



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SECTION END OF YEAR REPORT - 2021

The specific and primary purpose of this organization is to develop and advance the fire service role in all-hazard emergency management.

Following the retirement of Chief Steven Hall, Chief Frank Frievalt was appointed to lead the Emergency Management (EM) Section of CalChiefs this past year. The combination of COVID-19 and significant fire activity had, understandably, induced attrition and inactivity with the EM Section. CalChiefs leadership desires to have the EM Section revived and expanded to support the significant shared space between local government fire service capabilities and community (state, county and local) emergency management. Our experience with incident management was eventually recognized and deployed to support several elements of the COVID-19 response, especially in areas of planning and logistics for testing, mass vaccination sites, and surge response capacity. Expand on this - Community-wide evacuations are increasing as large wildfires are increasing in size, frequency, and seasonal footprint.

The EM Section has developed a strong working relationship with the California Emergency Services Association (CESA), who represent professional emergency managers; the CESA President serves as a liaison on the EM Section Board. The EM Section focus on all-hazard emergency management is primarily to support and develop work originating from a fire service organization. The intent is to provide a place and organization where fire-based emergency managers can find relevant information, services, and products to support the execution of their responsibilities. A significant advantage of the successful collaboration with CESA is its extensive network and experience among civilian professional emergency managers.

In May, an interim Board was convened and established a work plan between then and the Annual Conference in September:

- Complete draft Constitution and Bylaws
- Re-tooling of the Website (including membership application)
- Participate in the Legislative Task Force
- Prepare for Annual Conference Meeting
- Prepare for Potential Legislative Testimony
- Schedule EM Section meetings

As part of the EM Section revision and expansion, it is securing a limited (select) number of top-tier emergency management service and product sponsorships. We believe this partnership provides an opportunity for exposure to new capabilities in the field for our members, while at the same time giving our members a voice to help us inform the industry on what we need and why. We hope to have one or more of these sponsors and their interactive additions to the website available by the beginning of the annual conference.

Please feel free to visit the EM Section online at <https://em.calchiefs.org/>.

Respectfully,

Chief Frank Frievalt