



DATE: Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Thursday, July 11, 2024

TIME: 1330-1700 Wednesday
0830-1430 Thursday

LOCATION: Lake Arrowhead, California

CALL TO ORDER

A FIRESCOPE Board of Director's meeting was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 and Thursday, July 11, 2024, at Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa. The meeting began at 1330 hours on July 10, 2024 and 0830 on July 11, 2023. It was presided by Chief Brian Fennessy.

ATTENDEES

Voting members in attendance included:

Brian Fennessy, Chair, Orange County Fire Authority
Maurice Johnson, Vice-Chair, Fire Districts North
Brian Marshall, Executive Coordinator, Fire and Rescue, Cal OES
Joe Tyler – CAL FIRE
Mark Hartwig, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Dustin Gardner, Ventura County Fire Department
Jeff Gilbert, Volunteer Fire Departments
Nate Gogna, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Jaime Gamboa, USDA Forest Service
Dan Munsey, Fire Districts South
Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal
Eddie Sell, California State Firefighters' Association
Aaron Duncan, Kern County Fire Department
Mark Lorenzen, Small/Medium Cities North
Jeanine Nicholson, Large Cities North
John Foley, National Park Service
Charlie Norman, Counties South
Jennifer Hinckley, Fish & Wildlife Service
Colin Stowell, Large Cities South
Suwana Kerdkaew, Counties North
Peter Kelly, BLM
Chris Tubbs, Cal Chiefs

Members not in attendance included:

Kristin Crowley, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters
Pat Russell, Small/Medium Cities South
Anthony Marrone, Los Angeles County Fire Department

Partner Agencies in attendance:

Kim Zagaris, Western Fire Chiefs
Aitor Bidaburu, U.S. Fire Administration/NWCG
Eric Litzenberg, International Association of Fire Chiefs
Mark Loeffelbein, National Weather Service
Mario Rueda – NFPA
Susan Waller, FEMA/NIC

Guests in attendance included:

Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE
Jason Serrano, San Bernardino County Fire - Task Force Chair
Matt Brown, Santa Clara County Fire – Task Force Vice-Chair
Jon O’Brien, Los Angeles County Fire Department – Ops Team Chair
Jim Johnstone, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Cathy Johnson, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Yesenia Serafin FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Shelley Dorsey FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Lori Lopez, Cal OES Admin
David Neill, Cal OES, Legal
Sara Puricelli, Cal OES, Legal

RECOGNITION OF COLIN STOWELL’S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

- Presentation of mug and letter of appreciation

APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES*

Deferred until October Meeting

Cal OES Director’s Update

Cal OES Director’s Report presented by Marshall

- Director Ward and Director Tyler from CAL FIRE were at a press conference with the Governor today on wildfire items.
- Thank you, from Director Ward for the collaborative California fire service effort.
- Senior leadership in the State of California is aware of the FIRESCOPE Program’s accomplishments.

Cal OES Fire & Rescue Update

Update presented by Marshall

- **PREPOSITIONS**
- 25 million dollars funded for prepositions. Region II had the most prepositions –

39.

- Went from the all-hazard winter response into a vigorous fire season.
- A work group has been formed to further refine the flood program for prepositions. Chief Mercado will be the chair of the new work group.
- Fiscal year 2023-2024 prepositions statistics overview.

- OES budget update. Lost 6.6 million from the past year.
- Waiting time to upgrade vehicles is a long process.
- Met to discuss getting the fleet acquisition plan done.
- Working on new Type I engine specs. Will be going out for bid.
- Pierce Manufacturing is bringing their electric fire truck to California. Will be assessing it at Cal OES HQ.
- FIRIS new contract end of July.
- Working on new initiative. Structure damage assessment after a wildland fire.
- Discussed Covid education.
- Currently, in California, you can't buy small engine gas powered equipment. Chainsaws, generators etc. There is an exemption for fire if you send a letter to the executive director of CARB.

CAL FIRE/SFM/SFT Update

Update presented by Burlew/Berlant

- CAL FIRE:
 - Budget overview
 - Hand crews permanently funded.
 - 66 hour work week is moving forward. Five-year implementation plan.
 - Peak Staffing funded for nine months out of the year.
 - Reducing some of the seasonal workforce. Adding more permanent.
 - Changing staffing model on fire engines.
 - The CALFIRE Strategic Plan coming out this month.
 - Overview of fire stats.
 - Overview of fuel mitigation and vegetation management programs
 - Improvements to CALFIRE website include more real time information on incidents.
 - In July, SFT transitioned to requiring full course payment prior to issuing diplomas.
 - Students need to have their SFT ID prior to starting the course.
 - Now accepting credit cards at SFT.
 - Overview of courses and changes. Updating curriculum to the newest edition of NFPA 1010.
 - No increased course time is anticipated in the 2024 curriculum.
 - Community Wildfire assistance update.
 - SB 610 overview.
 - NERIS replacing NFIRS. Major improvements. Three ways to report in NERIS.

USFS/DOI Update

Update presented by Gamboa/Gogna/Foley/Espinoza

- USFS
 - Increase of fires on National Forest land.

- In preparedness Level 4.
- North Ops - all aircraft are up and running.
- Working the Royal Fire and the Shelly Fire in Northern California.
- Overview of aircraft resources.
- Significant accomplishment with fuels this year due to prescribed fires in the region. Getting permission to burn is difficult due to air quality.
- In South Ops, some aircraft still down.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Thank you to all the partnerships.
 - Moving resources to high fire areas.
 - Losing personnel.
 - Holding resources in California to maintain initial attack on trust land and with partners.
 - Rotating prepositions.
 - No change in travel programs. Continue to grow.
 - Three new programs in Northern California.
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Overall doing well.
 - Had some carryover funding.
 - Continuing to do more fuels treatment projects on the landscape.
 - This season roughly 20 engines available, three hot shot crews and one helicopter.
 - Continuous advertisements for hard-to-fill positions. Particularly the engine captains. Offering hiring incentives and signing bonuses.
 - Helicopter 553, unable to staff. Lost the exclusive use contract. Discussing moving the helicopter to Apple Valley. Larger applicant pool. Apple Valley currently has helicopter 554.
 - Approved for National Severity funding. Brought in additional outside resources.
 - Prepositions for lightning activity this weekend.
- Fish and Wildlife
 - Wildfires are up.
 - Prescribed fires are down.
 - Working on fuels.
 - Working hard on recruitment.
 - 2.5 years in the Wildland Fire Apprentice Program. Fast training.
 - Send success stories up to their national office.
 - Receiving three Type III engines this fall.
 - Six type VI engines will also be received in the fall. One next week.
 - Getting trackers to place on engines and dozers.
- National Park Services
 - First year with a decreased budget. \$30 million reduction to all DOI agencies.
 - Continue to hire new personnel. 80 vacancies in the region.
 - Bipartisan infrastructure fuels funding still going strong. Expect it to continue through fiscal year 2026.
 - Many agreements with federal and local government partners. Continue to get critical fuels work done.

- Unable to offer some incentives for new hires. Causing challenges with recruitment and retention.
- Incidents staying small.
- Cal OES Public Safety Communications Update
 - 4.9 GHz band overview.
 - FCC allocated this band for Public Safety use. FCC says that 4.9 GHz band remains underused. 3,500 existing licenses using it from Public Safety.
 - Cal OES continues to listen to feedback from all interested parties and is waiting on the FCC to take action.
 - Working with the FCC to make sure that California's interest are represented when it comes to the 4.9 Spectrum.
 - Looking forward:
 - Four year deployment plan beginning fiscal year 2024-2025.
 - Continue to expand coverage footprint.
 - Introduce VHF spectrum.
 - Integrate 4G and 5G wireless.
 - Local partnerships, System-to-System interconnection.

Watch Duty Presentation

Presentation given by Russell

Fire Asset Status Tracker (FAST) App & FIRESCOPE FOG App Revision

Presentation given by Zander and Johnson

Ops Team / Task Force Report

Report presented by O'Brien/Serrano

- Ops Team/Task Force Report
 - Task Force continues to support the subcommittees on the work they are completing in 2024.
 - Continue to deliver products.
 - *FIRESCOPE Quarterly Briefing
Unanimously approved.
 - *Hand Crew white paper
Unanimously approved.
 - *Private Fire Prevention Resources White Paper & ICS 902
Unanimously approved.
 - Technical Search & Rescue White Paper (3)
Unanimously approved.
 - Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) Documents (3)
Unanimously approved.
 - Cancer Diagnosis/Worker's Compensation FAQ
Unanimously approved.

- Aviation – Night HELCO White Paper & Job Aid (2)
Unanimously approved.
- MACS 400-2 Documents and Forms Descriptions Revision (3)
Unanimously approved.
- MACS 410-2 Resource Designation System (2)
Unanimously approved.
- FIRESCOPE Mutual Aid Coordination Team (3)
Unanimously approved.

Lithium Ion Battery Hazard Update

Presentation given by Rezende

EMS Update

Update presented by Hartwig/Thompson

- EMS Commission meeting update.
- Update on AB40, AB2225, AB2843, AB1168, and Chapter 13.

CFAA Update

Update presented by CFAA Committee Members

- Briefing on current CFAA negotiations.
- Discussed the rate letter.
- Brief on MARS.

CWCG Update

Update presented by CWCG Committee

- Still balancing ten Federal teams. Four have been out this year.
- Working on funding the joint IC meetings with CAL FIRE.

Partner Agency Updates

Updates presented by Partner Agency Representatives

Old Business

Update presented by Marshall/Fennessy/Lopez/Urwin/Munsey/Vail

- California Fire Service Strategic Plan
 - Formally called Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission Report.
 - Report based on October 2003 devastating fires in Southern California.
 - Will be working on a white paper over the next year. Then begin moving forward on a strategic direction document.
- Fire Service Legislative Update
 - Overview of the Countering CCP Drone Act.
 - Bill is currently in front of the Senate.
- SB-450 Fire District Funding Update
 - No report

- AB-700 Fire Fighter Cancer Prevention and Research
Presentation given by Dr. Urwin/Dr. Poole
- Fire Service IT Update
Presentation given by Munsey
- Complex Incident Management Transition Update
 - Tabled to next meeting.
- CICCIS Update
 - Tabled to next meeting.
- FIRESCOPE History Update
 - Tabled to next meeting.

New Business

- Potential Revision NWCG Safety Zone Parameters
Presentation given by Jimenez

2025 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule and Venues

- Discussion

Board Member Updates

Adjournment

Chief Brian Fennessy moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Approved at 1704 on Day 1 and at 1404 on Day 2.

Access the July Board Meeting video through the links below:

Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QTHjpTyGv4>

Day 2: <https://youtu.be/-kSSNvvXcS0>