



**PASSCOM EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes - July 9, 2019**

**PRESENT:**

**Mike Simon, Vice President; TJ Moody, Treasurer; Stacie Kelly, RivCo EMD; Justin McGough, Battalion Chief Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base [GUEST SPEAKER]; Justin Gardiner, RivCo EMD; Eric Cadden, RivCo EMD; Dennis Rice, Webmaster; Ed Clark, Calimesa City Council; Mareesa Evans, Beaumont USD; Sam Shoemaker, SPARC President; Fran Flanders, HS Village; Ray Gayton-Jacobs; Solera/Red Cross/RACES/ARES; Nick Gercis, Solera EPEAC; Larry Goodreau, Four Seasons; Dave Graham, AMR Supervisor; Dick Heitman; Sun Lakes EPAP; Joey Hunter, San Gorgonio Hospital; Fred Johnson, CERT/SPARC; John Keith, Plantation on the Lake; Amanda Koleszar, Loma Linda Health; Larry Spence, Plantation on the Lakes/LCS; Len Tavernetti, Four Seasons; Janet Upchurch, Red Cross; Anita Worthen, Four Seasons EPP; Henry Ciesielski, Four Seasons EPP/HAM/CERT; William Webster, Global Grant Services and Julie Farren, Staff Writer for the RECORD GAZETTE.**

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| <b>Call To Order</b>                       | Mike Simon called the meeting to order at 08:33 AM . Mike proceeded to get reports from those present while waiting for the guest speaker to arrive   |
| <b>Minutes</b>                             | A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and unanimously approved   |
| <b>Treasurer’s Report</b>                  | T.J. Moody reported that there is \$886.38 in the PASSCOM account as of 6-30-19.  |
| <b>PASSCOM Website</b>                     | Dennis Rice reported that there were 478 users and 641 hits on the <a href="http://www.passcom.us">www.passcom.us</a> website in June. There has not been an appreciable spike so far in July as a result of the earthquakes and suggested that we attempt to get some “better press” to raise our numbers.                             |
| <b>Riverside County EMD – Stacie Kelly</b> | Stacie reported that EMD is preparing for the fire season. She also reminded the group that she will be conducting a CERT class in Winchester from July 12 through the 14 <sup>th</sup> .<br>Stacie indicated that she will soon be leaving District 5 and going to District 3 and that Justin Gardiner will be taking over District 5. |

**Beaumont USD – Mareesa Evans** Mareesa announced that they opened one new school this past year and one new school is in development and scheduled to be open 20-21 school year. They are working on and promoting “Active Shooter” presentations and preparations. They are continuing to develop relationships with the Beaumont PD. She also indicated that there are 7 staff members that are CERT trained and they have 20 AEDs employed in their system.

**San Gorgonio Hospital – Joey Hunter** Joey introduced Will Webster with Global Grant Services who has the responsibility of obtaining Federal Grants. He reported that there was no damage to the hospital as a result of the recent earthquakes. He also indicated that three staff members have completed a Disaster Course in Alabama.

**EMR – Dave Graham** Dave indicated that they have added a new rig to their fleet.

**Red Cross – Janet Upchurch & Ray Gayton-Jacob** Janet reported that, as a result of the recent earthquake activity, the Red Cross is very active in the Ridgecrest area currently with two shelters; one inside and one outside. Ray reported that, in Ridgecrest, there were 22 home fires, 76 displaced family members and to date the shelters have been visited by over 700 residents with some number less than 100 actually temporarily residing in the shelters.

**SPARC – Sam Shoemaker** Sam reported on the successful Amateur Radio Field Day last month.

**Calimesa – Ed Clark** Ed commented on the ongoing problem with illegal fireworks.

**Anita Worthen** Anita reminded everyone about the upcoming Veteran’s Job Fair coming up in September.

**Fred Johnson** Fred indicated that he visited Ridgecrest and was surprised to see that it wasn’t as bad as he had expected though he did notice some power outages.

**Henry Ciesielski** Henry indicated that the Four Seasons EPP is working on a plan for what to do in case of a major power outage (especially as related to fire). They are at this point attempting to thoroughly define the problem.

**Fran Flanders** The Highland Springs Village Emergency Team is currently working on finding storage for their emergency supplies.

## Guest Speaker

### **JUSTIN MCGOUGH – Battalion Chief – Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base**



Justin made an extremely interesting presentation of his responsibilities at, the configuration of, and the general duties of the Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base (HRAAB), a CAL FIRE Riverside Unit at the Hemet Ryan Airport that Justin oversees. HRAAB is statistically one of the most active air attack bases in the nation. Justin indicated that the fleet consists of one OV-10 Bronco, two S2-T's - Tankers, and one UH-1H "Super Huey" helicopter. There are two helicopter pilots and five fixed wing aircraft pilots. They manage critical areas of fires for crew deployment, and retardant and water drops.

Justin indicates that he coordinates activities while in the back seat of the Bronco typically flying at about 4,000 feet. He described the traffic patterns of the aircraft and the importance of coordinating the effort to avoid aircraft collisions or any damage on the ground. Their priorities when fighting a fire are to protect human life first and then property followed by infrastructure (power lines, water lines, etc.).

HRAAB's will respond to a reported fire immediately with all aircraft available. While they may "turn around" as a result of a false alarm or "fire out" situation, they are ready with ground personnel aboard the Huey and ready to go to work.

Justin described how and when "Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT)" are called in to assist with a fire.

Justin also indicated that some of their aircraft will soon (next couple of years) be replaced with significantly more sophisticated aircraft from the Department of Defense including the S701 Blackhawk helicopter. This aircraft will significantly increase the operation's capabilities in that it will allow for a larger crew (12 vs 7), a larger fuel capacity (with a 45 second refill capability), two engines vs one, etc.

Justin spent some time explaining the fire retardant that they use. This is the retardant used to slow or retard the spread of a fire. It is a slurry mix consisting of a chemical salt compound,

water, with clay or gum as a thickening agent. At nine pounds per gallon an S-2T can carry 10,800 pounds of this mixture. He explained that it is critical that this retardant be dropped at a particular altitude in order to avoid harm to personnel on the ground or damage to property.

Justin and Stacie Kelly talked about the observation deck at the airport where anyone can go to observe the HRAAB in action. Justin also indicated that they would be happy to host a group visit to see the facilities and aircraft.

And more .....

As indicated, Justin's presentation was extremely interesting and we salute him for his work to "Keep Us Safe".

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**Adjourn**      The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am. The Next PASSCOM Meeting, August 13 at 8:30am in Modular C at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Rice, Acting Secretary