**NORTH IDAHO FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 3539 Post Falls, ID 83877

**EDUCATION PREVENTION INVESTIGATION**

President-Chief Warren Merritt Vice President-Chief Aaron Cagle Secretary-Chief Peggy Smith Treasurer-Chief Larry Simms Director at Large- Tony Rohrwasser

Meeting summary for August 15, 2019

Attendees: Tony Rohrwasser, Dan Ryan, Warren Merritt, Brad Van Ert, Ron Stocking, Mike Glazier, Dan Currie, Brandon Hermenet, , Greg Wetzel, Brady Foil, Ashley Stoneham (IDL), Ryan Jackson (IDL), John Cork (IDL) Scott Hayes (IDL), Mathew Hicks (IDL), Spender Hanson (IDL).

Meeting called to Order to Ch. Merritt at approximately 1005 hours at South Boundary Fire Protection District.

Treasurer's report was reviewed by Ch. Merritt.

Motion by Ch. Brad Vanert and Second by Ch. Dan Ryan to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion passed.

Membership Committee: No report.

By-Laws: No pending items.

Legislative Report: Used the legislative reporting agenda items and requested to discuss interest by those in attendance re: impact fees. A historical accounting was provided that highlighted some mistakes made the first time around when developing the capital investment plan. KCFR spoke with Post Falls and had support for a county-wide effort, NLFPD reported there might be resistance from Hayden and Rathdrum, and Merritt reported that two of the three county commissioners expressed their support during NIESA. There was general support for impact fees but challenges ahead. This may likely be a topic of discussion at the November Idaho Fire Commissioners conference in Coeur d’Alene.

New Business: Update on North Idaho CISM Team. Ch. Merritt reviewed a report submitted by Duane Hanna that showed the team was accessed on January 31, 2017, October 17, 2018 and June 22, 2019 for post-incident debriefing/defusing. Ch. Riley conducted a test of the system by calling and getting permission to access STATECOM via radio and STATECOM was able to provide the contact names – test worked.

Some agencies are starting Peer Support Teams and other agencies, from the report, appear to want to continue to access the CISM team. No decision/next steps for the NIFC’s CISM Team were discussed.

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Review of the “Bandy Fire” – Ch. DeBernardi

It was great to have IDL attend the meeting with some of their members involved on –scene and with dispatch. The review was a very good discussion and had broad participation.

* Communications, which worked, was the primary issue; VHF –IDL and structural resources on 700 MHz
* Accountability was a challenge with two (2) frequencies.
* Evacuations were announced on one channel and then communicated via another medium which changed the complexity significantly (jumped a creek and was headed to three (3) large farms.
* Initial recon and then aerial had two (2) different pictures – ’20 acres to 200’ and again completed by a marshy area that would have stranded vehicles – local knowledge a plus. Initial report was 100’ x 100’ and growing
* Use of the North Idaho Communications plan would have been a benefit (attached to the meeting summary for reference).
* Fuel model unusual for this time of year – grass and rapid fire spread (was similar to 2015) into timber. Winds were erratic.
* IC was monitoring attack channel, VHF, air to ground, some communication was face-to-face and an IDL rep was near the IC most of the time.

Roundtable – Discussed moving NIFC’s meeting around on a regular basis; North, NE, Central, East and South. Need to iron out where the meetings will be held.

Meeting was adjourned at about 1145 hours by Ch. Merritt

Next meeting is on October 17, 2019 at North of the Narrow Fire District hosted by Fire Chief Brady Foil at 1000 hours. Lunch will be served after the meeting is over.

 The address is: 14374 E. Shore Road

Coolin, ID 83821

The Training Officers committee will meet should be at 0900 hours before the same unless cancelled.

Meeting Summary submitted by Warren Merritt