

To: California Fire Service

This memorandum is to notify you of FIREScope's intention to create an Information Technologies Specialist Group under the Task Force.

ICS has been built to help facilitate the management and agency interoperability at incidents. Today though, the ICS lacks defined standards which addresses standardization and coordination of computer technologies and equipment and ensures the interoperability of data or information technology solutions deployed at an incident and between the Sections of the ICS organization.

This gap in the ICS has prohibited the levels of efficiencies needed for today's fire service to meet the demands internal and external to incident operations. Because of this gap the fire service continues to duplicate efforts to manage incident related data/information. This creates unnecessary work, delays the dissemination of information and creates information conflicts during incidents. Ultimately this puts unnecessary strains on management personnel at critical times, increases expenses in staffing to handle inefficient work flows within the ICS and in some cases places incident personnel lives at unnecessary risk.

In addition, with access to free or low cost consumer based technologies, and personal electronic devices, public safety personnel have created a hodgepodge situation in incident data management. These inexpensive and often uncoordinated data capture and dissemination workflows at incidents and within the ICS are not supported, integrated, built on any standards which support a realistic approach at interoperability or sustainability. Although they provide some needed functionality at incidents, these solutions cannot support expanding multi agency incidents or be depended on because the communications platform or networks they leverage are not owned, managed or secured by public safety agencies.

It is anticipated that this new group will require 8-12 permanent members. They will conduct monthly conference calls and meet on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Agencies electing to nominate and support a participant will be responsible for all travel and associated expenses.

Cal-EMA and FIREScope are requesting the nomination of representatives from the FIREScope partner agencies and other jurisdictions who have a majority of the qualifications listed below:

A member of the Information Technologies Specialist Group should:

- Be a California Fire Service Professionals within the FIREScope partnering agencies.
- Have a background as a technical specialist in any position in the ICS which manages or collects incident data.
- Have a background or education in information technologies, and or GIS applications.
- Have experience in response or dispatch management applications.
- Have extensive knowledge of any section of the ICS.
- Have understanding of information or data work flows within the ICS.
- Ability to evaluate data systems architecture against adopted standards.

- Ability to assess technical documents to ensure conformance with established guidelines, defined strategies or requirements.
- Have an understanding of data formats, models and standards.
- Know the definition of open architecture and the ability to know the difference between systems which are not considered open.
- Ability and experience in documenting technical system requirements.
- Experience at managing or implementing computer hardware or software applications for a public safety agencies.
- Able to research emerging technologies for potential future fire service capabilities.
- Ability to conduct critical analysis and provide recommendations on existing system solutions currently used in incident management against proposed IT Strategy.
- Experience or ability to conduct a needs assessment of various Section or units within the ICS.

Nominations for members of this Specialist Group will require a letter of interest from the applicant, letter of support from the Fire Chief or Administrator, and a resume of experience and education. Nominations will be accepted until February 28th 2013 and may be sent to: Deputy Chief Ralph Domanski, 2524 Mulberry Street, Riverside, CA 92501 or ralph.domanski@calema.ca.gov. Applications will be reviewed by the Task Force during their meeting in Los Gatos on March 19 and 20, 2013. Applicants and their agencies will be notified in writing of the outcome of application review.

Questions regarding this recruitment and process may be directed to Chief Domanski at 951-320-6108. Thank you for your consideration and support of the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System and the FIRESCOPE Program.