



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 14, 2023
12 noon

Orange County Fire Authority
Regional Fire Operations & Training Center
Classroom 1
One Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

Committee Members

Bob Ruesch, Chair • Joe Kalmick, Vice Chair
Anne Hertz-Mallari • John O'Neill • Vince Rossini
Dave Shawver • Chris Duncan

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

This meeting is open to the public. Committee members will participate in person. There are several alternative ways to make comments including:

In Person Comments at Meeting: Resolution No. 97-024 established rules of decorum for public meetings held by the Orange County Fire Authority. Resolution No. 97-024 is available from the Clerk of the Authority.

Any member of the public may address the Committee on items within their subject matter jurisdiction, but which are not listed on this agenda during PUBLIC COMMENTS. However, no action may be taken on matters that are not part of the posted agenda. We request comments made on the agenda be made at the time the item is considered and that comments be limited to three minutes per person. Please address your comments to the Committee and do not engage in dialogue with individual Board Members, Authority staff, or members of the audience.

If you wish to speak, please complete a Speaker Form identifying which item(s) you wish to address. Please return the completed form to the Clerk of the Authority prior to item being considered. Speaker Forms are available at the entryway of meeting location.

E-Comments: Alternatively, you may email your written comments to coa@ocfa.org. E-comments will be provided to the Committee members upon receipt and will be part of the meeting record as long as they are received during or before the Committee takes action on an item. Emails related to an item that are received after the item has been acted upon by the Committee will not be considered.

This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the following Agenda. Unless legally privileged, all supporting documents, including staff reports, and any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after the posting of this agenda are available for review at the Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations & Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602 or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 Monday through Thursday, and every other Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and available online at <http://www.ocfa.org> under Board & Committee Agendas/Minutes.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and [Board of Directors policy](#), if you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please complete the [ADA Reasonable Accommodation Form](#) available on the Agency's website and email to COA@ocfa.org, or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 during regular business hours to submit your request orally. Please notify us at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Authority to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Ruesch

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Director Kalmick

ROLL CALL - Clerk of the Authority

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please refer to instructions on how to submit a public comment on Page 1 of this Agenda.

1. PRESENTATION

- Quarterly Update by Deputy Chief McGovern

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters on the consent calendar are considered routine and are to be approved with one motion unless a director or a member of the public requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Minutes for the Operations Committee Meetings

Submitted by: Maria D. Huizar, Clerk of the Authority

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Recommended Actions:

Approve the Minutes for the August 8, 2023, Regular Meeting as submitted.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Overview of OCFA's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section

Submitted by: TJ McGovern, Deputy Chief /Emergency Operations Bureau and Rob Capobianco, Assistant Chief/Emergency Management Services and Training

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the report.

REPORTS

No items.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The next regular meeting of the Operations Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury and as required by the State of California, Government Code § 54954.2(a), that the foregoing Agenda was posted in the lobby and front gate public display case of the Orange County Fire Authority, Regional Fire Operations and Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK:

- Operations Quarterly Update
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Executive Committee
Board of Directors

Thursday, November 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Operations Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2023
12 Noon**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Classroom One
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Operations Committee was called to order on August 8, 2023, at 12:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Joe Kalmick.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Kalmick led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach, Vice Chair
Chris Duncan, San Clemente
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress
John O'Neill, Garden Grove
Dave Shawver, Stanton

ABSENT Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo

Vince Rossini, Villa Park

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins
Director of Communications Matt Olson
David Kendig, General Counsel

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Shane Sherwood
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

1. PRESENTATION (FILE 12.02F1)

Deputy Chief TJ McGovern provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Operations Quarterly Update. He concluded his comments in remembrance of CAL FIRE Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Fire Captain Tim Rodriguez, and pilot Tony Sousa, who died while engaged in a firefighting operation two days earlier.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director O' Neill and second by Director Duncan approved 5-0 by consensus Agenda Item No.2A (Directors Ruesch and Rossini absent).

A. Minutes for the Operations Committee Meetings (FILE 12.02F2)

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Action: Approve the Minutes for the May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting as submitted.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Introduction to the Emergency Command Center (FILE 12.02F1)

Deputy Chief TJ McGovern introduced Division Chief Kevin Fetterman who provided a site tour of the Emergency Command Center.

On motion of Director Hertz-Mallari and second by Director O'Neill approved 5-0 by consensus (Directors Ruesch and Rossini absent) to receive and file the report.

REPORTS

No items.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Kalmick adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m. in memory of CAL FIRE's Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Captain Tim Rodriguez, and contract pilot Tony Sousa, who died in a midair collision while working on the Broadway Fire in Riverside, California, August 6. The next regular meeting of the Operations Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Operations Committee Meeting
November 14, 2023

Agenda Item No. 3A
Discussion Calendar

Overview of OCFA's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section

Contact(s) for Further Information

TJ McGovern, Deputy Chief tjmcgovern@ocfa.org 714.573.6006
Emergency Operations Bureau

Rob Capobianco, Assistant Chief robcapobianco@ocfa.org 714-573-6006
Emergency Medical Services and Training

Summary

This item is submitted to provide a background and briefing on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department that will be presented to the Operations Committee.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Receive and file the report.

Impact to Cities/County

Not applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable

Background

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is committed to providing exceptional emergency medical services to the community it serves. In this presentation, we will delve into the core aspects of OCFA's EMS section, examining its training programs, continuous quality improvement initiatives, paramedic/EMT care, oversight procedures, and equipment management and purchasing strategies. This comprehensive overview will showcase the dedication and excellence of OCFA's EMS division and its significant role in ensuring public safety.

The Orange County Fire Authority responded to 175,457 incidents of which 132,940 were EMS-related in 2022. With most of our calls falling in the category of EMS, the OCFA has committed to the citizens we serve to deliver what we consider the premier EMS delivery system in the Country. The highest quality of pre-hospital care is using Paramedics. Paramedics are first responders qualified to deliver Advanced Life Support Care. On a daily basis, the OCFA staffs 85 units capable of providing ALS service to its citizens. On those 85 units, 185 paramedics are on duty daily. The agency employs 705 active and currently accredited Paramedics as well as 408 Emergency Medical Technicians. This allows us to have a Paramedic, most often two, on the scene of an incident within an average of 6 minutes and 8 seconds. They provide the highest care by the best-trained individuals possible within a municipal Fire/EMS delivery system.

Our delivery model is based on countless hours of training and continuous education. Training is the cornerstone of any successful EMS division. OCFA's EMS section emphasizes the training and development of its paramedics and EMTs. Training programs encompass both initial certification and ongoing education. OCFA's paramedics and EMTs undergo rigorous training to obtain their certifications. This training includes classroom instruction, hands-on simulations, and clinical rotations in healthcare settings. It ensures that OCFA's EMS personnel are well-prepared to handle various medical emergencies. In 2022, our nurse educators put on over 330 recorded classes, providing the Operations members with over 1,175 hours of continuous education. EMS is an ever-evolving field, and OCFA recognizes the importance of continuous learning. The organization offers regular refresher courses, specialized training in areas like advanced life support, and opportunities for advanced certifications. This commitment to ongoing education ensures that OCFA's EMS personnel stay at the forefront of medical advancements.

OCFA's paramedics and EMTs are trained to provide immediate care in various emergencies, from trauma cases to medical crises. They have advanced tools and protocols to assess and treat patients effectively. Our EMTs are taught the importance of effective communication. Communication is a vital component of patient care. OCFA's EMS personnel are trained to communicate clearly with patients and their families, providing reassurance and information throughout the treatment process. This compassionate approach helps reduce patient anxiety and improve overall care outcomes.

The importance of continuous education is critical to our success. The nurse educators assigned to this section are at the forefront of preparing our people to operate at a high level. Equally as important is our CQI Section. CQI, or Continuous Quality Improvement, is a process that provides continuous and ongoing efforts to achieve measurable improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes, and other indicators of quality at the state and local levels. Continuous Quality Improvement is central to delivering high-quality EMS services. OCFA has established a robust CQI processes to ensure its EMS division maintains the highest standards. OCFA conducts routine reviews of its EMS operations, analyzing response times, patient outcomes, and feedback from patients and healthcare partners. This data-driven approach allows OCFA to identify areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments to its protocols and procedures. Our CQI section, with the oversight of one OCFA Captain, has four highly qualified and experienced registered nurses. Through CQI efforts, OCFA has improved response times, survival rates in cardiac arrest cases, and patient satisfaction. These successes underscore the effectiveness of CQI in enhancing the quality of care delivered by OCFA's EMS personnel. Oversight and adherence to regulations are crucial for ensuring the highest standards of patient care. OCFA's EMS division works diligently to meet state and local regulations while maintaining strict oversight. This includes adhering to paramedic scope of practice, medical control, and compliance with state EMS authority guidelines. The members of the CQI section review a monthly average of 450 Emergency Patient Care Reports; these reports must be filled out on every EMS-related call and an average of 5,400 annually. This allows for oversight of our EMS system and provides us with valuable data that will enable us to adjust our system and keep up with the ever-changing needs of our community.

Our prehospital care coordinator is crucial in planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of the delivery of ALS and BLS prehospital care within the EMS system. They participate in the development and implementation of policies, procedures and treatment protocols for the delivery of pre-hospital care; maintains policy and procedure manuals. They also manages and tracks all vaccines given to our personal, handles body substance exposures

occurring with-in the agency, and helps collect, evaluate, and use any valuable data obtained in the CQI process.

As important as any process in the EMS section is providing our people with the highest level of care possible with state-of-the-art equipment to deal with any situation that may arise. Access to advanced and well-maintained equipment is critical in providing effective EMS services. OCFA manages its equipment to ensure readiness and effectiveness. OCFA invests in state-of-the-art medical equipment to support its EMS operations. This includes advanced defibrillators, airway management devices, and cutting-edge diagnostic tools. The procurement process is thorough, involving extensive research and partnerships with reliable suppliers. OCFA's EMS equipment is regularly maintained and tested to ensure it's always ready for deployment. Rigorous checks and scheduled maintenance prevent equipment failures during emergencies, contributing to the reliability of EMS services. All this is accomplished through the tremendous efforts of our EMS equipment and supply coordinator and Assistant EMS equipment and Supply coordinator.

Our section is also assigned a Management Analyst and an Administrative Assistant. Our Management Analysis is responsible for reviewing budgets, conducting financial analyses, and providing recommendations to allocate funds effectively. They ensure compliance with regulations, monitor spending trends, and collaborate with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive budget. The position is also the main component in analyzing, breaking down, and making the necessary adjustments with all the data coming out of the CQI process. They review data and ensure it is relevant. The Administrative Assistant performs clerical tasks, ensure the staff can communicate and work efficiently, and maintains and ensures that all required EMT and Paramedic licenses are current and archived adequately with the State of California. The importance of the latter cannot be understated.

The Orange County Fire Authority's EMS section provides top-tier emergency medical services to the community. Through comprehensive training, rigorous CQI processes, compassionate paramedic/EMT care, regulatory compliance, and adequate equipment management, OCFA continues to make a substantial impact on public safety. The commitment to excellence, continuous improvement, and a patient-centric approach makes OCFA a leader in emergency medical services.

Attachment

None.