

Santa Rosa Junior College – Fire Advisory Committee - 2025

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 9:00 AM

Location: Public Safety Training Center / Zoom

In attendance (In-Person and Zoom):

1. Members 2025-2026

- **Brad Caldwell (Chair)**
- **Devon Gambonini**
- **Eric Matzen**
- **John Dicochea**

2. Proxy

- **Scott Bryn (Proxy for Scott Westrope)**
- **Matt Gloeckner (Proxy for Spencer Andreis)**
- **Mike Taul (Proxy – Jason Weber)**

3. SRJC – Faculty, Staff and Administrators

- **Ken Sebastiani – Director**
- **Dan Bull (Fire Academy Coordinator)**
- **Linda Collister (Adjunct Faculty)**
- **Nicole Frantz (SRJC Counseling)**
- **Megan Rhodes (SRJC Job Developer)**

1. Call to Order & Quorum

Chair **Brad Caldwell** called the meeting to order at **9:10 AM**.

A quorum was confirmed.

2. Introductions

Members and attendees introduced themselves:

Director Sebastiani introduced Brad Caldwell as the new Committee Chair.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from **October 2024** were approved.
Motion by **Devon**, second by **Ken Sebastiani**.

4. Approval of Agenda / Changes

No changes requested.

5. Public Comments

None.

6. Old Business

Professional Expert (PE) Recruitment & Succession Planning

- PE recruitment remains an ongoing need for instructor succession.
 - Interviews conducted this past year yielded promising candidates but connecting them to actual teaching work remains a challenge.
 - Departments asked to encourage personnel to participate in teaching roles.
 - Discussion included instructor certification pathways and State Fire Training requirements.
 - Instructor track changes now include condensed Instructor 1/2/3 model (no more 1A/1B/1C etc.), and SRJC can help PEs obtain these certifications.
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7. New Business

Instructional Service Agreements (ISAs)

- SRJC continues expansion of ISA partnerships.
- Departments enroll employees as students, earn college units, and receive **\$3.50 per training hour** back into their training budgets.
- Active contracts exist with Santa Rosa Fire, Sonoma Valley, and Sonoma County.

- Outreach is underway to Marin County, CAL FIRE, Novato Fire, and others.
 - Suggestion made to present at **Sonoma County Fire Chiefs meetings**; SRJC will coordinate with Chief Gloeckner and Dana.
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8. Program Updates

Fire Technology Program (Director – Ken Sebastiani)

- **Re-accredited by State Fire Training for five years.**
Appreciation expressed to departments who submitted support letters.
- **New 5-story training tower** underway; plans submitted to DSA.
 - Estimated completion: **December 2026.**
 - Will include forcible entry props, stairs, standpipes, repelling systems, and live fire capabilities.
- **New NFPA-compliant fire engine arriving before Dec. 19 graduation.**
- **Re-branding initiative** underway (patch, decals, identity refresh).
- **Grant funding success** (~\$800,000 awarded for tower equipment and facility needs).
- **State Fire Training updates:**
 - National alignment (IFSAC / ProBoard reciprocity).
 - New FF1/FF2 curriculum retiring **2026** — students must complete FF2 before the deadline.
 - Behavioral health & cancer awareness curriculum enhancements are coming.
 - Fire Officer and Driver Operator programs also retiring / converting.
 - More online / hybrid delivery options in development.
- **Scholarships:** \$10,000 awarded this year; streamlining application process.

Leadership Degree Pathway (Linda Collister)

- Partnership with **Cal Poly Humboldt** for a **Bachelor of Arts in Leadership.**
 - Company Officer certifications may articulate up to **19 units.**
 - Fully online with lower total cost than traditional universities.
 - Flyer and information will be shared with counselors and fire agencies.
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9. Academy Update (Dan Bull, Fire Academy Coordinator)

- **107th Academy:**
 - 39 graduates; multiple hired by CAL FIRE, local agencies, or in background with San Francisco and Sacramento.
 - **108th Academy:**
 - 39 students on track to graduate **Dec. 19, 2025, at 10 AM.**
 - Strong student employment momentum.
 - Continued donations from regional departments (fans, hose, equipment).
 - Student-built facility projects saved SRJC over **\$60,000** via prop construction.
 - **109th Academy:**
 - Starts January 2026; 60 applicants for 40 seats.
 - Transition to Jones & Bartlett textbooks offers cost savings and multiple learning formats.
 - Email notifications sent encouraging alumni to complete FF2 before June 2026 deadline.
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10. Training / Officer Reports

Sonoma County Training & Operations Officers — Matt Gloeckner

- Continued work on active attacker training — highlighted as a major success model to present statewide.
- Operational topics include fleet/equipment numbering changes and Measure H infrastructure progress.

Marin County Training Officers

- Focus areas noted:
 - Hiring and promotion needs,
 - Technology upgrades (Image Trend, Tablet Command),
 - Evacuation mapping,
 - Adoption of new non-PFOS fire foam (F500).

Fire Prevention Officers

- First Responder and Inspector task books must be completed by **December 2026.**
 - Company Officer coursework reminders reinforced.
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11. Roundtable / Announcements

- Continued request: **need for PEs and RTOs** at SRJC.
 - ISA partnership invitations for departments.
 - **AI in the fire service** — brief conversation highlighting future industry impacts; topic revisited at roundtable.
 - Technology topics discussed: drones, cameras, fire investigation software, and report-writing tools.
 - **Internship program update:**
 - Up to **40 units toward degree progression**,
 - Currently unpaid; exploring “stipend” model.
 - **Watch Duty application** capability expansion now supports flood alerting in all 50 states.
 - **Memorial for Chief Fred Bunker** scheduled **Jan. 17, 2026**, PSTC Campus, 1 PM–3 PM.
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12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **10:10 AM**.