



# Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

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## CSFCA Volunteer Chief Officers Section

### Minutes of the Organizational Meeting

Alamosa, Colorado  
March 24, 2007

The Volunteer Chiefs Section organizational meeting was held on Saturday, March 24, 2007 in Alamosa.

#### Participants

Don Chapman	Alamosa Fire Department	drchap@my.amigo.net
Dave Ury	Black Forest Fire Rescue	bffrpd@qwest.net
David DeTray	La Veta Fire Department	lavetafirechief@yahoo.com
Theresa Staples	Colo Division of Fire Safety	theresa.staples@cdps.state.co.us
Brooks Fountain	Wildhorse Mesa Fire Dept.	firechief@wildhorsefiredept.com
Sean Tallmadge	Wildhorse Mesa Fire Dept.	firechief@wildhorsefiredept.com
Paul Cooke	Colorado State Fire Chiefs Assn.	paul@coloradofirechiefs.org
Jerry Rhodes	Cunningham FPD	jrhodes@cfpd.org
Sean McCauley	Milliken Fire Protection District	smccauley@millikenfire.com
Aaron Eveatt	La Junta Rural Fire Prot. Dist.	aveatt@ci.la-junta.co.us

#### Purpose of Proposed Volunteer Chiefs Section (Mission & Goals)

It was the consensus of the participants that there was need for a section of the CSFCA devoted to addressing the unique needs of the volunteer chief officer. Discussed was the perception that the CSFCA is a "paid chiefs" organization and it historically hasn't paid attention to the needs of the true volunteer chief. It was felt that many of the issues focused on by the Combination Chiefs Section or in Regular CSFCA meetings apply equally to the volunteer chief, but it is difficult for volunteer chiefs to attend meetings during the weekday, far from home.

Following this discussion, attention was directed to developing a proposed mission statement and goals.

#### Proposed Mission Statement

The mission of the Volunteer Chief Officers Section of the CSFCA is to provide information, education, services and representation to the Chief Officers of volunteer fire and emergency services organizations in Colorado to enhance their capability and professionalism.

#### Proposed Goals

1. Develop a means to reach out to all fire chiefs of volunteer fire and emergency services organizations in Colorado.

2. Increase membership and participation in the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association by Chief Officers of volunteer fire and emergency services organizations.
3. Develop a process to identify and satisfy unmet needs for information, training and services for Chief Officers of volunteer fire and emergency services organizations.
4. Deliver timely information on critical issues and educational opportunities to the Chief Officers of volunteer fire and emergency services organizations in Colorado.
5. Provide leadership, expertise and direction on issues affecting volunteer fire and emergency services organizations.
6. Increase active participation on CSFCA committees and task groups by volunteer chief officers to ensure that the unique needs of volunteer fire and emergency services organizations are considered.

**What are the issues facing the volunteer fire service/volunteer chief officer and how can the proposed section help address these?**

There was significant discussion concerning the issues facing the volunteer fire service and the volunteer chief officer. These included:

- Liability of supervisors/chief officers related to wildland urban interface fires (30 Mile Fire)
- Need help addressing growth related issues (ability to provide service)
- Need training that caters to the volunteer chief officer
- Issues related to transition from volunteer to combination fire department
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Need training on the duties and responsibilities of the volunteer fire chief
- District board issues
- Grant writing assistance
- Billing for services (what are other departments doing?)
- Transition to 800 MHz radio systems and loss of paging capability
- Lack of knowledge about programs (i.e. state certification program) lead to frustration
- Lack of knowledge about resources available and how to access them

There was significant discussion concerning how to reach the volunteer chief officers. It was the consensus of the participants that significant outreach would be necessary, both through existing county associations and possibly by the creation of county associations where they currently do not exist.

**How should the Volunteer Chiefs Section be structured?**

It was felt that, in order to reach out to the volunteer chief officer, the section needed to be structured much like the CSFCA organization with representatives in each region that are willing to do outreach to county associations and individual departments. There was discussion concerning whether or not this need could be addressed by the current CSFCA regional reps, the consensus being that in some cases it could, and in other cases maybe not (depending upon the individuals willingness and ability to do outreach).

Discussion ensued on the need for bylaws and the fact that the Combination Chiefs Section operates without them, and there is always the concern for "overstructure". However, it was the consensus that organizing around bylaws would be appropriate.

Paul Cooke distributed a copy of the bylaws for the IAFC Volunteer & Combination Officers Section and asked the participants to review these prior to the next meeting as the potential basis for bylaws

for the Section. It was discussed that any bylaws needed to be consistent with the bylaws of the CSFCA and that the Section could not act independently of the CSFCA on such things as matters before the legislature. It was also discussed that the members of the Section would need to be members of the CSFCA, but that Section dues would likely not be necessary. Paul Cooke reported that he is working on corporate sponsorship of volunteer fire departments that could not otherwise afford the cost of membership.

#### **When should the Volunteer Chiefs Section meet?**

It was the consensus that the Section should hold its meetings on the Saturday following the quarterly CSFCA General Membership meetings, in the same locations

#### **What informational/educational programs should be offered at the Volunteer Chiefs Section meetings?**

Discussed was the possibility of bring out the IAFC's VCOS Educational Workshop "Beyond Helmets and Hoses". The advantages and disadvantages of the 8, 12, or 16-hour format were discussed. It was the consensus that the workshop should be brought to Colorado in the two-day format. Both Chief Chapman and Chief Eveatt agreed to host deliveries. Chief Eveatt recommended that one delivery should be done in conjunction with the CSFCA General Membership meeting in La Junta in September.

It was also discussed that the "New Fire Chiefs" workshop that has been presented at the annual leadership conference should be presented in one or more locations around the state for volunteer chief officers. It was the consensus that this should be the educational presentation at the next meeting, the inaugural meeting of the CSFCA Volunteer Chiefs Section.

#### **Other topics**

There was further discussion about how to get the volunteer chief involved in the new section. It was again emphasized that significant outreach would be necessary in order for the Volunteer Section to be successful.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 2, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in Glenwood Springs (in conjunction with the June 1<sup>st</sup> CSFCA General Membership Meeting).

#### **Adjournment**