
 - a. District 1 Supervisor – Supervisor Goldemberg
 - b. District 2 Supervisor – Ryan Campbell
 - c. Tuolumne County Fire – Andy Murphy
 - d. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians – Interim Chief Louie Millis
 - e. Tuolumne Fire Safe Council – Steve Johnson
 - f. Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association – Chief Gamez
 - g. City of Sonora – Chief New
 - h. District 3 Rep – Wesley Brinegar
 - i. District 4 Rep – Chuck Sloan
 - j. Tuolumne County Sheriff’s Office – Undersheriff Evans (11:35)
 - b. Committee Members absent
 - a. District 1 Rep – excused
 - b. District 2 – vacant
 - c. District 5 – vacant
 - d. Chicken Ranch Band of Me Wuk Indians
 - c. Others present
 - a. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 - b. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. Public Comment – None
3. Approval of minutes 6/28/2023:

- a. Motion was made by Wesley Brinegar. Chief New asked for inclusion of when quorum left 2nd by Chief Murphy with inclusion to approve with corrections. All in favor, no nays, no abstentions. The motion was approved unanimously.
No Public Comment.

4. Old Business

- a. None
No Public Comment. None

5. Reports/Presentation

a. Fire Services Presentations

1. Tuolumne County Fire Department – BC Mario Torres gave a history of department and the status of volunteers, staffing and resources. Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD), through a cooperative fire protection agreement with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), provides for the preservation of life and property through emergency medical response, rescue, extrication, fire control, fire and life safety inspections to over 2,200 square miles and approximately 55,000 residents of Tuolumne County.

Through what's commonly known as an Amador Agreement, another form of cooperative fire protection agreement allowed through the Public Resources Code, Tuolumne County contracts with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection for when CAL FIRE is out of declared "fire season." The County provides funding to staff Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station, and through another agreement with Mariposa County, provides for services at the Blanchard CAL FIRE Station (TCFD Station 64).

For the calendar year 2022, there were 6,431 total incidents within the TCFD jurisdiction, compared to 6,099 in 2021 for a 5.2% increase. This is an increase 35% from ten years ago when TCFD responded to 4,179 incidents. Of those incidents in 2022, there were 4,541 calls for medical assistance, 596 fires, 246 hazardous materials/fire standby, and 1,048 other incidents. .

The TCFD is funded for 50.5 full-time equivalent positions. Forty-six and a half of those through the cooperative fire protection agreement with CAL FIRE (Schedule A and Amador) and other agreements with Mariposa County and Columbia College. Those positions include an Assistant Chief, 2 Training/Safety Captains, 3.5 Emergency Command Center positions, 40 Engine Operations, and 1 Heavy Equipment Mechanic. The four remaining positions are County employees and consist of an Assistant to Department Head and 3 Fire Prevention Division positions which are supervised by the Assistant Chief.

2. Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine – Chief Klyn talked about Mi-Wuk Sugar pine Fire District background and service area. Respond regularly to 16 additional sq, miles outside District boundary. Funding for only one company officer/day and have three interns per shift. Type 6 engine, Type 3 Engine, 2 Type ones and Type II water tender. Strike team reimbursement covers medical insurance (which they didn't have for many years). Call volume is approximately 500/year. Total 9 interns and 4 volunteers.
3. Strawberry Fire District – Dee Jackson-Martin, President of fire district board spoke about history. See attached report.

b. Committee comments:

Supervisor Goldemberg thanked the departments for their presentations.

Staff spoke to larger need to understand lack of service and potential issues with cell tower, am/FM radio transceivers, FM alert study, OES staff to spearhead research and work with emergency planning workgroup on potential recommendations.
Committee members spoke of need and desire to improve systems throughout county.
Committee member

c. Public Comment – none

- d. Staff Report – Update on grants implementation, will have some staff changes to OES. Want to discuss changing the time of this meeting, set for next agenda for approval and consensus is that moving to 4th Weds of the month 3-5pm works best. EOP Update mtg virtual set for Thursday July 27th @ 5:30 pm, USFS Fire Hazard Restrictions in place.

Committee comments – commendation to OES staff for the successful award of grants.
Public comments – None

6. New Business

- a. Fire Insurance Discussion and review of current state initiatives. Staff presented some thoughts and strategies for the addressing the current fire insurance issue in the county. Discussion is in preparation for our guest speaker who will be at next meeting.

Supervisor Campbell spoke about Tuolumne County needs to highlight the fire insurance issue. A soon to be aired TV spot will highlight Tuolumne County as well as need to get legislative relief from state insurance. The work our community is doing is not being seen as a benefit to reduce risk. This committee is a good tool to push hard on the insurance issue, developing language for State senators.

Chief Gamez – spoke to property owners who want to know benefit of reducing risk (Firewise, defensible space, vegetation management) when they tell insurance companies, they say doesn't matter. Minimizing risk does not lower insurance rates.

Supervisor Goldemberg talked about ISO rating having more impacts on commercial than residential.

What are strategies of committee/role?

- Create workgroup
 - FSAC members, Assessor, Fire Chiefs, Real Estate Association rep
 - Get a list of all the projects and risk reducing efforts we have done
- Need to funnel all the data...should we create a survey?
 - Real estate associations survey info
 - Assessor-Recorder data on fair plan
 - Questions about:
 - What zip code do you live in?
 - Have you been denied? What was reason? Did you get on CA Fair Plan?
 - Have you had an increase in premium? Why?
 - Are you located near fire department or water supply?
 - Do you do any risk reduction activities?
 - Member of Firewise community
 - Do defensible space clearance
 - Do hazardous vegetation management clearance

Committee members -
Public comments – none

7. Working group updates:

- a. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup
 - i. Update on veg ordinance information to be mailed out
- b. Governance workgroup – ordinance changes
 - i. Red flag and parking on narrow streets
 - ii. Increase number of fire access identified roadways.
- c. Emergency Planning workgroup – evacuation planning and alert/Warnings plan

Public comments - none

8. Member Reports & Discussion – general updates/reports from committee members

Public comments: none

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 pm
- b. Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – August 23rd @ 10:30 am**