

Santa Rosa Junior College Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Start Time: 10:30 am

End Time: 11:43 am

Location: In-Person / Zoom

1. Attendance

- **In-Person:**
 - Devon Gambonini (Santa Rosa FD)
- **Zoom:**
 - Spencer Andreis (Sonoma Valley Fire)
 - Geoff Belyea (American Canyon)
 - Justin Buckingham (Ukiah Valley Fire)
 - John Dicochea (Novato Fire)
 - Jeff Donaldson (Little Lake FD)
 - Jason Hatfield (San Rafael Fire)
 - Aaron Johnson (Rohnert Park DPS)
 - David Levin (CalFire)
 - Scott Westrope (Santa Rosa Fire)
- **Absent:**
 - Eric Matzen (Rohnert Park DPS)
 - Jason Weber (Marin County Fire)
- **Staff:**
 - Ken Sebastiani (Director Fire Technology)
 - Dan Bull (Fire Academy Coordinator)
 - Nikki Soto (Administrative Assistant)
 - Linda Collister (Full time Fire Faculty)
 - Rachel Smith (Workforce and CTE Director)
 - Nicole Frantz (PSTC Counselor)

2. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order & Quorum Established

- Chair called the meeting to order.
- A quorum was established with the attendance of the majority of members.

2. Self-Introductions

- All attendees introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

4. Changes/Approval of the Agenda

- No changes to the agenda were made, and it was approved as presented.

5. Public Comments Period

- No public comments were made.

6. Old Business

- **Classroom Update:**
 - Work continues on two classrooms adjacent to room 1100.

7. New Business / Discussion Items

A) New Fire Advisory Chair

- Aaron Johnson is stepping down as Chair.
- Chief David Levin (CalFire) was announced as the new Chair for the committee.

B) New Fire 208.6 Class

- **Certificate of Achievement** will be offered through a new combined course.
 - Two separate courses for **Firefighter I (208.4)** and **Firefighter II (208.5)** are being merged into one course, **Fire 208.6**.
 - Allowing the SRJC to offer 4 options to attain the FFI & FFII certificates
 - The course is equivalent to a 16-unit class and provides equivalency testing for certificate completion.
 - The new course allows employees to obtain certification without going through a full academy.
 - Director Sebastiani is working with SRJC to finalize the course for scheduling and admissions.
 - The course is anticipated to run annually, with options for out-of-state applicants to pursue reciprocity through additional certification (Wildland Certificate).
 - Director Sebastiani spoke to the members of the committee addressing the Fire Academy rules/regulations regarding the 10 sponsored spots.
 - Vote was taken to move forward with the class being approved.
 - All members present were in favor
 - Devon Gambonini (Santa Rosa FD)
 - Spencer Andreis (Sonoma Valley Fire)
 - Geoff Belyea (American Canyon)
 - Justin Buckingham (Ukiah Valley Fire)
 - John Dicochea (Novato Fire)
 - Jeff Donaldson (Little Lake FD)
 - Jason Hatfield (San Rafael Fire)
 - Aaron Johnson (Rohnert Park DPS)
 - David Levin (CalFire)
 - Scott Westrope (Santa Rosa Fire)

8. Updates

A) Fire Program (Program Director Update)

1. **New Tower Planning:**
 - SRJC is planning to build a **5-story fire tower**, with the hope of breaking ground in early spring.
 - Rachel Smith is assisting with grant processes.
2. **2022/23 Grant Update:**

- New storage containers and racks for student turnouts are now in service.
- A second propane-fueled prop for the fire tower has been approved by the Board of Trustees.
- 3. **Live Fire Materials:**
 - New materials are being sourced for live fire exercises.
- 4. **SFT Update:**
 - The Fire Program continues to update its curriculum to parallel NFPA standards, with the **IFSTA 8th Edition** expected in July 2025.
 - **Instructor-to-student ratios** are being updated in most SFT classes.
 - **Certified Instructor I** is now required for lead academy instructors.
 - Updates were provided on succession planning and peer-based suicide awareness training through Cal-JAC.
- 5. **Hybrid Classes:**
 - Efforts are underway to introduce new hybrid courses and transition existing ones to this format.
- 6. **Fire Scholarships:**
 - A total of **\$7,000** has been allocated for scholarships in the 2023/24 academic year.
- 7. **Fire Program Donations:**
 - The Academy has received donations of equipment and materials from various departments, saving over \$70,000.

B) Fire Academy Update (Academy Coordinator)

- **Graduate Employment:**
 - 15-20 graduates from previous academies have been hired by local fire departments.
- **106th Academy (40 Students):**
 - 2 students failed, with 38 students continuing.
 - Graduation is scheduled for **December 20, 2024**, at 10:00 AM.
- **107th Academy:**
 - The application window closes on **October 1, 2024**, at 11:59 PM.
- **Academy Donations:**
 - Previous academies have contributed to building firefighter survival props, saving the program significant costs.

C) Sonoma Training/Operations Officers (Spencer Andreis)

- The group has not met in six months due to an increase in fires. No new updates were provided.

D) Marin Training Officers (Jason Hatfield)

- Ongoing fire safety and survival training.
- A new 6-7 person academy will start on **December 2, 2024**.
- County-wide training and live burns are planned for **October 24-25, 2024**.

E) Mendocino Training Officers

- Prepping for the upcoming academy while managing a busy fire season.

F) Fire Prevention Officers

- **Fire Protection Week** is next week, with planned community outreach efforts.
- CAL Chiefs Association is forming a fire marshal group with upcoming training in Sacramento.

9. Roundtable/Announcements

- Discussions centered around the need for:
 - New **email lists** for class updates each semester.
 - Peer-to-peer relationships and professional experts to assist with training.
 - Increasing diversity in the fire program, with a focus on gender and racial representation.
 - Continued efforts for donations, including equipment like MSA bottles.
 - Distribution of **class flyers** for the spring semester.

10. Adjournment

- Graduation for the 106th Academy is scheduled for **December 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM.**
- Firefighter Academy Graduation guest speaker will be:
 - San Rafael Fire Chief – Abe Roman