

# FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES



**DATE:** Thursday, July 9, 2020

**TIME:** 0830

**LOCATION:** Conference Call

## Call to Order

A FIRESCOPE Board of Director's meeting was held on Thursday July 9, 2020, via conference call. The meeting began at 0830 hours on July 9, 2020. It was presided over by Chief Fennessy.

## Attendees

### Voting members in attendance included:

David Richardson representing, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Brian Fennessy, FIRESCOPE Vice-Chair, Orange County Fire Authority  
Brain Marshall, Executive Coordinator, Fire and Rescue, Cal OES  
Thom Porter, CALFIRE  
David Witt, Kern County Fire Department  
Mark Hartwig, Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Bob Baird USDA Forest Service  
Mark Lorenzen, Ventura County Fire Department  
Scott Lucas, Bureau of Land Management  
Tony Bowden, County Fire Departments North  
Jeanine Nicholson, City Fire Departments North  
Colin Stowell, City Fire Departments South  
Maurice Johnson, Fire Districts North  
Dan Munsey, Fire Districts South  
Jeff Gilbert, Volunteer Fire Departments  
Robin Wills, National Park Service  
Mike Richwine, Cal State Fire Marshall/Cal Fire  
Brian Rice, California Professional Fire Fighters  
Jeff Ohs representing, California State Firefighters' Association

### Members not in attendance included:

Daryl Osby, FIRESCOPE Chair, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Mike ShROUT, California State Firefighters' Association  
Ralph Terrazas, Los Angeles City FD

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## Guests in attendance included:

Jim Johnstone, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES  
Yesenia Serafin, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES  
Shelley Dorsey, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES  
Art Torrez, Fire and Rescue, Cal OES  
Lori Lopez, Fire and Rescue, Cal OES  
David Stone, Fire and Rescue, Cal OES  
Shanna Kuempel, Santa Clara County Fire Department

## Approval of Previous Minutes\*

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Hartwig

Seconded: Lorenzen

Motion approved.

## Cal OES Director's Update

### Cal OES Director's Report presented by Ghilarducci

- COVID response importance of PPE. Report any shortages.
- New warning guidelines for evacuations were finalized. Work within the guidelines.
- The budget is a challenge. Congress third level stimulus package (The Heroes Act) is progressing. Should have a ruling soon.
- Prepositioning funding made available for this year.
- 50 million dollars in funding to support PSPS events for local government and special districts.
- 2 million dollars in funding to collect wildfire Intel. Statewide snapshot.
- 8 million dollars earthquake preparedness for another year of funding towards the Early Warning System.
- Governor continues to prioritize Cyber Security. Fully funded the California Cyber Security Integration Center.
- Continued support for the OES Engine Program.
- Continued monitoring of the impacts of COVID. Working closely with FEMA.
- FIRESCOPE Advisory Board builds standardization across all aspects of fire service.

## Introduction of New Board Members

Introductions were given by Johnstone

- Maurice Johnson, El Dorado Hills Fire Department representing Fire Districts North.
- Dan Munsey, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District representing Fire

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Districts South.

- Jeanine Nicholson, San Francisco Fire Department representing City Fire Departments North.

### Cal OES Fire & Rescue Update

Update was given by Marshall

- OES job openings:
  - Contingent job offers to the North Ops Deputy Chief and Deputy Chief in charge of Fleet. Announcement next week.
  - A position for Deputy Chief of the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System in the Intel Mobilization Division is open. Seeking recommendations for qualified Intel and Mobilization personnel.
- Working on a new Mutual Aid Intercom System. Currently building a new 700 MHz system named California Interoperable Radio System. Working on the second phase.
- COVID survey:
  - Received 300 responses so far.
  - Concerns with First Responders being affected.
  - Tracking closely.
- Mutual Aid System:
  - Ordered resources may come from a distance.
  - Partner agencies advise of staffing issues with OES Fire & Rescue apparatus.
- Safety Commission moving into OES:
  - Meeting today. Chief Collins attending.
  - Discussions with National Guard regarding support.
- Emergency Services Act:
  - Undergoing updating.
  - Legislative challenges.

### CALFIRE/SFM/SFT Update

Update presented by Porter/Richwine

- Cal Fire:
  - The 35 projects that the Governor approved last year are complete.
  - Tested and selected Technosylva for real-time fire growth projection.
  - Budgeted 5 million for 100 alert wildfire cameras. All 100 + 8 more deployed. Will be adding an additional 12.
  - Fuels funds haven't been approved in the current Budget Act.

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- S70I Cal Fire Hawk Program. Three of the 12 are in the United States.
- C130 Program is expecting to have the first aircraft available late next season.
- With COVID budget cuts, reduced hiring to 172 new employees.
- State Fire Marshall:
  - New Assistant State Fire Marshall, Wendy Collins.
  - Wildfire Planning Engineering Division completed SRA Boundaries. Scheduled to take effect on July 8, 2020. Board of Forestry approved 99 changes. Adds about 20,000 acres to the SRA.
  - Fire Hazards Severity Zone Mapping. Hope to hold workshops in late spring 2021 to complete them.
  - Fire Engineering and Investigation. Total of over 200,000 pounds of seized fireworks this year so far. Need Seizure Report Forms to dispose of fireworks. Fireworks Public Display Shows were limited to about 52 this year statewide.
  - Federal, State, and Local Task Force working on firework enforcement programs, operations, and long-term approaches.
  - Deputy State Fire Marshalls are busy with COVID related responses. Supporting CDCR with the prisons. Over 2,000 confirmed cases.
  - Code Development and Analysis Division: 2019 Intervening Code Proposals have finished their 15-day public comment period. Final hearing sometime in August.
- State Fire Training:
  - Implementation of new Firefighter I 2019 and Firefighter II 2019 certification and curriculum. Required to complete certification testing. Update to 2013 certification and curriculum, which will be retired as of December 31, 2021.
  - Firefighter II Tenured Path rolled out earlier this year. This will retire as of December 31, 2021, too.
  - Implementation plans for Firefighter I & II 2019 are on the website. The Implementation Plan for the Firefighter II Tenured Path and bulletin are also on the website.
  - SFT is a specially funded program. Funded 100% by user fees.
  - Ability to sign up for SFT ENews on the website.
  - The next STEAC meeting is tomorrow, July 10, 2020, via Zoom.
  - The next State Board of Fire Service meeting is August 20, 2020.

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## USFS/DOI Update

Update presented by Baird/Wills.

### USFS

- COVID:
  - Twenty-three confirmed cases. Three presumed positive and 130 in self-quarantine. Less than five modules are affected.
  - Following the Department of Agriculture's and CDC guidance.
- Statewide ban on campfires.
- Instituted a direct hiring authority. Hired of over 250 firefighters directly. Only a small reduction in hand crew and module strength.
- Adding additional helicopters to the region. Adding ten air tankers, the VLAT, scoopers, 30 water-dropping helicopters, 7 aerial supervision helicopters.
- Chief's Letter of Intent for Wildfire season came out this year. Covers minimal exposure, protecting firefighters and communities during COVID. Prioritizes the use of local resources for rapid containment.
- Using a company called Atmosphere Environmental Research for improving satellite modeling. Will share information as they move forward.
- Sending crews to Region III in Arizona. Assessing their large fires.

### DOI

- At or near capacity with personnel.
- Focus has shifted from building preparedness to engagement on fires. Initial attack and initial attack modules through large fire support and incident management teams. Looking at how we successfully meet incident objectives while keeping employees safe.
- Building infrastructures around wildland fires that help to minimize the social contact that relies more actively on remote technology. Different approaches to feeding and housing people.
- Challenges with illness response. Who is tested? When are they tested? How to deal with the time between testing and results?

## Task Force/Ops Team Report

Report presented by Richardson and Kuempel.

- Quarterly Task Force/Ops Team Report\*
  - FIRESCOPE Quarterly Briefing Quarter 2, 2020\*
    - New Task Force members, Chief Lilienthal from El Dorado Hills, Chief D'Arcy from San Francisco, and Chief Serrano from San

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Bernardino County. Will start participating in July or August. The roster is nearly full.

- The July meeting will be via Microsoft Teams.
- Optimistic for an in-person August meeting in Orange County.
- On track with 2022 FOG revision and all the associated work.
- Working toward revising our Specialist Groups, Charters, and reorganization including the addition of Behavioral Health.
- Link for polo shirts in the document.
- New BoD members please share biographies and photographs for the website.
- New BoD members were identified in the report.
- New Ops Team member, Chief Tom Marshal from San Bernardino County Fire.

Approved

- Serious Incident Checklist ICS Form 259 and Instructions\*
  - Serious Incident replaced Serious Accident on the checklist.
  - Designed for Field Personnel Supervisors & Command Staff that an individual can properly document and prompt for the next steps from the onset of the incident until responsibility for the incident is taken over by an authorized investigation team.
  - Will be included in the next FOG.

Approved

- FIRESCOPE 2020 Charters, Plans of Work, and Rosters\*
  - Tracking document updates in Smartsheet. Working well.

## EMS Update

**Update presented by Hartwig.**

- Weekly conference call to share experiences with COVID led by Chief Thompson, Newport Beach. Input from hot spots around the country. Responding differently thanks to the effort.

(I have no idea how to shorten the information on the next two items. It was long and hard to pull out what was important)

- A lawsuit was filed based on the belief that the State EMS Authority did not follow through on their certifications. A complaint was filed to avoid a lawsuit and legal action by Cal Chiefs that State EMS Authority would not use certain regulations that Cal Chiefs claimed did not go through the administrative procedures. There was a preliminary ruling last week that supported the California Fire Chiefs.
- Title 22, California Code of Regulations interprets the statute. Chapter 13 is

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centered on the Rights and Responsibilities of cities and fire districts. About two years ago, the Task Force and Work Group for Chapter 13 fell apart. Leadership at the State EMS Authority expressed a desire to get back to the table. The State EMS Authority decided to publish proposed regulations for Chapter 13.

### CFAA Update

#### Update presented by Marshall/Baird/Wills/Lucas.

- Implemented, signed, and went into effect on May 1, 2020.
- CFAA Information is posted on the OES homepage.
- Two Task Forces and four Strike Teams are in Nevada. CFAA is the billing mechanism.
- A meeting is forthcoming to review and continue to make sure that CFAA is meeting the needs of agencies.

### CWCG Update

#### Update presented by Baird/Wills/Lucas/Marshall.

- Bi-weekly conference calls.
- Thanks to Chief Wills for all of his leadership.
- The Pacific Southwest Wildland Fire Response document which includes best management Covid practices has been sent out.
- CWCG worked with our Type I Incident Management Teams and created a guide for the California Interagency Incident Commanders on how to operate in the COVID environment.
- National Advance Fire Research Institute in Tucson put on a simulation for Incident Management Teams nationwide.
- IMTs have done two prepositions. One in Sacramento and one in Redding.
- Issues on how Red Flag Warnings are being used nationwide. Working with the National Weather Service.
- Change in IMT selection this year. Normally selects Incident Commander Trainee and Deputy in the fall. Followed up with full team selections in the spring. This year, Incident Commander, Deputy Trainee, and Primary CNG staff in the fall.

### Old Business

#### Update presented by Marshall/Meston/Capobianco.

- Blue Ribbon Commission Update:
  - Working group: Ret. Chief Meston, Ret. Chief Zagaris, and Chief Fennessey.

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- The original document was authored on April 5, 2004. FIRESCOPE conducted a summary of its findings in 2018. FIRESCOPE identified in January 2020 in their Strategic Plan that climate changes should be addressed.
- Looking at the modernization of the Mutual Aid System.
- Looking at all-hazard emergencies including earthquakes, fires after earthquakes, HazMat releases, terrorism, pandemic, airtime disasters, civil disturbance, mass casualty events, failure of significant infrastructure, cyberterrorism, and planned events.
- Use technology to support systems. Refine some of our information systems. Improve communication systems moving forward.
- Provide short-term recommendations (1-3 year budget years), medium-term (3-6 year budget years), and long term (6+ budget years).
- Gather additional input from FIRESCOPE at the BoD in October. Final draft report for Chief Marshall in November 2020. Anticipated date of being revised December 2020.
- Private Resources on Incidents Update (AB 2380)\*:
  - The goal is to request a review and commentary from the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.
  - Review draft regulations and other documents supplied. May submit comments in writing after the meeting.
  - Before submitting the package, feedback from the BoD is needed and that will be incorporated into the initial proposal. Once the rulemaking starts, there will be a public comment period.
- Wildland Preplan Update:
  - The Working Group is up and functioning.
  - Given direction to form a Working Group in January to develop a statewide standardized “Wildland Preplan” to be made electronically available across the state by all fire agencies.
  - Difficulty meeting due to COVID.
  - Good representation – local, state, federal across the state.
  - Working on identifying the map content that supports the needs of our end users.
  - Meeting at the end of this month.
  - Sent out a survey to bring in input from across the state regarding what Strike Team Leaders feel will be the best content for the maps.
  - Determining the format of the maps. Identifying the platform that we can store the data on and allow access.
- Resource Prepositioning – Civil Unrest:
  - Doing a lot of preposition requests right now



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- A month ago, we were faced with civil disturbances across California.
- A document was put together that was defensible in front of the legislation on how we had a matrix. San Diego Fire Department was working on this. Before the document was published formally, a fire department filled it out, submitted it, and was approved for a proposition. Very effective.
- Need to refine the document and put it into the Mobilization Guidebook in a format that firefighters can use.
- COVID 19 Update – Responder Preparedness:
  - If you have not seen the plan, let Chief Marshall know and he will get it to you.
  - Looking for input on what works and what doesn't work.

### New Business

#### Update presented by Marshall/Wills/Fennessy.

- Cal OES Operations Bulletin 1:
  - The document was sent out.
  - Documents where agencies can request Mutual Aid resources from surrounding agencies.
  - Been a pilot program for several years. The original program was for Fire Strike Teams up to one-time requesting assistance.
  - Doing a pilot program in Southern California to move resources quickly. In effect for this year.
  - Review the document; see if it is relevant, if it needs to be changed and if it would work for your agency should you have an emergency. Looking for input by mid-August 2020 from the Board of Directors.
  - The plan is to bring the input back in October for formal action on it.
- Presentation – U.S. Firefighting Assistance to Australia 2019:
  - Group of 21 firefighters in the first deployment.
  - About 400 international personnel deployed in 2019. Multiple mobilizations. 362 were American Federal Firefighters.
  - A long history of exchange. We have primarily been an importer of Australian and New Zealand firefighters.
  - In 2017, an arrangement document was signed with Australia. It replaced an international agreement.
  - The 37 days spent in Australia was the most difficult fire assignment of his 40-year career.
  - Incident Management System looks similar to ours but is understandably different.
  - Over a million acres were burning into dense communities with uncontrolled

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- perimeters. Globally significant event.
- California Technical Search & Rescue Advisory Committee:
    - Had an in-person meeting on June 24, 2020 that was rescheduled from April. The meeting was well attended. All disciplines were represented.
    - Came up with a set of action items to accomplish.
    - Agreed to make this a full-time committee. Developing the bylaws and charters. A liaison to align all of the strategic plans. Supply a common operating platform to capture data in a way that everyone can see it. How are we going to manage a large scale incident? How the change detection software would fit into the program? Having aircraft available 24/7.
    - A lot of discussions on RTFs and how they relate to the Type IV NIMS resources.
    - Typing of our assets so that we know what is available in California.
    - We have the new RTF Program, Swiftwater Rescue, and the OES Type I engines which are considered Type III Urban Search and Rescue assets.
    - Working with Chief Collins and his staff to bring all of the disciplines together.
    - Determining funding, equipment, and timing needs.
    - The Blue Ribbon Commission TF and FIRESCOPE are adding to the OES Fire and Rescue fleet. 27 Type IIIs are arriving in Sacramento now. Should be ready to go out by the end of the month. Of the 79 Type VIs, about 12 are in California. When everything is in service there will be 300 pieces of equipment. Renumbering plan for all equipment.
  - Critical Incident Peer Support Curriculum – Inclusion of The Counseling Team International (TCTI):
    - At the April 2020 BoD meeting, there was a presentation on ICS 180 Critical Incident Peer Support Teams.
    - An amendment is forthcoming to include providers that were missed.
    - Draft to Ops Team in September. October BoD.
  - FIRIS Program:
    - The pilot program was instituted last year.
    - Technology funds are available. Funds will go towards two FIRIS aircraft this year.
    - Looking at how we collaborate and coordinate with our partners.
    - To provide data to improve targeted evacuations and resource deployment.
    - Available to all agencies without cost.
    - Governance concerns with jurisdictions that have strict air traffic regulations.
    - S.C.O.U.T. integration is critical.

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- Forming of a committee to address governance issues to be led by Chief Marshall.
- Aircraft management and deployment.
- Wifire vs Technosylva. Technosylva is the selected program used by Cal Fire.

Motion to move forward as a pilot project with a committee to address governance issue and with appropriate agencies: Gilbert

Second: Hartwig

Approved

### Roundtable

### Adjournment

Chief Fennessy moved for the meeting to be adjourned, approved at 1423

DRAFT