



FIREScope OPERATIONS TEAM Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 1300-1700

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 0900-1200

St. Helena Fire Department

Welcome/Roll Call

O'Brien

Members Present: Operations Team

Ahearn (USFS)

Hing (LFD)

Nishimoto (Mutual Aid II)

Taylor (Region IV)

Cook (VNC)

Heggstrom (Mutual Aid III)

Johnstone (OES)

Steers (KRN)

Nolan (CAL FIRE)

Birchfield Representing
(Mutual Aid VI)

McClellan (ANA)

Bachmeyer (Volunteer FD)

Kaialoa (Mutual Aid II)

O'Brien (LAC)

McLaughlin (TCFD)

Henning (SFM)

Others Present: Task Force & Specialist Groups

Johnson (OES)

Rezende (SND)

Coyle (MNL)

Serrano (BDC)

St Pierre (USFS)

Landry (EDH)

Davis (SBC)

Semple (CAL FIRE)

Brown (CNT)

Brinsfield (BLM)

Johnson (OES)

Welcome, Introductions, and Logistics – O'Brien/Coyle

Agenda Review – O'Brien

***Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – O'Brien**

December 2024 Ops Team Minutes

Approved

Task Force Report – Serrano

- *FIREScope Quarterly Brief Draft
Approved
- *LG Hand Crew Fiscal Impact White Paper
Approved with edits (estimate of equipment cost bullet point)
- *ICS 410-2 MACS Resource Designation System White Paper and ICS 410-2 Revision
Approved
- *ICS 410-5 Revision
Approved
- * ICS 410-6 Revision
Approved
- * ICS 410-7 Revision
Approved
- * ICS 410-8 Revision
Approved
- *MACS 410-9 Revision
Approved
- *ICS 1220 REMS Crew Member Job Aid
Approved
- *ICS 912 Response to Civil Unrest Guidelines
Approved
- *CRR/Fire Prevention Subcommittee White Paper
Approved

Subcommittee and Specialist Group Status Update Reports

Old Business

- FIREScope FOG App Update & Discussion of Plan for Future FOG App Revisions – Johnson/Johnstone
 - Push notifications for updates in the next phase.
 - Moving forward with fillable forms. Should be in test mode in a month to six months. Working on downloadability of the forms.
 - Making good progress with the contract team that is working on the app.
 - Will not be ordering anymore paper FOGs. The FOG will only be available in paper form until we run out of our supply of approximately 8,000 FOGs.
 - Sales have slowed down. Going to start advertising.
 - Discussing putting a QR code sticker that would lead to any updates in the first pages of the FOG.
 - Collecting information and working with subcommittees.
 - Chief Roberts has a list of items that need to be updated in the app.
 - Tasking subcommittees with formatting items to transition to the BoD. FIREScope staff will be doing further edits.
 - Upon hard copy stock exhaustion, PDF of the FOG will be available for download.
 - Looking for Android users for the test group.
- FIREScope Mutual Aid Coordination Team Update – Walder
 - Presentation to the BoD lead led to a good discussion.
 - Possible changes coming to the Mutual Aid System.
 - Mo Johnson was the liaison for the group. Due to his retirement, replacement pending.
 - Working on a questionnaire for the local comm ops.
 - In hold mode due to direction from the governor.
 - Working with the dispatch working group. Adding a federal partner from Southops and possibly someone from CAL FIRE communications administration.
 - Waiting for direction from the BoD.
- Call to Action Review – Johnstone
 - Chief Johnstone reviewed the document.
 - Encouraged Ops Team members to socialize with their BoD member and to ask them to share the document.
 - Chief Fennessy wants the document to be BoD focused. Encouraging only BoD members to attend the March 26th meeting with the goal of approving the document at that meeting.

- If revisions are needed, it would be approved at the April BoD meeting.

New Business

- Fuels Management Discussion Items for Ops Team - Brown
 - California needs fire for successful hazard reduction and ecological benefit.
 - Each of the unique ecosystems in California require fire at different intervals.
 - Fire suppression practices have mostly limited the natural fire cycle.
 - To correctly address this problem, an immediate shift of prescribed fire burning at scale is necessary.
 - Concerns with the risk to firefighters and other responders.
 - Increased training opportunities and experiences.
 - Less risk to the communities.
 - Better fire effects and ecological benefit.
 - Reduced cost.
 - Need to work with the state legislature to obtain more support for prescribed fire.
- Mutual Aid Dispatching Procedures Discussion - Brown
 - Discussed the finances and resources needed for prescribed fire projects.
 - Discussed creating a public information document on the benefits of prescribed fire for communities.
 - Looking for direction from the BoD at the next meeting.
- *CWCG/CFAA/FIRESCOPE Collaboration - Cook
 - Members of the Task Force, Ops Team and BoD may have other positions in addition to their regular roles.
 - Make sure that you are bringing back information from your meetings (CWCG, CFAA etc.) to your agency and associated groups so that information is not delayed when it gets to the BoD level.
 - Documents may not be approved at the BoD level or issues may arise after the document has been approved.

Updates and Reports

- Cal OES – Johnstone
 - Continuing to do a lot of pre-positions. Many are mud and debris flow threats.
 - Let OES know if you encounter any problems with the pre-positions system that we currently have.
 - Pre-positions are a very effective program. The program is over budget yet continues to be supported by the legislature.
 - The current budget for pre-positions is \$25 million.
- CAL FIRE – Nolan
 - Starting up staffing this month.
 - After the January firestorm, received emergency authority to hire firefighters.
 - Nine-month fire season from March to December.
 - In the north, start up staffing in mid-March. Peak staffing in April. In the south, will have peak staffing in mid-April to the end of the month.
 - This month will have all six rotor wing bases in the north. In the south around the same time.
 - Fixed wing starts around June. If we get activity sooner, we will bring on fixed wing across the state earlier.
 - Discussed prescribed fire. Burn at scale.
- USFS – Ahearn
 - The Chief of the Forest Service, Randy Moore, retired after 45 years of service. Replaced by Tom Schultz from Idaho DNR.
 - Two regional foresters retired in the last two weeks. Regional forester out of the Pacific SW announced her retirement.
 - Four Type I helicopters, four Type II helicopters and a Type III platform available for critical need.
 - Impacted by layoffs. None of them were primary fire employees. May be coming back.
 - New secretary of Agriculture.
 - Focused on the mission and what is to come.
 - Heavily supporting North Carolina in their fires.
 - Everything is on track for bringing on resources.
 - Aircraft contracts are still on track.
 - Many bills in Congress. One is proposing year-round contracts for aircraft.
 - From January 1st to current, approximately 105 prescribed fires. 12,000 acres.

- State Fire Training – Petty
 - Currently using ICC, the International Code Councils. The baseline current model code that we use for building fire code.
 - The new 2025 codes will get published on July 1 and gives six months to do local ordinances to modify the code to make it more restrictive. The new code goes into effect in January 2026.
 - High severity maps are being updated. No appeals process.
 - Conducting a research study on single stair access in multiple level buildings instead of multiple stairways.
 - May start looking at elevator sizes next.
 - Going to form a battery energy storage system working group.
 - Putting together a symposium this summer. The dates have not been announced. Two-day seminar in downtown Sacramento.
 - Wildfire prevention grants. Planning to do another grant solicitation later this year.
 - Webinar on March 17th. Update on the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS)
 - Illegal fireworks in your jurisdiction: Make sure that staff is notifying those events.
 - Updating Firefighter IA, Fire Inspector I and II, Behavioral Health IA and IIA, and Cancer Awareness IA and IIA. Will be going to the July STEAC meeting.
 - Cadres continue to work on the Fire Marshal Series updated as well as Finance Examiner.
 - Plan to update the Driver Operator over the summer.
- NWCG NIMS Integration Committee
 - Taking up the task of analyzing incident complexity.
 - Subcommittee formed. Had one meeting.
 - What is the terminology going forward?
 - Confusion between complex incident management or an incident complex.
 - Opportunity for FIRESCOPE to be involved in the discussion and contribute to what comes out of it.
- NFPA – Neamy
 - No report

Next Ops Team Meeting

June 18, 2025

San Francisco/San Francisco Fire

September 10 & 11, 2025

San Diego/San Diego Fire

Next Board of Director's Meeting

April 16 & 17, 2025

Tulare County Fire - Visalia

Roundtable**Adjourned 1627**

*Denotes shared documents to be discussed for potential approval