

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES



DATE: Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Wednesday April 7, 2021

TIME: 1330-1700 Tuesday
0830-1430 Wednesday

LOCATION: Conference Call

Call to Order

A FIRESCOPE Board of Director's meeting was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 and Wednesday, April 7, 2021, via conference call. The meeting began at 1330 hours on April 6, 2021 and 0830 on April 7, 2021. It was presided by Chief Fennessy.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included:

Brian Fennessy, Chair, Orange County Fire Authority
Tony Bowden, Vice-Chair, County Fire Departments North
Brian Marshall, Executive Coordinator, Fire and Rescue, Cal OES
Daryl Osby, Los Angeles County Fire Department
David Witt, Kern County Fire Department
Thom Porter, CALFIRE
Ralph Terrazas, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Mark Hartwig Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Woody Enos, *representing* Santa Barbara County Fire Department (Partial)
Brian Rhodes, *representing* USDA Forest Service
Mark Lorenzen, Ventura County Fire Department
Scott Lucas, Bureau of Land Management
Jeanine Nicholson, City Fire Departments North
Colin Stowell, City Fire Departments South
Dan Munsey, Fire Districts South
Robin Wills, National Park Service
Mike Richwine, Cal State Fire Marshall
Jeff Gilbert, Volunteer Fire Departments
Eddie Sell, California State Firefighters' Association
Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters
Maurice Johnson, Fire Districts North

Members not in attendance included:

Bob Baird, USDA Forest Service

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Guests in attendance included:

Al Poirier, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Dave Gerboth, San Diego City Fire Department
Jim Johnstone, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Yesenia Serafin, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Shelley Dorsey, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Cathy Johnson, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES

Approval of Previous Minutes*

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Bowden

Seconded: Munsey

Motion approved

Cal OES Director's Update

Cal OES Director's Report presented by Ghilarducci

- Deep appreciation for the effort put forth with the Covid surge and all the work that is being done.
- Governor states that if current vaccine rates increase that on June 15th he would like to remove some of the Covid restrictions and open California up more.
- Working on an increased surge at the border. Joint effort.
- Has had discussions with the new administration in Washington to amplify and accelerate the pace that we are getting reimbursements paid. Big concern for fire departments across the state.
- Last year 30 counties were on the Presidential Disaster Declaration for wildfires.
- The Governor continues to commit many resources to the fire service. Expect the budget for OES to be similar to last year.
- Continue to look at improvements in technology and other resources to support the work in the field.

Cal OES Fire & Rescue Update

Presented by Marshall

- Should be able to have the July BoD meeting in person.
- Working on S.C.O.U.T. It has a major component of OES staff support. Both Fire & Rescue and IT staff working on it.
- Focusing on a plan for fires following an earthquake. Future presentation.
- We have a new F42 form that will be distributed. Will be an 8 ½ x 11 form. CFAA rules have changed.

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- Upcoming Mutual Aid Region meetings will discuss some of the key issues that were learned last year. Resource availability was at a premium. OES went out of state to get EMAC resources.
- Currently setting up an Incident Command Center at the border for migration issues.
- Renumbering fire apparatus across the state.
- First Type VIs are out. Chief Fennessy and Chief Nicholson received the first 10 Type IVs. Tied in with the Blue Ribbon Commission. More will be going out next week to Region VI. 79 units were purchased. 75 are spoken for.
- Out of the 27 Type IIIs, 25 have been distributed.
- Will have 14 Type I's for the fiscal year. Upgraded engines, more cab space, New seating configuration, upgraded the pump to 1,500 gpm, and upgraded to 4" hose.
- Focusing on modernizing the OES fleet and the all hazard component.
- SB 209:
 - Plan to have the requirements integrated this fiscal year. With Covid, some of the funding was taken away.
- Covid:
 - Fire & Rescue has been deployed to Covid activations for over a year.
 - At the mass vaccine sites, in Oakland and Los Angeles, we have two OES Assistant Chiefs as the ICs, Operations staff, and other staff that is helping with the sites. Administering 8,000 vaccines daily.
- Preposition:
 - 23 of the 25 million dollars has been spent in preposition this fiscal year.
 - Last major deployment was the mud and debris flow.

CALFIRE/SFM/SFT Update

Update presented by Porter/Richwine

- Cal Fire:
 - Mid to High elevations will be at risk earlier this fire season due to lack of snow pack.
 - We are about 30% above normal in number of fires in SRA and FRA. Acreage is up as well. About twice what we would normally expect over the 5 year average.
 - Working with the Governor's Office to authorize augmented hiring of handcrews.

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- 1 billion available in fire prevention funds (landscape projects and wildfire fuel breaks included). Funding going to additional science.
- Application period is currently open.
- Deficit in qualified number of workers in the Forest/Wildlife management sector.
- Funding for programs at community colleges and universities.
- A 5 million dollar grant is going to a wildland fire health/wellness study.
- Augmentation has been approved to call firefighters back to work.
- Standing up helicopters early to get through the mandatory training.
- State Fire Marshall:
 - Firework season. Testing Safe and Sane fireworks to make sure that they comply with regulations. There is funding for fireworks disposal.
 - In Wildfire Planning and Engineering, our fire hazard severity zone re-mapping is making progress. Completing the science model and this summer will bring to the technical advisory committee for a scientific peer review. Will likely have to re-map the SRA area later in the year. Will begin the LRA in the fall and winter. Hoping to have the maps out next year.
 - Code development season. The changes for the 2022 codes will be heard this spring and voted on in the fall. Then submitted to the Building Standards Commission in 2022.
 - Those who install fire sprinklers need to have a certification from the Office of the State Fire Marshall. In the process of issuing re-certification. There has been discussion that there has been no enforcement of these provisions.
- State Fire Training:
 - Retirement of Firefighter I, Firefighter II and Firefighter II Tenured Path 2013 editions.
 - Firefighter II 2013 retires December 31, 2021. Persons need to apply to avoid certification testing. Beginning January 1, 2022 persons will need to go to an accredited academy or an accredited regional training program to complete the certification testing.
 - Firefighter II Tenured Path 2013 will also retire on December 31, 2021. Designed for firefighters with four years of service to get a Firefighter II without the Firefighter I certification.
 - For the persons who have completed the certification for Firefighter I, apply before the deadline to avoid taking the new test.
 - Introduced a temporary program to allow persons to become a

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Chief Fire Officer without an associate's degree. Currently can use a combination of education and experience. This program will be available through December 2022.

- Currently doing curriculum updates.
- A few years ago met in San Diego with people from the US&R community. Discussed Rescue Systems I & II. Rescue Systems III was created to fill the gap to meet FEMA requirements for the federal teams. Have not been maintained with NFPA 1006 which is the NFPA technical rescue standard. FEMA has been pushing to update our courses to meet or exceed the NFPA 1006.

USFS/DOI Update

Update presented by Rhodes/Lucas/Wills.

➤ USFS

- Received some inquiries from Senator Feinstein's office and Congressman Caudillo's office regarding the Forest Service converting its temporary workforce over to a permanent workforce.
- Having conversations with the Washington office about what that will cost for California and what that looks like.
- Just finished their spring permanent hiring event.
- Long term working towards creation of a Wildland Firefighter series. That will require some full or partial legislation. Probably three years out.
- Staffing this year looks similar to last year. All units will be at peak staffing around June 6th. Looking at a staggered approach for some of the hot shot crews located here in the region.
- Intend to have their normal complement of aircraft specific to Forest Service exclusive use contracts for helicopters.
- Due to the increase in fire activity, San Bernardino air tanker base is staffed and open for business. As long as there is a need will continue to staff it.

➤ DOI

- Received their Workforce Transformation money.
- Extensions of tours. Positions approved.
- BLM nationally trying to get to a 50% permanent workforce, 30% seasonal and the remainder temporary.
- Should provide more funds overhead for planning and implementation.
- BLM is placing major emphasis on mental health resilience and suicide prevention. Will be included in workshops.

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- Most of the training was either cancelled or moved to a virtual platform this year. Receiving mixed reviews on the virtual training.
 - Will give a waiver for a class that has been cancelled until it can be completed.
- NPS
- Chad Fisher has been selected as the new Branch Chief of Wildland Fire for the US Park Service.
 - Received additional funds for fuel reduction. Lobbied that there is a significant need in the DOI bureaus for an increase on preparedness. Moving the workforce towards a more permanent staffing model. Focusing on some new positions.
 - UAS is ready for the 2021 fire season. Working on a second UAS module.

US&R Operations System Description Review*

Report presented by Marshall/Fennessy

- Need to make some decisions regarding the FOG so that progress can continue.
- The OSD is a substantial re-write. Some issues need to be discussed. If the OSD is approved, it will need to have some reformatting done.
- There are training requirements that are referenced in the OSD for US&R positions. This information will have to remain the same. We aren't at a point to change some of the curriculum. As SFT upgrades the curriculum to FDA compliance we will have to revisit this document again.
- Need to decide if it is Technical Search & Rescue vs. Urban Search & Rescue in order to be consistent.
- Discussions have been going on regarding the naming convention for our State National Task Force. We have discovered some discrepancies in some of the documents. We also have our Regional Task Force. Working on trying to come up with a compromise. Came up with a proposal from OES to the State National Task Forces that will have to be addressed in this document and in the FOG. Proposed: The State National Task Forces will be known from this point forward as the California FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Task Force. The Regional Task Force will become the California Regional Urban Search & Rescue Task Force. This allows the naming convention to remain the same. Also need to have a discussion about NIMS and it's impact on the

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OSD.

- Reviewed the OSD and went over discrepancies in the document.
- The Technical Search and Rescue Specialist Group will be working on the revisions and updating the document. They meet tomorrow. Special meeting in May/June to go over the revisions. To the BoD for the July meeting.

Motion to direct the Technical Search & Rescue committee to update the OSD with the changes as directed by the Board of Directors and bring back for adoption at the July Board of Director's meeting:

Rice

Second: Hartwig

Approved

Ops Team Report/Task Force

Report presented by Poirier/Gerboth/Marshall

- Ops Team Report/Task Force*
 - Many Task Force members are still involved with Covid Response and also vaccine administration sites across the state.
 - Garrett Huff is the new Task Force secretary.
 - All positions on the Task Force are currently filled with the exception of the volunteer representative. Has been a challenge to fill.
 - Due to the impacts of Covid, the upcoming MACS Exercises will be delivered in a video format. Currently finishing up filming and editing of that product. The video will be delivered and the participants can watch at their convenience.
 - Task Force projects that will be up for approval at the next BoD are: DECON Unit Guidelines, 215 Contingency Plan and Worksheet, Wildland pre-fire plans, UAS Training, Behavioral Health Mnemonics, and FIRESCOPE Reorganization White Paper.
 - Currently the REMS Working Group has been re-established and had their first meeting. They are working on their roster, POW, and charter.
 - The Maritime Working Group has had their first meeting and are working on their roster, POW, and charter. Liaison is Chief D'Arcy. He has met with the Cal OES Maritime Working Group.
 - Looking forward to getting back to in person meetings. Next meeting is virtual next week.
- 2022 FOG Manual Revision – Final Review with emphasis on Chapters 14, 16, 18*
 - Chapter 14 compromised language changes discussed.

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- Chapter 16 discussed edits earlier in this meeting.
- Chapter 18 incorporated an Intelligence & Investigation Function.
- The 2017 Planning P is considered all hazard. Diagrams were shown of each of the two Planning Ps. There has been discussion on the use of these Planning Ps and which one to use or to use both. The Plan is to put both in the FOG.

Motion to approve the FOG manual with the changes as directed by the Board of Directors and direct the FIRESCOPE Team to continue with publication of the new FOG manual for a publication of January 1, 2022:
Rice

Second: Munsey

Approved

- GIS SG Chair Update on GIS Projects
 - Chief Marsh gave the report on GIS projects.
 - Completed an extensive FOG review and updated terminology.
 - Includes a large NWCG symbology update that will be official this year.
 - The Incident Data Sharing and Collaboration MOU is awaiting final signatures.
 - Situation Leader and GISS OSDs are being revised and refined in collaboration with the NWCG effort that is ongoing.
 - US&R White Paper and Standard Operating Procedures are a priority. For data management, data standards, and collaboration requirements.
 - Recently attended a workshop with FEMA for an update on their activity progressing the development of these and their use of Survey 123 and other ESRI programs.
 - Wildland preplans are a priority for 2021. They have a couple of members that are participating on the newly formed Wildland Preplan Working Group. Goal is to standardize data, symbology, and formats across the state.
- Swiftwater Positions Update – 14 to 16 Personnel (US&R OSD)*
 - The 28 FEMA sponsored Urban Search & Rescue Task Forces already operate in this configuration as well as eight in California.
 - The NIMS Working Group made the recommendation and have now put the requirement in to move it to 16 personnel.
 - Moving to 16 puts us in line with national standards.

Motion to approve the Swiftwater recommendations and add the 16 positions: Rice

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Second: Hartwig
Approved

- FIRESCOPE Specialist Group 2021 Charters, Plans of Work, Rosters*
 - Chief Gerboth reviewed the current charters, POWs and rosters.

Motion: Bowden
Second: Sell
Approved

- 2021 MACS 441-1 Radio communication guidelines*
 - Completed by the Communications Specialist Group each year.

Motion: Bowden
Second: Sell
Approved

EMS Update

Update presented by Hartwig.

- Gave a historical overview.
- What is the current level of service? What should local government continue to provide? What do they currently provide and finance?
- Data collection and what should we be collecting.
- Meeting regularly.
- Chapter 13, for many reasons, Cal Chief's Association is not participating in that. Primarily because of the restriction on who would represent the California Fire Chief's Association.

CFAA Update

Update presented by Marshall/Porter/Rhodes/Wills/Lucas/Lorenzen/Gilbert/Lopez.

- Forest Service is having challenges with providing reimbursement. Trying to work through those challenges with their CFO's office. Still some significant communication challenges. They have a significant backlog.
- NPS continues to use the agreement successfully as they continue with the reimbursements from the 2020 fire season. Looking forward to the committee getting back together.
- OES staff has completed over 12,000 F42s and 5,600 invoices for a total of 416 million dollars for 2020. Double what they normally do.
- It's a priority to insure that local government is paid timely. We will continue to support those efforts. Confident that we can get through the challenges.
- May possibly have some training on reimbursements in the future.

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CWCG Update

Update presented by Rhodes/Porter/Wills/Lucas/Marshall.

- Chief Hinkley from Fish and Wildlife will be taking over as the CWCG Chair replacing Chief Marshall.
- Planning for team meetings. Recently had a conference call and scheduled a virtual meeting for April 20 & 21st. This meeting allows the ICs and the team members to all come together. Before Covid, this meeting was usually held at McClellan in Sacramento.
- Have been working on filling Interagency IMT positions. It is a challenge to fill out the entire roster. 20% decrease in applicants.
- Some of the CFAA changes that took effect on January 1st were in relation to supplementals no longer being a part of the CFAA with local government. They had to transition into an AD program but with federal agencies.
- There is a proposal that came out of IWDG. Has come to CWCG in an effort to socialize the idea of complex incident management. Chief Wills will send out the proposal.

Old Business

Update presented by Fennessy/Meston.

- Blue Ribbon Commission Update:
 - In 2004, the governor developed the Blue Ribbon Commission Report based on the 2003 fire storms. In 2008, the California Fire Chiefs Association updated the report. Last year, Chief Marshall, asked Chief Meston, Chief Fennessy and Chief Zagaris to assist in updating the document.
 - The document is currently with the editorial staff at OES. Then, it will be formatted/updated and returned to the committee for final review.
 - Looking at an all hazard component. This will be a valuable tool for FIRESCOPE and the BoD.
- Private Fire Resources AB 2380
 - Currently under review in the offices of OES.
 - Will move forward when it comes out of review.
- CICC Update*
 - In February, sent out a letter on Covid and training.
 - Will have regional meetings in the next month or so. Peer review committees.
 - Have done some historical recognitions.
- FIRIS Program Update:
 - Chief Fennessy initiated the program in 2019. The Program was funded by the state legislature in 2020. Currently working on an extension for 2021.

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- EIT group is vital in what they do. The situational awareness platform that we have available to us, is a program that is beneficial not only to ICs but to the firefighters as well.
- One aircraft currently in service.
- Continue to run it as a pilot program to get good data that will benefit the state of California.
- The group is working on a strategic plan to help us as we go into next year.
- Working right now on the funding to continue the program. Director Ghilarducci is in tremendous support of the FIRIS Program.
- Trying to get the wildland fire data as well as the all hazard data.
- Developing pathways to get the information out to the firefighters on the ground.
- Strategic Plan to be available in the next few weeks.
- Cal OES Operations Bulletin 1 Update*
 - Chief Zagaris developed the original Ops bulletin 1. It was limited to five Type I Engine Strike Teams and was a pilot program.
 - There is a need for this document to address the mobilization of additional resource types. Being able to order a variety of resources quickly for an emerging incident. Revision is an All-Hazard approach not just wildland. The intent is to not go outside the present resource ordering system. The accepted ordering system must be maintained. This just gives an opportunity to mobilize resources quickly for what emerging incidents may need, then update in the ordering system as soon as possible.
 - When the bulletin is published the Expedited Response Plan terminate and will be wrapped into Operations Bulletin 1.

New Business

Presented by Marshall

- SCOUT Next Generation Update
 - Have had S.C.O.U.T. 1.0 up and running for several years. There were some issues with the code. Were able to fix it with an emergency contract.
 - S.C.O.U.T. 2.0 should be up and running by July 1, 2021.
 - We wanted a program that we could buy off the shelf and implement a situational awareness tool. In partnership with the California Department of Technology we were able to bring in over 20 vendors to present their products. Awarded a contract to NGA 911 and Paragren.
 - Have a committee of people representing fire and IT at OES that are working with the vendor as we customize the product for our needs. Will be user friendly and beneficial to the California Fire Service. Some features to be provided will be auto-populating the FMAG forms, and having that data available in SCOUT.

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- After the fire module is up and running, will go into all hazard environment with law enforcement, EMS, and Emergency. Due to be completed by February 2022.
- Training is a key component. Working with CSTI.
- FIRESCOPE/Cal OES Parallel Specialist/Working Group Discussion.
EIT/US&R/Maritime
 - Cal OES and FIRESCOPE have some parallel working groups. Couple of groups that OES has and FIRESCOPE. Communication and integration between these groups is important.
 - Would like all of these groups to work together to provide the BoD with the best information so that they can make decisions on what is best for the California Fire Service.
- Presentation – FEMA EMI – NIMS ICS All Hazards Position Specific Training*
 - PowerPoint Presentation given by Jeffrey Hice from FEMA EMI.
 - Currently have 17 position courses in ICS. In the past they were based on community practice. The courses are currently 15 years old. Have only had minor updates. With NIMS there has been growth.
 - NIMS and NQS provide the “what” and ICS Position Courses provide the “how”.
 - Consensus vs. variations in practice is important because different organizations have different opinions on how things are done.
 - Identifying gaps between courses and NQS ICS Position Descriptions, Roles and Responsibilities, and PTB Tasks. Gaps are in both content and learning level.
 - Current courses just teach the basics. Working on building better courses. Increasing courses to 22 position specific courses for 26 NQS PTBs. Estimated \$ 4 million investment in improved ICS Position training.

2021 Board of Director’s Meetings

July 8 & 9, 2021 Orange County Fire Authority

Roundtable

Adjournment

Chief Fennessy moved for the meeting to be adjourned, approved at 1628 on Day 1 and 1208 on Day 2.

NOTE: * Documents supporting this Agenda Item are found in your electronic packet.