



FIRESCOPE QUARTERLY BRIEF January 2026

Williams Fire Protection Authority Biomass Incident

Photo Credit: Darin Miller, Pacific Valley Aviation



Board Members in Action



Congratulations Chief Brian Fennessy (ORC) in your new role leading the U.S. Wildland Fire Service!

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS



Fire Chief Bernard Molloy
Cal Chiefs President
Murrieta Fire Department



Fire Chief Garrett Huff
Santa Barbara County Fire Department



Fire Chief Jaime Moore
Los Angeles Fire Department

DEPARTING ACCOLADES



Chief Mark Hartwig
Santa Barbara County Fire
Department
33 years in the fire service
12 years on the Board of Directors



Chief Jeff Meston
California Fire Chiefs Association
45+ years in the fire service
6 years on the Board of Directors



Staff Chief Dennis Nolan
CAL FIRE
34 years in the fire service
2-year Member of FIRESCOPE Ops

FIRESCOPE would like to thank Chief Mark Hartwig, Chief Jeff Meston, and Chief Dennis Nolan for their leadership, commitment, and contributions to the fire service in California! Their selfless dedication embodies the spirit and mission of FIRESCOPE.

DEPARTING ACCOLADES



Deputy Chief Anthony Stornetta
Santa Barbara County Fire
Department
33 years in the fire service
3-year Member of FIRESCOPE Ops



Assistant Chief Jason Serrano
San Bernardino County Fire
Department
6-year Member of FIRESCOPE Task
Force



Battalion Chief Eric Roberts
Los Angeles Fire Department
2-year Member of FIRESCOPE Task
Force

FIRESCOPE would like to thank Chief Anthony Stornetta, Chief Jason Serrano, and Chief Eric Roberts for their leadership, commitment, and contributions to the fire service in California! Their selfless dedication embodies the spirit and mission of FIRESCOPE.

DEPARTING ACCOLADES



FIRESCOPE
Technical Search and
Rescue Subcommittee



Retiree:
Billy Milligan
Riverside Fire Department
33 years in fire service



Task Force Members in Action



FIRESCOPE Task Force member Guy Tomlinson (LAFD) and Hazmat Subcommittee Chair Marcus Dunlap (CAL FIRE) along with members of Cal OES participated in the multi-day Cal OES WMD Summit 2025 hosted at the Carson Event Center.

El Segundo Refinery Fire

Photo Credit: (Apu Gomes/Getty Images)



INCIDENT

- A significant explosion and fire occurred at the Chevron El Segundo refinery on October 2, 2025, starting in the Isomax 7 unit (a jet fuel processing area), causing large flames, visible smoke, and rattling nearby homes, leading to a temporary shelter-in-place order but no major injuries.
- Disrupted jet fuel and gasoline production (the refinery supplies 20% of SoCal's gasoline, 40% of jet fuel).
- Agencies Involved: El Segundo Fire Department, Chevron's onsite team, and mutual aid from neighboring cities like Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and LA County Fire.

LA County USAR Deployment to Jamaica (USA – 2)



Photo Credit: CAFIRE RRU

INCIDENT

- November 1, 2025. 10-day USAR deployment to the island of Jamaica.
- U.S. Department of State requested 2 rapid assessment teams to provide search, rescue, and recovery assistance to residents and communities impacted by the catastrophic Category 5 Hurricane Melissa.
- USA-1 and USA-2 were essential and instrumental partners in delivering lifesaving aid to the hardest-hit communities.



Photo Credit: ABC7 News



Photo Credit: ABC7 News

JANUARY 2026



January 2026 is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

On the cover of IAFF's Fire Fighter International:

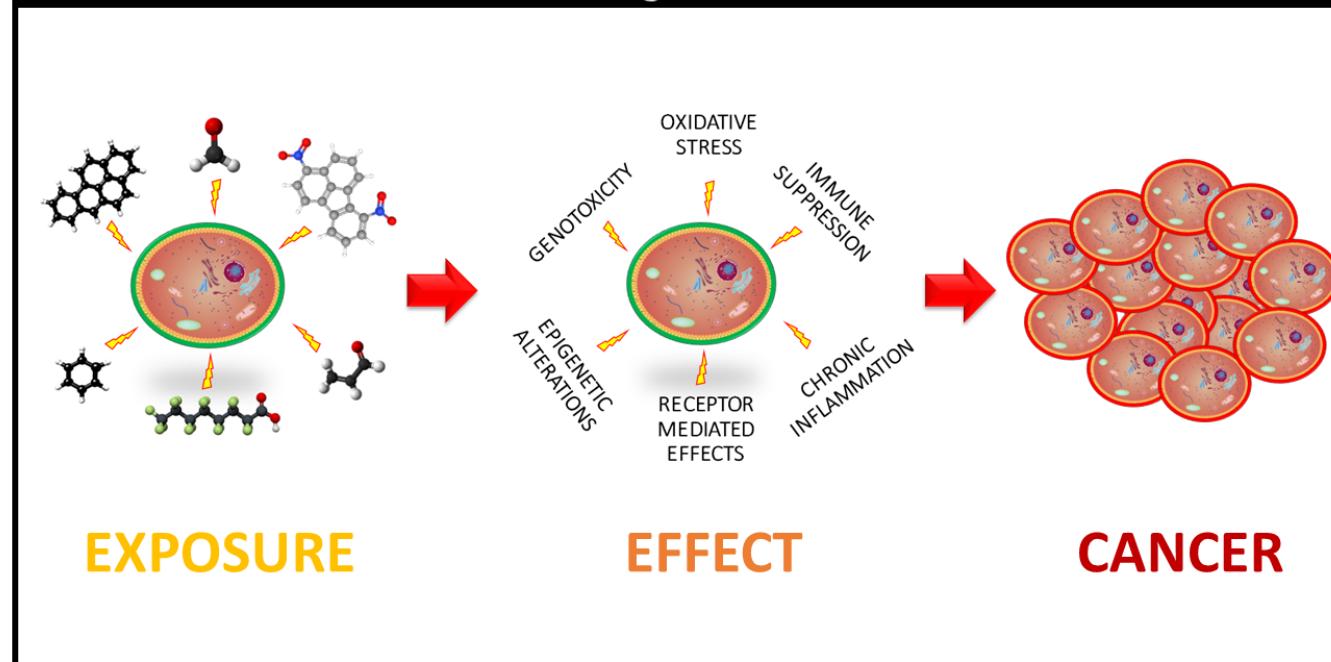
*Fire Captain Dr. Derek Urwin,
FIRESCOPE Cancer Prevention
Subcommittee Chair.*



[For the full article:
“The Work That Saves Lives”](#)

FIREFIGHTING EXPOSURES & CANCER BIOLOGY

CARCINOGENESIS: Occupational Exposures Alter How Cells Function Increasing Cancer Risk



[Access to the full presentation here](#)

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies occupational exposure as a firefighter as a Group 1 known carcinogen, in the same category as other carcinogens like benzene and ionizing radiation.

Understanding the basics of how our occupational exposures can increase cancer risk is essential to motivating the development and implementation of exposure reducing interventions to help prevent cancer in the fire service.

This set of slides developed by the Cancer Prevention Subcommittee can be used to develop that foundational knowledge in any setting ranging from recruit training, to morning lineup, to department wide training.

Scan the QR code or click on the link to download the document.

California Firefighter Cancer Research Study

Biomarkers of Acute Exposure Substudy



What is this Study About?

Biomarkers of Exposure

PFAS, Heavy
Metals & Trace
Elements

Inflammation, Gene Methylation, Mutation & Expression

Biomarkers of Effect

- The goal of this study is to examine **biomarkers** of exposure and early effect in firefighters associated with **occupational exposure** to **carcinogenic agents**
- There is **no financial cost**, participation is **voluntary**, and all data gathered are **confidential**
- Participation includes a **blood sample** donation and **questionnaire** completion once a year

What Should I Expect?

Results will be **reported
back** to participants

Participants benefit by
learning their personal
risk & **recommendations
for risk reduction**

Am I Eligible?

Yes! All career
firefighters in
California can
enroll

Enroll Now!



Questions?
caff@health.ucdavis.edu

Researchers at UCLA
and UC Davis are
leading research to
examine our
occupational exposures
as firefighters along with
the associated biological
effects that can increase
cancer risk.

[Click here to learn more](#)





Photo Credit: CAFIRE RRU

INCIDENT

- November 4-6, 2025.
- The 2025 California WMD Summit brought together California's leading emergency responders, public-safety professionals, and partner agencies for a three-day program focused on strengthening the state's readiness for high-consequence incidents.
- The overarching goals of the Summit are to inform first responders about emerging WMD threats, expected roles at a WMD incident as well as provide an opportunity for them to apply their knowledge and skills during physically challenging and hyper realistic WMD scenarios



Photo Credit: ABC7 News



Photo Credit: ABC7 News

JANUARY 2026

LAFD Battery System Seminar

Photo Credit: (LAFD)

- The LAFD IST and Hazmat Program hosted a two-day seminar on Electric Vehicles (EV) and Lithium-Ion Batteries, held both in-person and via webinar, in partnership with the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and Tesla.
- Key Seminar Topics:
 - Reviewed current EV and lithium-ion battery hazards, including thermal runaway, re-ignition risk, and toxic off-gassing.
 - Highlighted recent incident trends and case studies impacting fire, hazmat, and EMS operations.
 - Discussed evolving codes, standards, and best practices (NFPA, UL, California Fire Code updates).
 - Evaluated responder tactics and safety considerations, including suppression, isolation, and post-incident monitoring.
 - Identified training gaps and equipment needs to improve operational readiness and firefighter safety.
- Presenters: Captain Richard Thompson (LAFD) and Dr. Dan Madrzykowski (FSRI).
- Exhibits: Tesla introduced their products and electric vehicles. Local school district and the Department of Sanitation also displayed their electric fleets and provided emergency procedures for their vehicles.
- Attendance: Over 1,000 attendees participated over the two days, representing more than 100 different entities



NEWLY APPROVED DOCUMENTS AND UPDATES



MACS 410-3

[FIRESCOPE California Fire Weather Program Risk Preparedness Guide](#)



MACS 410-4

[FIRESCOPE Articles of Organization and Procedures](#)



ICS 167

[FIRESCOPE Maritime Operations Operational System Description](#)



ICS 510

[FIRESCOPE Structure Fire Incident Commander Job Aid](#)



MACS 441-1

[FIRESCOPE Radio Communications Guidelines](#)

NEWLY APPROVED DOCUMENTS AND UPDATES



[FIRESCOPE Legacy Phase Out Letter](#)



[FOG Structure Fire Chapter](#)



[FIRESCOPE Standard Wildland Preplan
Funding Whitepaper](#)



[FIRESCOPE HEAT Subcommittee
White Paper](#)



[FIRESCOPE Transition to Standing Energy
Subcommittee White Paper](#)



Incident Reporting Transition

NFIRS to NERIS

This November begins the transition from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS).

IMPORTANT DATES

- **November 2024** – California depts begin transition into NERIS.
- **December 31, 2025** - NFIRS will officially retire.
- **January 15, 2026** - Last day to report 2025 NFIRS data.
- **January 31, 2026** - Last day to modify or edit 2025 NFIRS data.
NFIRS SHUTS OFF AFTER THIS DATE.

RESOURCES



www.OSFM.fire.ca.gov

IROC / IQS integration

IROC Data rules state that IROC cannot be used as a personnel qualification system

Qualifications need to be maintained into IQS system for Local Government and linked thru IRWIN server to IROC

We currently have 396 departments and 8698 personnel records that need to be moved to IQS

The deadline is January 1, 2026. Cal OES is working with IROC administration on a reasonable timeframe

Cal OES will be communicating a conversion plan to the California fire service within the next few weeks

We have good track record and success with IQS, with over 17,000 personnel qualifications already in IQS from California, so this conversion will finish up the transition





Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



FEMA



San Diego Fire-Rescue - January Flooding
Photo Credit: SDFD PIO



LA County Fire – January Flooding
Photo Credit: LA County Fire

FMAG Resource Information



[FEMA FMAG Webpage](#)



[Cal OES FMAG Webpage](#)

FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE (FOG) – ICS 420-1 APPLICATION

Very few hard copies left! Purchase here:



Providing crucial information to first responders since 1983, FIRESCOPE is proud to present the interactive Field Operations Guide ICS 420-1.

Easily access valuable information such as Wildland Fire Management Guiding Principles, Tactical Engagement, Levels of Engagement, Powerline Safety, and a Structure Assessment Checklist.

Download the Free App

The 2022 FOG is available as a free download on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play App Store](#). View the [2022 FOG App privacy policy](#) here.

Android



Apple iOS



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Fire Asset Status Tracker (FAST)



FAST was developed and will be implemented as a modern, mobile application to optimize the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System resource order filling and mobilization processes. The application will allow local fire agencies to provide real-time resource status updates while streamlining communication, improving coordination, and easing decision-making across the fire service to expedite all-hazard resources assignments and minimize losses to life and property.

FAST proactive Impacts to the California Fire Service:

Provide a primarily mobile application

- Simplify the user experience
- Allow real-time status updates

Track statewide all-hazard fire resources

- Cal OES Fire & Rescue Assignments
- Local Government Apparatus and Overhead
- Track Resource Statuses

Rapidly onboard agencies via Mutual Aid Reimbursement (MARS)

- Primary and Secondary User Access

Provide intel with robust data collection

- Inventory Tracker survey
- Fleet Management & Out of Service process
- Real-time dashboards and MACS 405 reports

Enable integration capabilities

FAST Project Status and Rollout:

- Completed Final UAT feedback with Program Team on February 1, 2024.
- Finished development and deployed to production on February 5, 2024.
- Presented Production Release Overview and Demo on February 15, 2024.
- Presented to Cal OES Fire and Rescue Chiefs on February 28, 2024.
- Enabled production environment access to Cal OES in March 2024
- Rolled out to the California Fire Service through an enhanced training plan.



[FAST Link](#)

JANUARY 2026

FIRESCOPE RECRUITMENT

FIRESCOPE is always looking for subject matter experts to participate in the FIRESCOPE Subcommittees.



DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

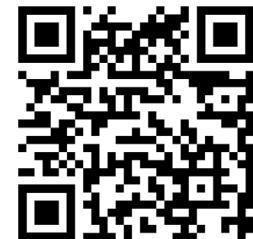
A full description of the duties and responsibilities of Subcommittee members can be found on the FIRESCOPE website under the MACS 410-9 Document, [or by clicking here.](#)

INTEREST FORM

This [FORM](#) is designed to capture members that are interested in filling available FIRESCOPE Subcommittee positions.



MACS 410-9



WHAT IS FIRESCOPE?



INTEREST FORM



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of FIRESCOPE is to provide recommendations and technical guidance to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) on matters involving mutual aid; to maintain the FIRESCOPE decision process; and to continue the operation, development, and maintenance of the FIRESCOPE Incident Command System (ICS) and the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)

FIRESCOPE VISION STATEMENT

The FIRESCOPE vision is to continue national leadership in the development of all-hazard incident and multi-agency coordination systems, to enhance and encourage full participation by the California fire service in the statewide Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, and to provide a common voice for the California fire service relating to these issues.

FIRESCOPE ADVISORY MESSAGE



Deputy Chief Jim Johnstone
James.johnstone@caloes.ca.gov
951.312.8966



The Quarterly Brief is intended to be widely shared among the California fire service, its federal partners, and affected stakeholders.

Agency Administrators, or responsible representatives, should ensure that this material is thoroughly reviewed and communicated within their respective organizations.

VISIT THE FIRESCOPE WEBSITE:
<https://firescope.caloes.ca.gov>

