

OC Public Safety
DIVISION MEETING MINUTES

Present: Steven Hall (Dean, Oxnard College Public Safety), Bill Lynch (OC Public Safety / Fire Technology Department Chair), Tamara Crudo (OC Public Safety/ Fire Academy Coordinator), Carl Schwab (OC Public Safety/ EMT Coordinator), Shannon Trefts (Oxnard College/ Counselor), Rebecca Martinez (Oxnard College/ Counselor), Alexander Hamilton (Oxnard FD), Curtis Tolmie (Oxnard FD), John Colamarino (Oxnard FD), Dustin Lazenby (Ventura County FD), Douglas Miser (Ventura City FD), Luis Manzano (Ventura City FD) Chris Rosa (VC EMS), Jason Johnson (City of Port Hueneme), Dave Updike (USFS Risk Management), Jeramy Guercio (Cal Fire), Jeremy Brant (Cal Fire), Sami Barakat (Fire Technology Student)

Absent: Keith Gurrola (Fillmore FD), David Latham (OC Public Safety / Fire Technology & EMT Faculty)

Meeting Date: Oct. 17, 2023

Recorded By: Samantha Agreda

AN = Action Needed

AT = Action Taken

D = Discussion

I = Information Only

	TOPIC		DISCUSSION
I.	Welcome/Call to Order		B. Lynch calls the meeting to order at 1:32 pm
II.	Introductions		B. Lynch introduces the agenda for the meeting and invites the attendees to introduce themselves.
III.	Follow – Up from Previous Meeting		<p>1. Approval of Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Lynch motioned to approve the minutes from March 9, 2023. • Minutes were approved. <p>2. Wildland Certificate of Achievement (COA) – Advisory Committee recommended OC establish a Wildland COA</p> <p>W. Lynch informs that he is working on the Wildland Certificate of Achievement and hopes to start the approval process in December 2023. He explained the importance of the certificate since it provides a certificate attached to the student’s wildland training, and could help enrolled students qualify for financial aid.</p> <p>3. High School Summer Academy</p>

		<p>T. Crudo shares that the summer academy was successful even though it didn't have the enrollment desired. All the exercise chosen for the academy went according to plan. Oxnard Fire helped with the lifeguard portion of the academy which was appreciated. In addition, T. Crudo suggests that the timeframe of next summer academy is coordinated with Ventura County Fire Department, so it doesn't match with the timeframe of their explorer academy. This will let students attend both programs if desired.</p> <p>J. Brant asks the age limit for the academy. T. Crudo responds that the academy targets student 16 years and older.</p> <p>S. Hall plays a summary video of the first OC Public Safety Academy.</p> <p>https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=nbPypAQWpwg</p> <p>W. Lynch suggests more outreach to help with enrollment. He also informs that OC Public Safety and Oxnard Fire Department are working with Oxnard Union High School District to create a 60-hour Public Safety classes for high schools. Ideally, the students taking the Public Safety classes would later become dual-enrollment students for OC Public Safety during senior or after graduation.</p>
IV.	College Updates	<p>1. Fire Technology/ Wildland (W. Lynch)</p> <p>a. Action item for curriculum</p> <p>W. Lynch shares that the enrollment in the Fire Technology courses is high. Three sessions of Intro to Fire Technology are being offered, and each course has between 40 to 45 students. All the other Fire Technology courses are also full.</p> <p>A new hire, Jonathan Payne, will start in January to assist the Fire Technology and Fire Academy courses.</p> <p>Regarding the Wildland Academy, starting January, Jonathan Payne will assist D. Latham. Currently, the Wildland Fire Academy has 29 applicants for 30 spots available. The application number has increased compare to last academy.</p> <p>In other Fire technology updates, Chief Updike will start in January teaching Wildland Fire Control (FT R 157).</p> <p>b. Equipment updates/needs</p> <p>W. Lynch shares that the programs are always in need of equipment. Currently, a request for fire protect fleet III has been submitted.</p>

D. Miser from Ventura City FD asks what else the programs need. T. Crudo shares if there are any wildland tools out of service, they can be serviced in the academy.

c. Feedback on program graduates and those who have been employed

W. Lynch shares that 5 cadets from the Spring 2023 Wildland Academy have been hired by Sundowns Santa Barbara, and a couple went in to Ventura County hand crew.

In addition, D. Updike shares that 8 cadets went to the National Forest and have been doing well.

2. Fire Academy (T. Crudo)

a. Action item for curriculum

T. Crudo informs that the Fire Academy in session is winding down on their structural hazmat assignment. The academy started with 38 cadets, and it is currently with 24.

For Fall 2024 Academy, T. Crudo would like to make a fitness test part of the entry requirement to the Fire Academy. T. Crudo shares that in the orientation for the upcoming battalion, the applicants were asked to run the tower 5 times within 10 minutes. 12 of the 53 applicants did it over eleven, and two of the 53 couldn't make it.

b. Equipment updates/needs

Regarding equipment needs, T. Crudo shares that the Fire Academy is doing well in equipment. The academy needs a type 1 engine and would be interested to write a letter of interest if any department is planning to give them away. The Fire Academy has received funding that are helping purchase a second burnable car.

c. Feedback on program graduates and those who have been employed

Graduates have been hired quickly. By the end of the semester, two of the current coaches will be leaving due to job offers.

Lifeguard Academy

T. Crudo: In the last advisory meeting, it was discussed to move the Lifeguard Academy to a period of the year where the water would be more favorable to the trainees. It was discussed to be moved to the Fall semester, but it hasn't been decided yet.

3. EMT (C. Schwab)

		<p>C. Schwab has noticed that of the 300 students that take EMT at Oxnard College, approximately 65% take the NREMT and then 70% of those taking the NREMT pass. OC is aware that not finishing the program and not passing the NREMT will hold the students back when trying to complete their firefighter careers since it is almost impossible to get hired without an EMT license in most department.</p> <p>Regarding the students that are passing the course and doing well in EMT and their Fire Technology courses, C. Schwab would like to offer them extra options for those students that can be realistic prospect for their departments. C. Schwab suggests opening up station hours for those students doing well in EMT program.</p> <p>C. Schwab would like to get in touch with the Fire agency's EMS chiefs or managers to make sure that the Oxnard College EMT program is up to date with the technology use in other EMS departments and to train the students to use the appropriate equipment.</p> <p>L. Manzano asks C. Schwab what the station hours/visits would look like for the students. C. Schwab explains that currently the students are doing twelve hours in the ambulance. Therefore, 12 hours would be the general standard; however, 8-10 would work too. L. Manzano would follow up on it with C. Schwab. W. Lynch and C. Schwab explain that they would only send the students that are taking EMT and are interested in a Fire career.</p> <p>Regarding the students that aren't passing NREMT, J. Brant shares that Cal Fire works with the California Conservation program which runs a workforce development program for 18 to 25 years old individuals. There are no requirements for the workforce development program. The individuals in the program would receive Wildland training to become crew members. That could be an option for the students that are not passing the EMT program, so it can help them get some fire experience, and it is 1-2-year program. J. Guercio adds that the individuals in the program would also receive Public Safety-First aid which may motivate them to continue EMT.</p> <p>4. College Hiring Updates (S. Hall)</p> <p>S. Hall shares that J. Payne had been hired as a full-time faculty.</p>
V.	Employer Updates	<p>VCFD (D. Lazenby)</p> <p>1. Industry updates, forecasts, and trends</p>

D. Lazenby informs that the next academy at VCFD starts January 8, and the numbers of people accepted is decreasing. The academy started with 27. Two weeks ago, they started the Biddle Fire Test and since then some people are falling out. They have three that will go to retakes.

D. Lazenby has noticed that the current students that they have in their academy are prepared for interviews and skill, but they failed on the physical portion of their examination.

D. Lazenby recognizes the need of EMS in the students. He is aware that to get hired, students will need to be comfortable with the EMS portion. Therefore, they are planning to add more EMS scenarios for the upcoming academies.

2. Employer needs and/or skills gaps

D. Lazenby asks about the courses that we can provide to current firefighters. W. Lynch informs that OC can offer Instructor 1 & 2., but they need a minimum of 15 people enroll. The dates can be flexible. D. Lazenby shared that VCFD will have a need for Instructor 1 & 2 courses soon.

OFD (J. Colamarino)

Their department is having difficulties finding a location to take the CPAT exam.

They currently have five firefighters that are going to medic school at UCLA starting January.

Regarding the watercraft training, W. Lynch shared that OC offers the Lifeguard academy and asks J. Colamarino if his department would be interested to use the Lifeguard Academy as part of their watercraft training. J. Colamarino is unsure since the needs they have on their watercraft training is not offered by the Lifeguard Academy.

VFD (D. Miser)

On the training basis, Ventura City FD will be hiring 6 people as entry-level.

D. Miser expresses his appreciation for the help that his department has received from Oxnard College and the other agencies on helping them establish their academy after receiving the Safer Grant. On Oct. 27, they will start their last academy for the year.

USFS (D. Updike)

D. Updike emphasizes the challenges that the Force Service has to find staff. They have a lot Forces in California that are setting down engines and modules due to the lack of employees.

		<p>More recruitment is coming. Application will open up on Oct. 26 and will be opened for 10 days at usajobs.org</p> <p>USFS will also be holding a job fair in December in the San Bernardino, in February in Fresno, and in April in Redding. D. Updike shares that the last job fair was successful because they were able to fill every organization. However, the hiring process took about six months for a six-month position which led to losing many of the candidates that accepted the position due to other job opportunities. They are working on simplifying the process.</p> <p>Regarding training, there are a couple of training sites that are at forest locations in California. The two major ones will be in Redding and Mi-Wuk. They are working on having training at a closer location to Southern California during January to May.</p> <p>Cal Fire (J.Guercio & J.Brant)</p> <p>J. Guercio shared that Cal Fire has hired multiple firefighters through the year for the fire season. Cal Fire has also struggle with the physical through their department and training sites.</p> <p>Regarding Ventura Training Center, Cal Fire is currently getting all their captains and instructors up to the instructor level. They are on the middle of a Public Safety-First Aid class, and they have about 40 students. Starting Oct. 23, 2023, they will start their structure module with 40 students – 20 from Ventura Training and 20 from Cal Fires around the state, and the graduation will be in December.</p> <p>For the future, they hope to offer Firefighter 1 in the Ventura Training Center. They have been working on arranging the grounds to offer the FF1 course. J. Guercio also shares that they are always in need of type I equipment since they have a lot of captains and students at the Ventura Training Center.</p> <p>J. Brant shares that participants from the Ventura to the Camarillo training site are typically California Conservative Corps (CCC) participants. Cal Fire provides them with 1-2 years of experience with training, and then they can apply to Cal Fire force services or local agencies when it comes to Wildland Firefighting.</p> <p>VCEMS (C. Rosa)</p> <p>C. Rosa did not have updates.</p>
VI.	Partnership Opportunities	<p>1. Internship Opportunities</p> <p>T. Crudo and B. Lynch ask the agencies that any opportunities for OC Public Safety students to visit their station would be good.</p>

VII.	Roundtable		<p>Assignments for next meeting</p> <p>T, Crudo shares that OCRFA is exploring the possibility of a truck academy over the summer that would be held in the current Fire Academy grounds. If there is an interest, she would like to talk with anyone interested.</p> <p>L. Manzano requests to be included on the Advisory committee email list.</p>
VIII.	Next Meeting		Spring 2024
IX.	Adjournment		The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm