

Southern California Fire Prevention Officers PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes - 6/13/06
Rancho Cucamonga Fire Dept.

PRESENT:

Maria Sabol	Anaheim Fire Dept.
Michelle Douglas	Colton Fire Dept.
Mike Ruston	Colton Fire Dept.
Brenda Emrick	Costa Mesa Fire Dept.
Chris Gomez	Monterey Park Fire Dept.
Kelley Donaldson	Rancho Cucamonga Fire Dept.
Gale Schulte	Riverside Fire Dept.
Manuel Sedano	San Bernardino City Fire Dept.
Penni Overstreet-Murphy	San Bernardino County Fire Dept.
Maria Segovia	San Bernardino County Fire Dept.
James Duarte	Torrance Fire Dept.

WELCOME:

Penni Overstreet-Murphy welcomed newcomers to the group and started the self-introductions.

PROGRAM:

Penni Overstreet-Murphy presented NFPA's *Remembering When* curriculum to the group. This curriculum focuses on fire and fall prevention for older adults by offering group presentation lesson plans. There is now a downloadable Power Point presentation available. Check with you area's Agency on Aging for partnership opportunities in delivering information to seniors.

Patricia Henny with the West Valley Chapter of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) addressed the group about the benefits of partnering with RSVP chapters in your area. RSVP recruits, places and trains seniors over age 55 to work with non-profit organizations in the community. Some of the educational programs that her volunteers present are Seniors Against Fraud (SAF) and "How to Survive the First 72 Hours." Mrs. Henny also offered suggestions for reaching out to seniors: use City newsletters; post flyers at Senior Centers; staff a booth at a flu clinic; and post information at senior housing facilities. Some other topics that were covered were rewarding volunteers; background checks for volunteers; and liability coverage.

BUSINESS MEETING:

- Committee Newsletter – Penni has produced the first issue and is asking for input on the next issue. These newsletters will be produced quarterly and added to the FPO website so that the information can be widely shared.
- *Play Safe! Be Safe!* BiC will offer the program free, but the hosting organization must guarantee 200 people will attend. For more information, visit their website at www.playsafebesafe.com.
- Children's Network of San Bernardino County will hold their national conference at the Ontario Convention Center on September 20th & 21st.

Standing Committee Updates:

Risk Watch

Penni briefly updated the group on Risk Watch's new curriculum which is being called Risk Watch Lite. The program materials will be less expensive and shorter versions of the original Risk Watch modules. Visit www.nfpa.org for more information about the program and how to apply.

Safe Kids

The National Safe Kids organization has announced their focus for this year's water safety campaign which will be "entrapments." Visit the SAFE KIDS website for more information and publication materials.

California Juvenile Fire Setter Coalition

Michelle Douglas (Colton Fire) has joined the Board of Directors as the new Treasurer. Board members are still working on their 501(c)3 application, but they now have a CPA assisting them in the process. The By-Laws and Strategic Plan are being reviewed, and the Calendar has been posted on their website www.californiafiresetter.org. The next meeting will be July 14th at OCFA Training Center in Irvine.

CERT and Emergency Preparedness

The National CERT Conference was held May 16-18 in Los Angeles and was very successful. It was a great opportunity to see new, creative CERT programs. There are new annexes in the works that will be added to the manuals to enhance core curriculum (School CERT and Campus CERT).

Drowning Prevention (DPN)

The group previewed San Bernardino County DPN's new drowning prevention video that was created as a result of the new Submersion Incident Reporting Form (SIRF). Penni provided copies of *Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim*, a water safety storybook for grades K-3. Kelley mentioned the "I'm Safe" organization and the water safety material that is available through them (www.imsafe.com).

Orange County DPN held a media event for EMS week at the Blue Buoy Swim School (organized by fire, law enforcement and EMS personnel). San Bernardino County DPN debuted the SIRF video at the Krikorian Movie Theater in Redlands.

Members of the committee asked for a sample Drowning Prevention proclamation to utilize in their cities.

Alisa Ann Ruch Foundation

No report given.

Fireworks

Penni provided samples of TNT's fireworks education materials (discussed at the previous meeting when a TNT representative was present). The committee members discussed more issues surrounding enforcement for the upcoming holiday.

Burn Institute

Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation (AARBF) is forming an alliance with OCFA in order to take over the database that was originally spear-headed and maintained by Children's Hospital of Orange County.

The Inland Empire Chapter of the Burn Institute is still moving toward establishing a full time staff and office at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. Recently, rockstar Sammy Hagar held a benefit concert to raise funds for the Burn Institute.

Home Safety Council

Brenda Emrick shared information about HSC's Literacy Kit that was sent to HSC members at no cost. The kit offers basic fire safety information in an easy-reader format.

Fire Prevention Officer Organizations

California Fire Prevention Institute announced that next year's conference will be March 12-16, 2007 in Buellton. More information will follow regarding workshop topics and certifications.

Spark of Love

The June 7th meeting at ABC7 was postponed to July 13th at 10:00 a.m. The committee will discuss the possibility of multiple kick-off dates in multiple locations rather than one big event to kick-off the entire toy drive as well as changes in program sponsors.

Roundtable:

Brenda Emrick with **Costa Mesa Fire** is putting together a Disaster Academy for the Spanish speaking population in her community. The academy will be four weeks long and is volunteer-driven. Brenda also mentioned a recall from CPSC on smoke alarm/CO alarm combination product – they seem to have a premature low battery. She also brought to the group's attention that the smoke alarms are imprinted with "test weekly" which conflicts with current recommendations from regulating authorities. Brenda has been busy preparing for the Orange County fair which will be July 7-30th. The fire department booth will include a chalk board for parents and children to draw their home escape plan and then they can print a copy of it and take it with them.

Gale Schulte with **Riverside Fire** recently completed a coloring contest for Career Day/Community Helpers, which included math skills. Gale shared RFD's "File of Life" program which she is marketing first to seniors. All addresses of "file of life" participants are flagged on dispatch print-outs. There is also a weather proof sticker that goes on the home owner's front door. For more information about Riverside's program, contact Gale at (951) 538-6363. Gale also recently completed a grant.

Michelle Douglas with **Colton Fire** is gearing up for 4th of July, including radio station advertisements. The City has a zero tolerance for illegal fireworks. Michelle is working on reviving the smoke alarm program with the help of Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Ruston. In addition, she is trying to get *Stewie the Duck* into family day cares and child care facilities.

James Duarte with **Torrance Fire** was able to obtain almost 2,000 free copies of the *Be Cool About Fire Safety* video from Allstate Insurance. He plans on distributing them at next year's Open House in honor of Fire Service Day.

Chris Gomez with **Monterey Park** shared with us that an emergency ordinance was recently approved regarding administrative fines for illegal fireworks. The ordinance includes a \$500 fine for altering Safe & Sane fireworks and a \$1,000 fine for illegal fireworks. She put flyers in water bills and posted "official notices" at all fireworks stands announcing the new fines. Chris was also fortunate to obtain lots of free materials from AARBF's "Firefighters & Safety in Education" program. AARBF provided

materials for 500 students and any additional materials would then be paid for by the requesting organization. The kits included coloring books, stickers and more.

Kelley Donaldson with **Rancho Cucamonga Fire** shared information about the City's upcoming fireworks education campaign and enforcement. The City Council also passed an ordinance allowing for an administration fine: \$100 for unlawful use of Safe & Sane and \$1,000 for possession of illegal fireworks. Kelley has been busy wrapping up the first complete year of the pre-school Risk Watch program. She is also gearing up for the department's annual Car Show which raises funds for the Firefighters' Quest for Burn Survivors. Kelley shared information about the District's recent fee increases, which included a fee for incident-based or court-ordered Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention assessment and education.

Manuel Sedano with **San Bernardino City Fire** is new to the department. He, too, is working on a fireworks safety campaign, including paid radio spots on KFROG. He recently attended an 8-hour class on juvenile fire setting behavior. He is in the process of buying a fire safety trailer and wants to incorporate something for parents/teachers to recognize the traits/characteristics of fire setting behavior.

Penni Overstreet-Murphy with **San Bernardino County Fire** will be meeting with the Probation Dept. to try and organize regional fire safety classes for juvenile fire setters. She is working with Neighborhood Watch groups to join with Risk Watch Safe Community program. The Safety Trailer has been very busy, including appearances every weekend for the last two months!

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 12th**. All 2006 Public Education Committee meetings will be held at Rancho Cucamonga Fire Station 173 located at 12270 Firehouse Ct. unless otherwise advised.

From the 210 Freeway East, exit Day Creek Blvd and turn right. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn right on Firehouse Ct.

From the 10, 60 or 91 freeways, take the 15 Freeway North. Exit Foothill Blvd and turn left. Turn right on Daycreek and then left on Firehouse Ct.

2006 meeting schedule:

~~Tuesday, February 14, 2006~~

~~Tuesday, April 4, 2006~~

~~Tuesday, June 13, 2006~~

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Tuesday, January 9, 2007