JOINT MEETING OF THE CONFIRE EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Chair – Chief Mike Gerken – Ontario Fire Department
Vice Chair – Chief Augie Barreda – Rancho Cucamonga Fire District
B.C. Matthew Dowland– Apple Valley Fire Protection District
Chief Greg Gabel – Chino Valley Independent Fire District
D.C. Jon Boggs – Colton Fire Department - *Absent*
B.C. Jeff Gillette – Loma Linda Fire Department
Chief Thomas Nicoll – Montclair Fire Department
B.C. Nathan Bristol – Redlands Fire Department - *Absent*
D.C. Ryan Cathey – Rialto Fire Department
D.C. Mike O'Bier – San Bernardino County Fire District
Chief Andrew Roach – Victorville Fire Department
Chief Grant Malinowski – City of Yucaipa

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Chair – Chief Dan Harker, Loma Linda Fire Department
Chief Buddy Peratt, Apple Valley Fire Protection District - *Absent*
Chief Jeremy Ault, Chino Valley Fire District
Chief Justin Weems, Colton Fire Department
Chief Mike McCliman, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department
Chief Reggie Brown, Redlands Fire Department
Chief Chris Jensen, Rialto Fire Department
Chief Bertral Washington, San Bernardino County Fire
Chief Bobby Clemmer, Victorville Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER

a. Flag Salute
b. Roll call/Introductions

PUBLIC COMMENT
An opportunity provided for persons in the audience to make brief statements to the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee and Administrative Committee. (Limited to 3 minutes for each speaker)
No requests to speak.

INFORMATION RELATIVE TO POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Agenda items may require Member abstentions due to conflict of interests and financial interests. EMS Division Subsidiary Committee/Administrative Committee abstentions shall be stated under this item for recordation on the appropriate item.
No abstentions stated.

EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE CONSENT ITEMS
The following items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be voted upon at one time by the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee. An item may be removed by a Committee Member or member of the public for discussion and appropriate action.

1. Approve the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Minutes of September 8, 2026.

   Motion to accept Consent Item.

   Motion by: Chief Malinowski
   Second: Chief Barreda
   Ayes: 10
   Noes: 0
   Abstain: 0
   Absent: 2, Colton and Redlands
   Motion Approved

NEW BUSINESS

2. EMS Restock Procedures – Chief Gerken - **DISCUSSION**
   Josh Stapleton and Joe Barna reviewed the first 13 days of operations and outlined the ongoing steps to stabilize units. They noted that first response teams are being made whole immediately following each call. Leadership continues to collaborate with the logistics manager to identify inventory blind spots and optimize the restocking process, while actively welcoming feedback from all participating agencies.

   During the subsequent discussion, member agencies raised questions regarding the current surge in EMS restocking supplies. Several members requested supporting documentation or impact data to help justify these rising costs to their respective city councils.

3. Fire Ambulance Replacement and System Resiliency – Joe Barna – **ACTION ITEM**

Initial operating experience indicates approximately 20,000 more annual calls than the System Status Plan (SSP) planning assumption. That assumption was already 30,000 calls above the RFP estimate. The preceding SSP item addresses the redesign for higher volume and provides the basis for this placement discussion.

The 24-hour fire layer strengthens coverage in harder-to-reach areas and keeps high-performance ambulances available in busier areas. When nearby resources are committed, covering those areas can pull high-performance units away from areas with greater call demand.

Each proposed addition must address an identified coverage need and be supported by an agency able to provide it. The proposal covers three replacements plus zero to three additions, for three to six resources.

Staff will identify the most effective locations within interested agencies' service areas using the revised SSP and agency operational input. Agencies should identify unit capacity, vehicle availability, staffing needs, service dates, and any effect on first-response availability. The placement review will consider call demand, travel times, geographic access, and nearby ambulance availability.

Additional units must be in service within three months of authorization, with earlier deployment through overtime where agencies have staffing capacity. Agencies should identify the earliest start date and the hours and duration they can sustain through overtime while hiring. Staff will confirm costs and reimbursement arrangements before implementation.

Financial Impact
The resources will be funded through cost recovery from ambulance billing services. Staff will confirm replacement, expansion, and overtime costs, any offset from the Chino units, and the remaining Fiscal Year 2026-27 and ongoing annual cost once agency commitments and staffing arrangements are stablished.

The Board will receive a mid-year budget amendment reflecting increased call volume, expenditures, and revenue, including the adopted fire ambulance deployment.

Recommended Action:

1. *The CONFIRE EMS Division Subsidiary Committee recommends replacement of the three Chino units with three staffed 24-hour fire department ambulances and determine the specific number of additional 24-hour fire ambulances, from zero to three, and priority coverage areas to recommend to the Administrative Committee, based on staff input and agency capacity.*

2. *Solicit agency interest and direct staff to confirm resource commitments, proposed locations, and implementation conditions, including additional units in*

service within three months of authorization and earlier deployment through overtime while agencies hire where staffing capacity allows and required agreements are approved.

The EMS Division Subsidiary Committee recommends the Administrative Committee approve three additional units for San Bernardino County Fire Department a second unit for Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, and to continue working with Victorville, Redlands, and Colton Fire Departments on additional units, with the final plan to be brought to the Administrative Committee for approval.

Motion by: Chief Barreda
Second: Chief Roach
Ayes: 10
Noes: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 2, Colton and Redlands
Motion Approved

4. System Status Plan and Deployment Update – Joe Barna – **RECEIVE AND FILE**

The System Status Plan (SSP) is being revised to reflect higher demand and staffing conditions observed since October 1. The initial model planned for 12,256 weekly system hours and assumed approximately 185,000 annual transports. Early operating experience indicates that interfacility transport demand is higher than anticipated.

The October 6 revision proposes 13,580 weekly system hours, including 11,904 Priority Ambulance hours. Staff will confirm service levels, regional distribution, the public agency contribution, and hours that can be staffed before finalizing the deployment schedule.

The preliminary trend of approximately 205,000 annual transports requires validation before it is used for continuing staffing commitments. Staff will reconcile response and transport data with Priority Ambulance and the deployment consultants to confirm demand and update the deployment model.

The staffing shortfall requires a correction schedule based on actual deployment by region and hour of day. On October 6, staff confirmed that the ambulances shown in MARVLIS matched the ESO staffing schedule and reported that the system was understaffed. Staff will compare planned, scheduled, and actual staffed hours, distinguish units available for new calls, and establish a correction schedule with Priority Ambulance.

The revised deployment will coordinate emergency, interfacility, and critical care transport coverage. Operations will confirm ALS, BLS and critical care allocations,

posting locations, and supplemental public agency resources. Communications will ensure the deployment schedule and unit capabilities are consistently reflected in dispatch and status systems.

Financial Impact
The revised deployment will be funded through cost recovery from ambulance billing services, with final costs dependent on the resources and hours implemented. The proposed increase is estimated at 324 weekly system hours. Business Operations will identify the remaining Fiscal Year 2026-27 and ongoing annual costs based on the provider, service level, reimbursement terms, and hours delivered.

Business Operations will present an amended budget to the Board at Mid-year to reflect increased volume, expenditures, and revenue. This item provides an update and does not approve additional expenditures or amend provide agreements.

The CONFIRE EMS Division Subsidiary Committee RECIEVES & FILES this report.

CLOSED SESSION

**No Closed Session*

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS

5. Fire Ambulance Resource Implementation – Joe Barna – **ACTION ITEM**

The Administrative Committee is asked to authorize three Chino replacements and up to three additional 24-hour fire ambulances as recommended by the EMS Division Subcommittee. Three Chino replacements will maintain planned fire capacity, and any additions will strengthen coverage in harder-to-reach areas.

Staff will finalize agency commitments, locations, and service dates using the revised System Status Plan (SSP) and the Subcommittee's coverage priorities. Operations will evaluate placement within participating agencies' service areas using agency operational input and the coverage needs identified in the SSP discussion.

Additional units must enter service within three months of authorization, with earlier overtime staffing where agency capacity allows. Business Operations will confirm participation and reimbursement terms and obtain required agreement approvals before implementation.

Staff will report implementation progress, coverage results, and any unresolved resource commitments or coverage needs. Updates will identify units, locations, hours delivered,

and remaining gaps, and assess response performance and high-performance ambulance availability in busier areas.

Financial Impact

The resources will be funded through cost recovery from ambulance billing services. Staff will confirm replacement, expansion, and overtime costs, any offset from the Chino units, and the remaining Fiscal Year 2026-27 and ongoing annual cost once agency commitments and staffing arrangements are established.

The Board will receive a mid-year budget amendment reflecting increased call volume, expenditures, and revenue, including the adopted fire ambulance deployment.

Recommended Action:

1. *Authorize replacement of the three Chino units with three staffed 24-hour fire department ambulances and adopt the EMS Division Subcommittee's recommendation for the number of additional 24-hour fire ambulances, from zero to three, and priority coverage areas.*
2. *Direct the Executive Director to implement the adopted deployment, including agency commitments, final placement, agreements, reimbursement terms, and deployment schedules, and report progress to the Administrative Committee. Additional resources must enter service withing three months of authorization, with earlier deployment through overtime while agencies hire where staffing capacity allows and required agreements are approved.*

Motion to approve the EMS Division Subcommittees recommendation to add three additional units to San Bernardino County Fire, a second unit to Rancho Cucamonga Fire, and to continue working with Victorville, Redlands, and Colton Fire Departments on additional units.

Motion by: Chief McCliman
Second: Chief Weems
Ayes: 8
Noes: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1 - Apple Valley
Motion Approved

ROUND TABLE

CLOSED SESSION

**The Administrative Committee entered Closed Session at 2:00 p.m.*

6. Review and update existing Litigation – Government Code section 54956.9: AMR Lawsuit

**The Administrative Committee came out of Closed Session at 2:43 p.m.*

***No reportable action from Closed Session*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the CONFIRE EMS Division Subsidiary and Administrative Committees.

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting: Administrative Committee Meeting - October 27, 2026.
EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Meeting – November 10, 2026.

/s/ Liz Berry
Liz Berry
Clerk of the Board