

FIRESCOPE  
QUARTERLY  
BRIEF  
October  
2023



# NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERS



**Chief Mark Lorenzen**  
**Menlo Park Fire Protection**  
Small/Medium Fire  
Departments North



**Chief Pat Russell**  
**Anaheim Fire & Rescue**  
Small/Medium Fire  
Departments South



**Chief Charlie Norman**  
**Tulare County Fire**  
County Fire  
Departments South



*FIRESCOPE believes their experience and dedication to the California Fire Service will add an important perspective to the Board's operations.*

# CHIEF OF THE YEAR



**Chief Brian Fennessy**  
**Orange County Fire Authority**  
FIRESCOPE Board Chair



The International Association of Fire Chiefs has recently honored our FIRESCOPE Board Chair, Chief Brian Fennessy, as the 2023 Career Fire Chief of the Year. FIRESCOPE salutes Chief Fennessy for his outstanding fire service leadership!

# MUTUAL-AID IN ACTION

## TROPICAL STORM PRE-POSITION RESPONSE

Tropical Storm Hilary Preposition information August 19-21, 2023

OES and Operational Areas - 18 Prepositions throughout Southern California

### Pre-Positioned Resources by Type

- 30 Cal OES Engines
- 23 Local Government Engines
- 4 Local Government Dozers
- 1 Local Government Water Tenders
- 5 Local Government Helicopters
- 11 Local Government Hand Crews
- 12 Local Government Dispatchers
- 61 Local Government IMT Members
- 3 Local Government Heavy Equipment
- 5 Cal OES Swift Water Rescue Teams
- 2 Local Government US&R Companies
- 3 Cal OES US&R Regional Task Forces
- 11 Local Government Swift Water Flood Rescue Teams



# THE NIOSH HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS FOR: ELIMINATION



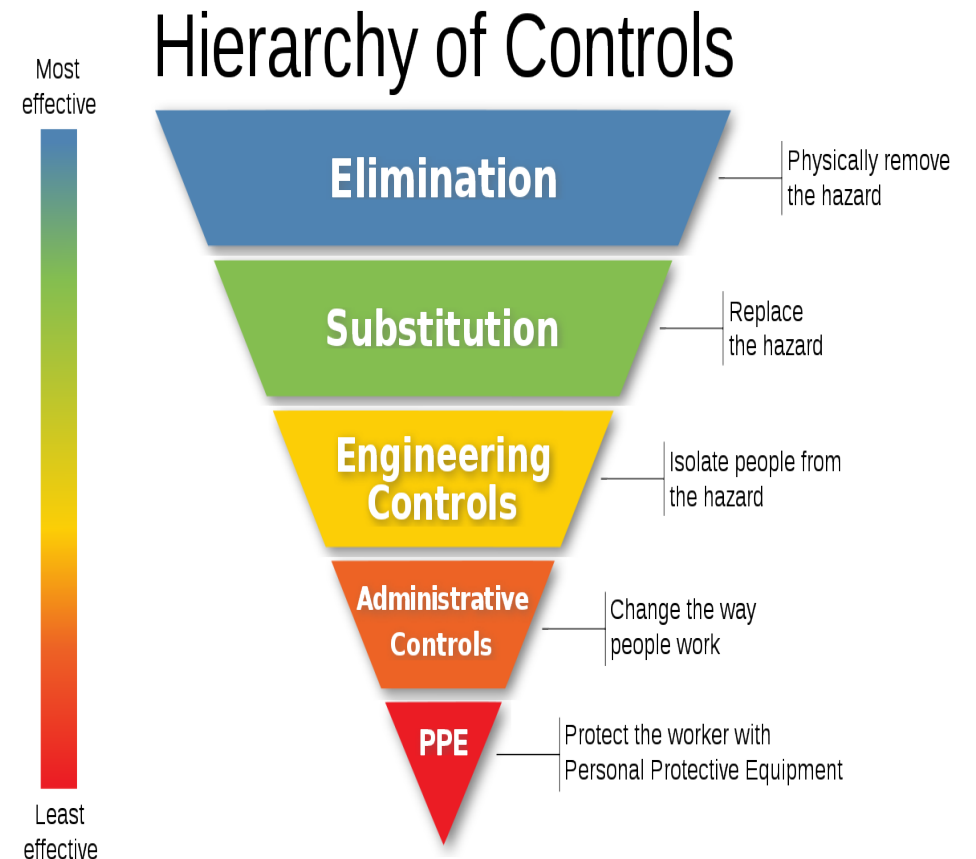
- The most effective way to reduce cancer risk for firefighters is to eliminate sources of exposure whenever possible.
- Elimination approaches can be applied at little to no cost in emergency and non-emergency settings to keep firefighters healthy.
- The Hierarchy of Controls is not a checklist, it is an approach that can be applied in a multitude of formats by all members of the fire service.

*Policy Development*

*Culture*

*Lifestyle (e.g. diet)*

- **Ventilation During Structural Firefighting Operations & Overhaul:** Products of combustion contain a myriad of chemical carcinogens to which firefighters are exposed via inhalation and transdermal absorption. Effective and coordinated ventilation during firefighting operations as well as prior to and during overhaul physically removes products of combustion from the interior of the structure, thus eliminating exposure to chemical carcinogens. This approach does not eliminate all contaminants from the fire-ground, and full structural firefighting PPE and SCBA should be always used to further reduce exposure.
- **Post Fire Incident Shower:** Use of full structural firefighting PPE and SCBA reduces but does not eliminate chemical carcinogens that are deposited on the skin. The longer these chemical carcinogens remain on the skin of firefighters, the greater the magnitude of transdermal absorption and showering as soon as possible after a fire incident is the most effective way to remove chemical carcinogens from the skin. Implementing post fire incident PPE contamination reduction and cleaning policies is an effective way of reducing secondary exposures from contaminated equipment, but emphasis must be placed on firefighters showering.



# THE NIOSH HIERARCHY OF CONTROL FOR: ELIMINATION Continued...

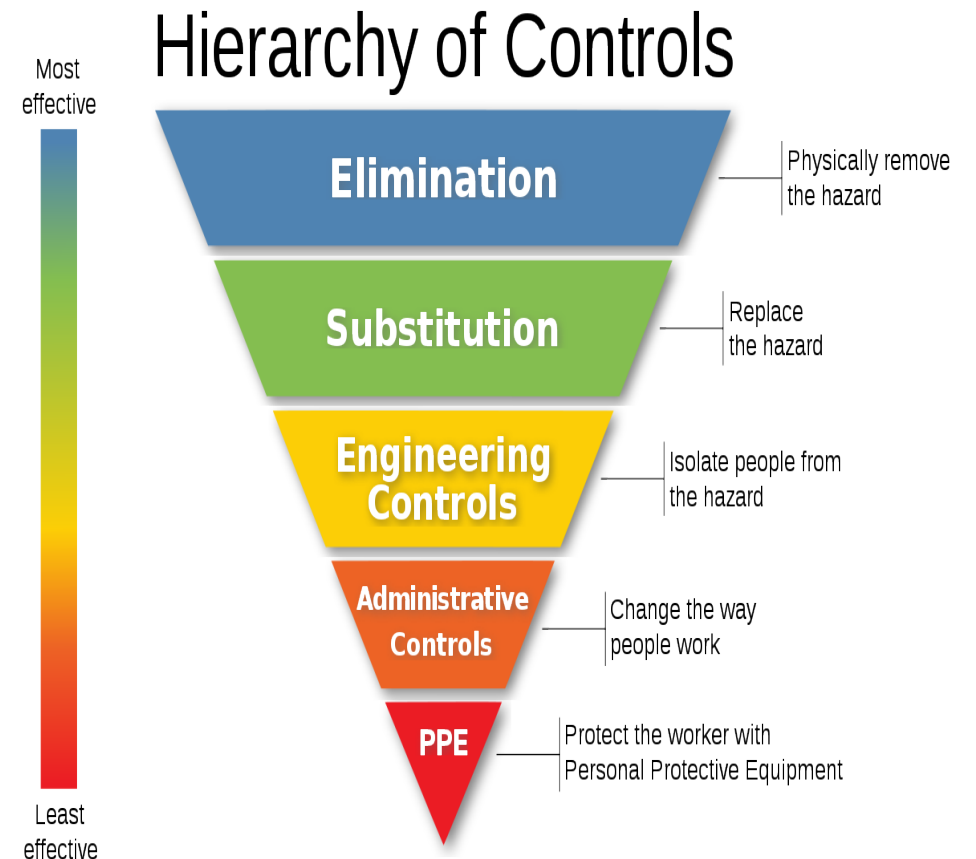


- Diesel Exhaust:** Diesel exhaust is classified as a Group 1 known human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and exposure by inhalation is pervasive in the fire service. Diesel exhaust systems in fire stations are an example of an engineering control that can reduce exposure but are not as effective as shutting down apparatus to eliminate diesel exhaust. Examples of this approach can include:

**EMS calls      Staging      When not being utilized**

- Parking apparatus on the front apron of the station for even a small part of the day, when feasible, is an effective way of eliminating diesel exhaust exposures inside the fire station.
- Smokeless Tobacco:** Smokeless tobacco is classified as a Group 1 known human carcinogen by IARC and is linked to cancers of the mouth, tongue, cheek, esophagus, and pancreas. Despite many fire departments having policies that prohibit the use of smokeless tobacco, its use remains rampant in the fire service. Elimination of smokeless tobacco exposure can be achieved by firefighters making the individual lifestyle choice to halt its use and fire departments can encourage their members to halt its use by making widely known that its use causes cancer.
- Shift Work w/Circadian Sleep Disruption:** A recent report (1) by the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP) concluded with “high confidence” that persistent night shift work that disrupts circadian sleep can cause cancer and IARC classifies it as a probable human carcinogen. Public safety duties and nationwide recruitment and retention challenges make elimination of on duty sleep disruption difficult to accomplish, however, efforts to address “sleep hygiene” via staffing policies or other approaches are a crucial component of firefighter cancer prevention and wellness.

(1) [https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/ntp/results/pubs/cancer\\_assessment/lanfinal20210400\\_508.pdf](https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/ntp/results/pubs/cancer_assessment/lanfinal20210400_508.pdf)



# NEWLY APPROVED DOCUMENTS AND UPDATES

## **Personnel Tracking, Emerging Information Technology Subcommittee**

The Emerging Information Technology (EIT) Subcommittee will present an update to the BoD tasked with investigating personnel tracking options. They will also provide commentary and a status update on the survey that will be distributed to California Fire Departments Executive staff.

## **Hazardous Materials Minimum Equipment List (MEL)**

The overall objective of this MEL is to establish a California State standard reference document, and to promote better interoperability and standardization between all Hazardous Materials Companies in the State of California.

## **Behavioral Health / Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Position Task Book (PTB)**

The Behavioral Health Subcommittee has completed the task book for the position of Critical Incident Stress Management. The CISM position plays a subordinate role to Critical Incident Stress Lead (CISL) as identified in the reinforced response organization wire diagram of the FOG manual. The previously developed and approved PTB for CISL and the new CISM task book have been distributed to subcommittee member agencies for beta testing. The historical recognition period for all five of the Critical Incident Peer Support team positions (Lead, Management, Clinician, Chaplain, K-9) has been extended until April 30, 2024.

## **Information Technology Service Unit (ITSU)/Information Technology Service Leader (ITSL)**

ITSU/ITSL position history came from FEMA trying to reconcile the difficulties with the Comm Unit incident tasking of supporting connectivity, robust data transference, and cyber security on incidents. The first version of this proposed change recommended that a Comm Section be established for incidents and incorporated into NIMS. FIRESCOPE representatives did not support this solution. Currently, the agreed upon solution is the establishment of the ITSU/ITSL position to support incidents working alongside the Comm Unit to provide incident data support.

# FIRE INTEGRATED REAL-TIME INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM PROGRAM (FIRIS) & SLACK

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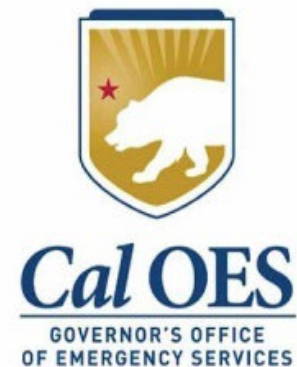
CALFIRE and CalOES have enabled SLACK to empower clear communication channels that will provide real-time Intelligence to, All hazard First Responders, and Others. With this implementation, we will increase the efficiency of first responders and decision-makers to save lives, property, and the environment while rapidly responding to California's 38 million residents who need us most.

## **Background:**

The WhatsApp application served as the official application since 2019 that provided the California First Responder community and supporting agencies a means to receive Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence and Information from 2 state of the art aircraft strategically positioned in Southern and Northern California.

As the Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System (FIRIS) Program transitions from the Orange County Fire Authority to the State of California, Cal OES elected to migrate from WhatsApp to a more robust, secure application known as Slack.

**The FIRIS Slack Application rolled out in full production to the California Fire Service on June 15, 2023.**



# FIRE INTEGRATED REAL-TIME INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM PROGRAM (FIRIS) & SLACK Continued...

## The FIRIS Slack Application will provide the following:

- Incident alerts of emergent incidents (Fire Rescue Mutual Aid Region Specific and statewide channel identification)
- Wildland Fire Modeling with 3-hour spread projections without fire suppression.
- FIRIS aircraft intel that includes perimeters, videos, and snapshots.
- All hazard Intelligence and Information (earthquake, tsunami, flood, mud, and debris)

To register see the FIRIS Slack Application QR Code.

Due to licensing, access is limited to your assigned Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Regional channel. If you require additional access to the other Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Regions, you will have the option to receive FIRIS intelligence and Information in a Statewide channel.



[FIRIS SLACK APPLICATION](#)



[SLACK TRAINING VIDEO](#)



# INTERRA NEXT GEN SCOUT



# INTTERRA

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)—in collaboration with CAL FIRE has implemented Next Generation (NG or Next-Gen) SCOUT (Situation Awareness and Collaboration Tool) powered by Intterra. This tool provides the California first responder community, emergency response coordinators, and other supporting agencies with a web-based tactical and operational response platform to assist in communication, coordination, and collaboration. The Next-Gen Scout tool went into live production to the California Fire Service on May 31, 2023.

In February 2021, project efforts started for planning and implementing a modernized Common Operation Picture (COP) solution to serve as Next Gen SCOUT. In June 2022, the project finalized solution analysis and formed an agreement with Intterra. In December 2022, project activities focused platform configuration and preparing for rollout.

Phase 2 of the project will include other disciplines such as response, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services.

A governance charter is being established in the very near future and will be signed between Cal OES and CAL FIRE. The structure includes an Executive Committee responsible for NG SCOUT vision, strategy and funding decisions, a supporting Steering Committee to manage program operations and Training, Operations and Technical Subcommittees to address defined operational needs.

There is only one level of administration for the NG SCOUT platform:

Agency Administrator is responsible for the following:

- Determine the SCOUT strategy overseeing statewide use of SCOUT, platform maintenance and support, and managing the training curriculum.
- Participating Agency management, coordination, and support.
- Manage the Participating Agency's SCOUT standard operating procedures, user account administration, user training and helpdesk support.

# INTERRA NEXT GEN SCOUT Continued...



Authorized users will be able to create, view, search and add incident information based on user roles and permissions for a variety of incident types, including but not limited to wildland fires, floods, search & rescue missions, special events, earthquakes, and homeland security incidents. NG SCOUT integrates incident information with other relevant geographical information, such as weather conditions, road conditions, utilities, census information, known hazards, and government boundaries.

Authorized users can access NG SCOUT through any network connected device (e.g., PC, laptop, tablet, or smartphone) that is approved through their agency. There is no direct cost to the agency or user for operating expenses associated with maintaining, supporting, and operating the NG SCOUT platform.

Agencies interested in joining NG SCOUT will be required to review and complete the NG SCOUT Agency Participating Agreement prior to receiving an account.

For training and Next Gen Scout information, agencies use this QR code:

[Training Next Gen Scout](#)



# FIRESCOPE's MISSION



## 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.

October 2023

# FIRESCOPE ADVISORY MESSAGE



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951.312.8966



The Quarterly Briefing 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](#) :

