***Minutes of Meeting held on August 28, 2015 at Universal City FD***

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chief Covington called the meeting to order at 09:00 Hrs, He welcomed all of those who attended the meeting. He thanked Chief Wallace and his staff for hosting the meeting.

**Introductions;**

Personnel in attendance went around the room to introduce themselves to the group.

**Minutes from previous meeting;**

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted; Chief Covington motioned to accept the meeting minutes with no corrections. Chief Daugherty Motioned to approve the minutes as posted Chief Clarkson second the motion. None opposed motion carried.

**Treasure’s Report;**

Chief Riedel updated the treasures report, No deposits were received and the only expense was the return of the unused portion of the donation from Skeeter Brush Trucks.

**Dates Covered: 7/1/2015 – 7/31/2015**

**7/1/2015 Beginning Balance: 16,611.11**

**Income (Deposits**)

**Expenses (Debits)**

Ck# 1056 Skeeter Brush Trucks (Return of unused donated

funds from TIFMAS Symposium) ( 1281.12)

**7/31/2015 Ending Balance: 15,329.99**

Chief Covington Motioned to accept the Treasures Report with the corrections to the dates, Chief Daugherty motioned to approve the treasures report with the corrections listed, Chief Reddout seconded the motion with none opposed. Motion carried.

**Mutual Aid Update;**

Chief Clarkson mentioned the Alamo Regional Wildland fire Response Team’s Deployment to Rock Springs Texas, Chief stated that they usually have a two hour response time. This deployment the TFS requested Five Type 6 apparatus and as Strike Team Leader (STL) at 11:30 and the teams were rostered by 12:00 noon. SAFD, Dist. 7, New Braunfels, Bulverde Spring Branch and Schertz FD all responded with Darren Brinkkoeter as STL. Enroute to Rock Springs one vehicle about three miles out had a transfer case issue and needed to pull off. The rest of the Team continued on to the command post for assignment. Chief Brinkkoeter detailed their response in great detail, he mentioned the first day they made an initial attack on the fire, and was assigned the Capitol Strike team to work with them. Chief stated it was obvious the level of training that the Alamo Strike team had received prior to this event was evident in their performance. From the equipment to working together as a team is was evident this group exemplified the term professionals. Due to the terrain it was a difficult fire fight, they routinely would walk the line to manage it rather than driving.

Day Two, the teams received their briefing and continued to back burn for about 8 hours (2-4 miles) to slow the progress of the fire. By day Four the rain assisted with suppressing the fire, although the lightning strikes did ignite additional fires. The Brown Ranch Fire burned approximately 16K acres. There were minor communication issues; this was somewhat due to the topographical area the teams were working in and lack of infrastructure. Hydration was another issue due to most of the work had to be done with boots on the ground and not by traveling in vehicles. One interesting note was the large amount of snakes that were driven up the trees due to the heat and fire conditions this is not a very commonly seen in our area.

Guy Duncan stated that there was a lot of experience gained by all personnel that had responded to this event. This also goes with the experience that has been gained by the regional strike team with the training they have received over the last 5-6 years in our region.

Clarkson stated that there was in increase in the strike team from 4 to 5 trucks and an increase from 2 to 3 personnel per truck. This may become the new process in the future if the Type VI trucks can support the additional person and gear. Persons responding should at a minimum the FF-1 task book opened. TPWD have been working together regionally to provide Just in Time Training (JINT) for personnel looking to gain more experience.

Covington stated that this will be a great opportunity to get some additional personnel the experience deploying on and working a large event. The third person could work with two experienced responders to ensure they are receiving the guidance needed on such events.

Chief Wrenn asked about the turnaround time for a second team if requested.

Clarkson stated that SAFD has always participated with response to a second team request. The level of participation will hinge largely on SAFD being a major supporter in the number of supporting apparatus and personnel.

**Committee Reports;**

1. **Communications;**
   1. **Jeffery Dean;** mentioned that DPS is working on the Mobile Data Survey, this survey is asking about how many radios and types that you have deployed in your departments and PSAPS. First Net is trying to create a public safety network. If you have not completed the survey please go and sign in and provide the update. For more information log on to the website; <http://txlte.com/>
   2. **Alex O’Rourke**; updated the group on the progress of reprograming the communicator boxes, we currently have reviewed the profile on the most current 800 MHz radios, we are waiting on a response from Shawn Lange from LCRA for their latest update and compare their latest profile. Once completed we will Email the Chiefs in the region that have these communicators assigned to them, schedule a day for their representative to bring it by the SAFD Tech Services warehouse on Cherry Street for the update and training. This information should be coming out shortly.
2. **Hiring Consortium;**
   1. **Capt. Vaughn;** stated there were 88 applications mailed out for the testing process and has of today he has received back 33 completed applications. The testing will be Sept 8th-9th 2015. Vaughn is looking for personnel that are willing to help proctor the test, if you are available contact him direct at [Captainc@uctx.gov](mailto:Captainc@uctx.gov). Updates have been done on the TCFP website to ensure the most current testing dates are provided. The candidate is provided a Pass/Fail at the end of the testing and not a numerical grade. Ranking is only provided to the student. The Dimensional Analysis information is not provided to the student.
   2. **Chief Wallace;** mentioned that Converse FD and D-7FR have provided the same test as the AAFC, would there be an interest to merge the testing participants information to create a more robust list?
   3. **Chief Wrenn;** mentioned that they currently have 63 applicants to review for their upcoming test taking place in September.
   4. **Capt. Vaughn;** provided the information for the upgrades on the current AAFC website, the PRO’s about the website it will allow the registration for the hiring consortium can be done on line the use of PayPal or any other means to collect fee’s associate with the hiring consortium, dues or other offerings can be done on line. Additionally it can also send notifications to the testing applicants if and when openings become available. A quote and additional information was reviewed. Chief Covington asked for a motion to provide the funding up $4500.00 for the initial setup on the new website, Chief Riedel motioned to accept the proposal Chief Clarkson seconded the motion, one Opposed; Motion carried.
3. **Training;**
   1. **Wally Yates** Reported that SAFD has three FEMA Instructors with TXTF-1 work at Station 11’s, they are looking on putting together a Structural Type I, II,III course for Region 6, it would be a Nine Day Class, they would break it down with Five days in San Antonio and Four Days in Austin. They would need 18 personnel to make the class successful. The candidates would stay at the Fire Field to provide a deployment style setting, working 10-11 hrs a day. The cost is 700.00 per person, but does not provide a TEEX Certification. They are looking to do another class this year and another one in 2016 with no hard dates for that class as of now. Contact Wally Yates at [walter.yates@sanantonio.gov](mailto:walter.yates@sanantonio.gov) or (210).859.2258 for more details.
4. **Texas Fire Chiefs Report;** 
   1. Chief Skinner reported the following courses are available,
      1. Texas Fire Chiefs Association Executive Conference May2-5 2016
      2. Company Officers Symposium September 16-17 2015 <http://www.companyofficer.org/home.html>
      3. Texas Fire Chiefs Academy Oct. 25-30 2015 Garland, Tx <http://www.txfirechiefs.org/texas-fire-chiefs-academy/>
      4. LODD Conference October 13-15 2015 Hurst, Tx <http://www.txfirechiefs.org/lodd-conference/>
      5. Texas Fire Chiefs Workshop Nov. 2-4 2015 Bastrop, Tx <http://www.txfirechiefs.org/fire-chiefs-retreat/>
   2. **Martin Davila**; from SAC has spoken to students about furthering their education in the fire service, in this he has found many students that have taken courses before entering the Academy. He encourages all FF’s that have taken courses prior to the Academy to contact him to assist them with their degree program.

**Unfinished / New Business;**

**Chief Wrenn** reviewed the process that AACOG is moving to, they are changing/Streamlining their grant process to Law/Fire/ Communications they are looking for sub-committees to review the applications before they submit them to the committee for approval. Fire is looking for a sub-committee member that understands the needs of the local agencies. If you are interested in being a part of the sub-committee please submits your interest.

**Jeffery Dean;** stated that there is 1-1.5 million each year for projects. The projects for Bexar and surrounding counties need to be an International Terrorist Problem, submissions must be based on specific responses, and the equipment must be deployable to meet the grant needs.

**Chief Wrenn**; motioned to appoint a representative to fill the position of Fire Sub-Committee Member, Chief Clarkson Motioned to appoint Chief Daugherty to the position of Fire Sub-Committee Chair, Chief Wallace Second the motion, none opposed motion carried. Chief Wrenn stated that he would also assist with this committee as well did Jeffery Dean.

**Chief Covington** stated that we need to add to the agenda “Sub-Committee” to update the upcoming projects due to the partnership in the room. They need to appoint an odd number of additional members (5).

**Announcements from Departments, Agencies, Open Floor Commentary**

**Daugherty; Helotes FD** mentioned the departments that have received grants for the annual municipal fire school need to forward the supporting documentation ASAP, he realizes the certificates are slow coming this year but urges everyone to forward this information upon receipt due to the tight deadline.

**Reddout; Grey Forest FD** Commented that Pro-Board and TEEX are currently running behind approximately Three months on their certifications.

**Valdez; Leon Valley FD** Mentioned that USAA will be providing a discount to homeowners that live in a fire wise community. The homeowner could expect to see a savings equivalent to 72.00 per year.

The Fire Dept. has been working with San Antonio Development Board to assist with designating all new development North on the Huebner creek to provide a retention pond, to prevent and additional runoff during rain events causing flooding in the city.

There has been an informal poll posted on TexCom to see if any agencies are interested in sending personnel to attend the Peer Fitness Trainer Course taught by the IAFF (<http://www.iaff.org/hs/pft/peerindex.htm> ), we are trying to get them to teach a course here in SA but they must have a guaranteed number of participants (25) in order for them to do a class here. Please forward your interest in this certified course to [L.valdez@leonvalleytexas.org](mailto:L.valdez@leonvalleytexas.org) .

The Texas Work Force Commission no longer oversees the Physical Fitness of Fire Depts. Currently there is no State level governance over seeing this aspect of the fire service. Chris Connelly’s suggestion currently is to follow the NFPA Guidelines.

**Yates; SAFD** The TXTF-1 USAR is currently accepting applications till the end of this month for all open positions, he encourages participation in this program due to the high level of training that is offered to the responders. This training and certifications the participants receive are provided to them at no charge to the rescuer or agency.

**Covington; Schertz FD** Mentioned the annual 911 tower climb is still accepting applicants to climb in the remembrance of the 343 fallen firefighters on 911. He encourages everyone to challenge their personnel to attend this annual event. For more information go to the San Antonio 110 website <http://www.sanantonio110.com/> .

***The next meeting will be held at the Helotes FD September 25th 2015 at 0900 hrs.***

**Adjournment**

Chief Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chief Reddout seconded the motion none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.