

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES



DATE: Thursday, October 8, 2020

TIME: 0830

LOCATION: Conference Call

Call to Order

A FIRESCOPE Board of Director's meeting was held on Thursday October 8, 2020, via conference call. The meeting began at 0830 hours on October 8, 2020. It was presided by Chief Osby.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included:

Daryl Osby, FIRESCOPE Chair, 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
Al Poirier representing, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Mark Hartwig, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Brian Rhodes representing, USDA Forest Service
Mark Lorenzen, Ventura County Fire Department
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
Robin Wills, National Park Service
Mike Richwine, Cal State Fire Marshall/Cal Fire
Jeff Gilbert, Volunteer Fire Departments
Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters

Members not in attendance included:

Mike Shrout, California State Firefighters' Association
Ralph Terrazas, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Scott Lucas, Bureau of Land Management
Bob Baird, USDA Forest Service

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Guests in attendance included:

Jim Johnstone, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Yesenia Serafin, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Shelley Dorsey, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
Cathy Johnson, FIRESCOPE, Cal OES
David Richardson, Cal OES Mutual Aid I
Dave Gerboth, San Diego FRD

Moment of Silence for Fallen Firefighter, Jason Cortez, San Francisco FD.

Approval of Previous Minutes*

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Fennessy

Seconded: Witt

Motion approved.

Porter Abstained

Cal OES Director's Update

Cal OES Director's Report presented by Ghilarducci

- No report given.

Cal OES Fire & Rescue Update

Update was given by Marshall

- Covid:
 - Working on Covid response and planning.
 - Meetings/Planning Sessions every day.
 - Tracking exposures within the California Fire Service. Many departments affected.
 - Distributing PPE across the state. Put in request if equipment is needed.
 - Covid response has been highly impactful to OES Fire and Rescue.
 - The State Operations Center has been activated since March. Working closely with FEMA.
 - Federal partners are at OES every day.
- With the current wildfire siege, SOC has moved into fire response. Also continuing with Covid response.
- Highest level of meetings are Unified Coordination Group (UCG) with state leaders.

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- We have 344 local government engines committed statewide. Includes 78 on Cal Fire move up and cover. This number does not count Cal Fire or Federal incidents. 1,263 local government firefighters. We have 566 out of state firefighters. Strike team UTF orders were in the 50 range due to lack of resources. We do track OES availability and local government availability across the state. Eight Strike Teams of local government resources and 51 single resources. Today we have 151 out of state engines from six states including three from New Jersey. FEMA flew the firefighters and fire engines into San Francisco. Texas has 58 engines on scene. We did a 165 person crew swap a week and a half ago at Sacramento Airport. Utah currently has 10 engines, Montana has 10 engines, Washington has 40 engines, Oregon has 30 engines, and Nevada has 2 engines.
- Have been supporting the National Guard through mission tasking for the incidents.
- Cal MAC/CWCG prioritization system for the fires across the state was activated.
- North and South MAC Groups are activated. Prioritizing their incidents and sharing their resources.
- Will be impacted by Mud and Debris flow incidents with the winter rains.
- New staff at OES:
 - Deputy Chief Vern Brothers - Deputy Chief for Northern Operations
 - Deputy Chief Mitch Higgins – Fleet Manager
- Marshall and Osby worked on a project called Operation Surge. Marshall had 5 OES Type I engines that had been replaced with new engines. The engines were about to be sold. Chief Osby was able to get three of the engines staffed. Downey and La Habra Heights staffed the other two. Plus Osby had an out of service Type III that was ready to put back in service. Were used on several fires including the Bobcat Fire. Will now be put back into the Los Angeles County Fire Service for the Santa Ana fire season. Chief Osby will staff them.

CALFIRE/SFM/SFT Update

Update presented by Porter/Richwine

- Cal Fire:
 - Hoping to have a slowdown in fire activity with support from the weather in November.
 - In the south, expecting a more active than usual season for Santa Ana type east winds with dry and hot conditions.
 - Prepped and planning for the season.
 - Since January 1 to date we have arrested 72 arsonists. Annual

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- average is about 70. Still picking up a couple every week.
- Currently working on 22 major fires.
- Finance packages are going to be extended.
- As many as 60 initial attack fires on a daily basis.
- Almost tripled the amount of wildfires that we normally have per year. Thirty-one fatalities and 9,247 structures destroyed.
- Governor ordered a procurement process (RFI²) that was used for wide use detection modeling and response tool for statewide use and for 25 miles outside the state. Rapidly models fires that are a threat or going to be a threat based on current weather. This is the product that the RFI process brought us to.
- Technosylva has been working very well. Good accuracy on projections.
- Dan Johnson retiring this year. Working on finding his replacement.
- **IMT Deployment**
 - Thank you for continued support.
 - Team I became active in April supporting Covid through mission tasking. Break between May 20 and July 4.
 - Team II became active July 13 and has been active without a break between hard cover, finance closeouts and various fires/complexes.
 - Team III became active on July 13 and has been operating at their capacity including several incidents, finance closeouts, and hard cover.
 - Team IV also supported the Covid support through mission tasking in April. Break between April 30 and July 19.
 - Team V also supported the Covid support through mission tasking April 2. Break between April 30 and July 20.
 - Team VI started with Covid support in April. Break May 9 through July 4. Have been active since July 4 between hard cover and finance closeouts.
- **State Fire Marshall:**
 - Staff has been involved with supporting Incident Management Teams as part of damage inspection program.
 - Over 9,200 destroyed buildings throughout the state. Significant loss.
 - Collecting data on homes that survived and clues for that survivability. Looking at homes that were built to chapter 7a building code requirements to see how they performed. Some of them did not perform too well in some areas. Also looking at how defensible

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

space inspections or the landscape may have played a role in the destruction of many of the structures. Will be doing analysis in the near future.

- In the Wildfire Planning and Engineering Division work continues on preventing these fires in the future. Fuel management projects slowed the spread and crews were able to catch up with it.
 - Fire Resource Assessment Program is continuing to work on the fire hazard severity zone mapping updates. Inserting the wind data modeling. To be included in the draft maps. Available in the spring of 2021.
 - Continue to work with communities on firewise applications and designations. California leads the nation in the number of firewise communities.
 - AB2911: Working with the governor's office to update the fire hazard planning general plan - technical advice series document. Used to work with local land use planners in updating their safety elements as they open their housing elements in their general plans.
 - Working on a new subdivision review program on behalf of the Board of Forestry. Want to ensure that there are two points of emergency access in evacuation routes required in the statute. Program is just now getting up and running.
- State Fire Training:
- New curriculum packages have been approved. Behavioral Wellness and Cancer Awareness curriculum will now be a part of the Firefighter I Training Program.
 - Reminder that the State Board of Fire Services through STEAC approved a fee increase across the board in State Fire Training. Fee schedule is going through the Office of Administrative Law and the regulatory process. Scheduled to be effective January of 2021. More information can be found on the website.
 - New building and fire codes had an intervening code cycle - the 2019 International code cycle. Brought forth many requirements through the WUI Work Group. In July of 2021 we are going to require all new construction in WUI areas be required to have a listed Class A roof assembly. Tile roofs will require a heavier rolled asphalt cap sheet that will help to prevent ember intrusion into the air gaps. New construction will also require UL Listed vents in the eaves of homes.
 - Brought forth the tall wood building heavy timber/cross laminated

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

timber provisions.

- Early regulations as it relates to escape/puzzle rooms, energy storage systems and mechanical parking structures.
- New Assistant Fire Marshal, Wendy Collins was appointed in July 2020.

USFS/DOI Update

Update presented by Rhodes/Wills.

- USFS
 - Eleven Canadian crews assigned to the North Complex.
 - Five 20 person hand crews from Mexico. They are on the Sequoia Complex.
 - Active duty military - about 230 soldiers assigned to the August Complex. Another 230 Marines from Camp Pendleton assigned to the Creek Incident. Marines were no longer needed at the Creek Incident and were moved up to the August Complex.
 - Challenges within the forest service are:
 - Salary caps.
 - Annual leave/leave restoration.
 - Basically depleted cash systems nationally. Have been able to recover a lot of the supplies from the incidents. Things are starting to stabilize.
 - Looking at capacity and having conversations about preparedness levels. Determining how long we can hold on to the active military.
- DOI
 - Heavily engaged with difficult to control fires since July.
 - Engaged with the SQF Complex burning in Sequoia National Park.
 - Challenges with managing incidents and high level of commitment to interagency Incident Management Teams. Salary caps.
 - Large number of staff contributing at that CNG level.
 - Going into the fall, have received an exception to the cap on the number of hours for seasonal 1039 employees. Finalizing the employees who are willing to extend into the fall. Good response and high level of dedication. Should know the continued capacity of employees today.
 - Extending all of the aircrafts through the end of November.
 - Actively managing fires between the two large parks in California. Yosemite and Sequoia.
 - Need to address and come to some resolution regarding the systematic challenges that we have.

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Task Force/Ops Team Report

Report presented by Richardson/Gerboth.

- Quarterly Task Force/Ops Team Report
 - Ops Team impacted by Covid and wildfires. No new documents. Will continue to meet and keep the Board apprised on any changes or developments.
 - Task Force has several products that are currently under review. Ready to move forward to the Ops Team.
 - A couple of meetings had to be cancelled. Meeting scheduled for this October 20th will be virtual. First in-person meeting scheduled for November 18-19.
- 2022 FOG Manual Revision Update
 - Ongoing and one of the highest priorities.
 - Still adhering to the timeline. Cushion was built in. Revised Chapters to the BoD in April 2021.
 - Four to five month process to complete. Plan to be in line for a 2022 Edition.
- FIRESCOPE Email Document Sharing Subscription - GovDelivery
 - In full operation. Took the place of Mail Chimp. All levels of FIRESCOPE have been moved over to the subscription service. Everybody should be receiving documents via GovDelivery. No action needed.

EMS Update

Update presented by Hartwig.

- Overview of the EMS Act.
- What constitutes an agreement? The State Attorney General, put out a very clear response to a request made by the local EMS Agency in Los Angeles County. Needs to be an expressed transfer of 201 responsibilities.
- Latest attack has been regarding making regulations that define the Act. The process defines the law.
- Currently at a standstill with the Chapter 13 process. Have pushed the State EMS Authority to engage in the administrative procedures process in order to create regulations.
- Told by the State EMS Authority that they will pick who represents us. Gives ground rules that are very restrictive. Can only raise concerns and questions during very specific times. If you don't follow the rules you will be kicked off the Task Force. Will impact ability to provide service and hire professional firefighters.

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- CalChiefs.org left side of the webpage is the 32 page letter to Dr. Duncan. The major headings state the reasons that we should be concerned with. These regulations are created to remove your statutory authority as a local government to administer your EMS services.

CFAA Update

Update presented by Marshall/Porter/Baird/Wills/Lucas/Lorenzen/Gilbert.

- CFAA was due to expire December 31, 2019. Ran an extension to April 30 2020. Negotiated a new CFAA that went into effect on May 1, 2020.
- Questions have come up during the current fire season. Hottest topic is the Tribal Fire Departments being used. Federal partners said that they would no longer pay for Tribal Fire Departments responding to Federal fires. Have been working on this issue. Letter writing going on. Has not been resolved. May be some resolution by next fire season. Complex problem.
- Have been working with DOD partners. Marines have contacted OES. Had dialog with CDCR.
- Quarterly meetings have been delayed.

CWCG Update

Update presented by Baird/Porter/Wills/Lucas/Marshall/Lorenzen.

- Team activations have been substantial this year for the California Inter-agency Management Teams. 64 deployments for California this year. Not counting Cal Fire Incident Management Teams. North Ops has had 36 deployments. Six California Type I IMTs. 13 California Type II IMTs. 12 out of region IMTs. Three NIMO Teams. Two Area Command Teams. South Ops has had 28 deployments. Nine California Type I IMTs. 19 California Type II IMTs. Ten out of region and one Area Command Team.
- Discussion about out of state IMTs. Forest Service was working on the use of Type III IMTs and New York City FD has a Type III All Hazard Team on the Dolan Fire.
- Will look at Cal MAC this winter and write in some latitude on how we operate.
- Looking at IMT selection for next year. Will have a meeting within the next couple of weeks to layout the path forward for next season's IMTs.
- Ops Group is looking at how we are going to recruit. Working in a three stage process this time. Not sure how many teams it will result in.
- Asking for expedited qualification review and potential certification for trainees with completed task books and recommendations for certification. Will start the process in the next few weeks.

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- Very little interest in Type I crews to extend their seasons with the M39 cap relief. IMTs and their ability to roster is dropping off.

Old Business

Update presented by Fennessy/Meston/Marshall.

- Blue Ribbon Commission Update:
 - Sent out information that the group has been working on for feedback a couple of weeks ago. When that is completed will bring the core group back together and finish the initial draft. Will send the draft out to everyone.
- AB 2380 - Private Fire Protection Update:
 - The rule making package is on Director Ghilarducci's desk. The level of activity has sidelined that for a moment. Standing by for guidance.
- OES Fire Apparatus Update:
 - Related to the Blue Ribbon Commission, 27 new Type III engines and 79 Type VI engines are in the pipeline. Ten Type III contracts are out to get finished and signed by the fire agencies or the elected officials. Should be going out shortly.
 - The Type VI contract is a new agreement. It is completed. Will be going out to the first two agencies. Orange County OA is getting five Type VIs. San Francisco is taking five. The Type VIs are all hazard. Should be going out shortly.
 - Had a delay in getting the engine's license plates. Due to Covid and the DMV shutdown.
 - Working on a preconstruction contract for 14 Type I replacement engines. HME was the successful bidder. Making some upgrades to the OES Type I engines. Preconstruction will be within the next couple of weeks. Contract is done. Also included in this contract is an option for four wheel drive Type I's. Working with assignees to see if there is any interest.
 - Some agencies had to pull back due to Covid and staffing issues.
 - One Type III is unassigned. Working through an issue in Region VI.
 - Of the 79 Type VIs, all but about 15 have been assigned.
- Prepositioning Update:
 - Prepositioning assets across the state.
 - In 2018, we had a total of 78 prepositions. In 2019, we had 126. In 2020 so far, we have had 61. Put together a quick criteria for civil unrest. Used some of the criteria from the San Diego Op Area Plan.
 - Continue to preposition resources when requests come in. A lot of dispatchers have been requested to help mobilize resources quickly. As Preposition Strike Teams have gone to their incidents we have kept the dispatchers on for supporting that.

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- A report was created for a preposition that was requested to be extended but no longer fit the criteria.
- Most departments have not filled out a survey after a request for prepositioning. We do not want a negative report going forward to the legislature. We need the information. Assistant Chiefs will be working on getting the surveys completed.
- In fiscal year 2021, so far, we have spent 5.2 million on prepositioning out of 25 million. Calendar year 5.5 million.

New Business

- Cal OES Operations Bulletin 1 Update:
 - Last meeting presented an updated Operations Bulletin 1. We have a pilot program going on in Region I. Utilizing LA City and County, Ventura and Orange County for getting resources on the road quickly. All hazard.
 - Asked for comments at the July meeting. Nothing substantial came back. But it is a change in the way we do business. Would like everyone to take a good look at it. Still more work to be done on the document. Would like to finalize at the January BoD meeting.
- FIRIS Program – Governance Update:
 - Discussed at last meeting.
 - Put in place last year by Orange County Fire Authority.
 - Was voted on and supported by the BoD. Sent to Director Ghilarducci.
 - Over the last few months we have been working on what the FIRIS Program would look like. The big issue was a governance document.
 - The funding source is local assistance. Several meetings with attorneys to work through issues. Orange County Fire Authority will be the program manager. Would be through a reimbursable contract from Cal OES. That is where we are today.
 - We have a FIRIS 1.0 flying and a FIRIS 2.0 will be flying shortly. All hazard.
- Technical and US & R Update:
 - Early this year an advisory committee was formed.
 - How we type, train, evaluate resources. Began talking about some of the things we need to do to improve the system. We have challenges in front of us. The mud and debris flow issues that we are going to face this winter may be significant.
 - We deployed assets to Butte County. Taking lessons learned from the Camp fire. Doing human remains detection. Almost 2,000 homes were searched by one type I team, one Type III team and two RTFs over the course of two weeks. This group is putting out an after action report on

FIRESCOPE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- things that went well and things that we need to improve on
- More discussions need to be had to ensure consistency on mobilization and operations. Should have a clear path forward at the January meeting.
 - ICS 800 Night Flying Guidelines Revision – Decision Process*:
 - The Aviation Specialist Group has been working through the guidelines and updating them. Important to move these guidelines along as we are still in fire season. Need to execute the changes as soon as possible.
 - Recommendations on night flying operations and how we are working in those types of environments. Hover filling at night.
 - FIRESCOPE 410-4 Election of Officers - All Levels*:
 - Chair of the Board by a nomination made by the Board of Directors to the Director of Cal OES for a two year term.
 - Vice-Chair selected by Board members for a two year term
 - May be selected from Northern and Southern California. But is not required.
 - Should have dialog on the way to hold the elections and who should be nominated. Schedule a special meeting. Officers to be installed at the January Meeting.

Motion: Hartwig

Second: Munsey

Approved

2021 Board of Director's Meetings

January	Santa Barbara
April	San Francisco
July	Orange County
October	Anaheim

Roundtable

Adjournment

Chief Osby moved for the meeting to be adjourned, approved at 1226