



DATE: Wednesday, October 20, 2021
Thursday, October 21, 2021

TIME: 1330-1700 Wednesday
0800-1030 BoD closed session
1030-1430 Thursday

LOCATION: Anaheim Convention Center

Call to Order

A FIRESCOPE Board of Director's meeting was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 and Thursday, October 21, 2021, at the Anaheim Convention Center. The meeting began at 1330 hours on October 20, 2021 and 0830 on October 21, 2021. It was presided by Chief Fennessy.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included:

Brian Fennessy, Chair, Orange County Fire Authority
Brian Glass, *representing*, County Fire Departments North
Brian Marshall, Executive Coordinator, Fire and Rescue, Cal OES
Vince Pena, *representing* Los Angeles County Fire Department
Aaron Duncan, Kern County Fire Department
Thom Porter, CALFIRE
Bob Baird, USFS Region 5
Al Poirier, *representing*, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Mark Hartwig, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Dustin Gardner *representing*, Ventura County Fire Department
Scott Lucas, Bureau of Land Management
Jose Velo, *representing*, City Fire Departments North
Colin Stowell, City Fire Departments South
Dan Munsey, Fire Districts South
Mike Richwine, Cal State Fire Marshall
Jeff Gilbert, Volunteer Fire Departments
Eddie Sell, California State Firefighters' Association
Maurice Johnson, Fire Districts North
Brian Rhodes, *representing*, USDA Forest Service

Members not in attendance included:

Robin Wills, National Park Service
Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters

Guests in attendance included:

Mark Ghilarducci, Cal OES, Director

Patrick Russell – Anaheim Fire Chief

Dave Gerboth, San Diego City Fire Department – Task Force Chair

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 July 7 & 8, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Johnson

Seconded: Gardner

Motion approved

Cal OES Director's Update

Cal OES Director's Report presented by Ghilarducci

- Appreciation for the commitment to this last year's mutual aid incidents.
- During this year's fire season, we had seven counties under a natural disaster declaration. Two communities were lost.
- Working on Covid resources, the complexity of interstate mutual aid and having a mandated Covid vaccine. How that is going to play on EMAC.
- This year's legislation session was very strong in the area of wildfire. Continues to be one of the primary prioritized areas at the state level and the California Legislature. Also, at the national level.
- This year's funding at the state level is approximately 1.4 billion with regards to efforts for all things fire mitigation. Grants are available for local governments to help build defensible space.
- Working very closely with the National Security Council at the White House on issues related to the national perspective of wildfire fighting. Issues in support of our federal partners. Also, everything from how resources can be amplified to building codes and home hardening in the west.
- The Governor signed into law, AB 38, which is a home and community hardening bill. Focusing on under serviced high-risk communities.
- S.C.O.U.T. is a situational awareness and collaborative tool. Taking it to the next level in a partnership with NG 911. First phase is fire service. Second phase will be law enforcement and other public safety entities. Plan is to roll out the improvements in the winter of 2022.
- FIRIS aircraft and Technosylva products. There is a lot happening in the area

- of technology.
- There still are a significant amount of FMAGs. FMAGs are not an automatic. The vetting process that it goes through before the federal government is like any other disaster declaration. An FMAG has to be an event of such nature that it has a potential of ending up in a major disaster declaration. At least 58 million dollars in damages or at least 1,200 homes.
 - FMAGs are currently going through a national review now.

Cal OES Fire & Rescue Update

Presented by Marshall

- About 600 fire engines were mobilized at the highest point of the fire season.
- Have been working with FEMA on the closing period of FMAGs. Continue to advocate for those agencies that submitted and received a FMAG.
- Reviewing the Mud and Debris Preposition Guidelines. Working on all of the preposition guidelines to make them more user friendly. Will be bringing an item for the January 2022 meeting to re-engage the Preposition Task Force Working Group.
- The FIRIS Program is doing some amazing things. Working on a transition project where OES takes over the FIRIS Program July 1, 2022.
- Working on next year's budget. A big part of it is the Fleet Replacement Plan.
- SB 209, The Wildfire Forecast Threat Intelligence Center was funded during the last budget and it's a collaboration with multiple agencies. Should be online by next fire season.
- With Chief Brother's passing, there will be a need to fill the Northern Deputy Chief position. There is also an opening for an Assistant Chief in Region VI. Recently filled the opening in Region V. Chief Van Arroyo is the new Assistant Chief for Region V.
- The California Training Fire and Rescue Authority shut down. Efforts are to move toward the California Specialized Training Institute. The dissolution of the JPA will be June 30, 2022. Classes will end in April as we make the final transition. Opening CSTI in January.

CALFIRE/SFM/SFT Update

Update presented by Porter/Tyler/Collins/Henning

- Cal Fire:
 - Thank you to all of the agencies for their support during this fire season.
 - During a twelve-month period, we had six of the seven largest fires in California's history. Every year it is getting worse. Need to look

toward the future and how the California Fire Service is going to rise to the occasion.

- October 1, on the wildland side, we were at 7,769 individual incidents. Last year, we were at 8,535.
- This year, almost 2.5 million acres. Last year, 4.2 million acres.
- The number of personnel didn't peak out as high as last year. Only made it to about 15,000. Not able to get as many resources from out of state. We didn't receive anybody from out of the country.
- So far this year for aerial delivery, 16.8 million gallons of retardant were delivered. 11 million gallons of water were delivered.
- In this year's budget, 14 million is going toward hand crew support in the counties of Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Kern and Marin. It came too late to hire for this year's fire season.
- The bulk of what we got for this year's budget was one-time funds.
- Have augmented grant programs for fuels and landscape management. Also, hardening of structures and communities.
- The forecast for the 2021-2022 budget cycle is more one-time funds.
- SB 109, a wildfire research and development program, will roll out next fiscal year.
- SB 209, has been in place for a year and a half. Will be staffed 365 days a year and 24 hours a day with meteorologists. S.C.O.U.T. will also be a part of this center.
- Approved to be at peak staffing through December 31st.
- Most dire situation is with the lack of hand crews. Currently, 120 of 213 inmate crews are staffed.
- The present reality is there is growing pressure for CAL FIRE to use private hand crews due to the decrease of our available Cal FIRE hand crews. We either will have to use the private hand crews or there will have to be a substantial increase in funding & staffing to develop agency based hand crews. Hand Crews are critical to our firefighting arsenal and this is a "Red Hot Item".
- Had three air tankers and eight helicopters on exclusive use. They have now gone off of exclusive use. Some have been transitioned into CWN to keep them available. After 2021, they won't be flying the helicopters at night.
- The C130 Program has been delayed. Looking at alternatives with members of Congress.
- By the end of the year expecting changes in the Cal Fire leadership due to retirements and staffing changes.
- SB 206 passed. Related to the Firefighter Bill of Rights. Will provided evidentiary hearings to seasonal Firefighter 1s.

- State Fire Marshal:
 - Thank you to staff that was able to attend the International Code Council Hearings for the 2022 Building and Fire Model Codes that the office will be bringing to California and making amendments for the 2023 Building and Fire Codes that will be effective July 1, 2023. Recently the hearings were a success. Voting will continue in the next few weeks. Looking forward to those new code provisions.
 - The Fire and Life Safety Division has been busy with a construction boom.
 - Had a 43% vacancy rate four years ago and now less than 10%. Recently had a graduation of 19 new Deputy State Fire Marshals.
 - Have some promotions and positions that they are working on filling. Conducting interviews for a new division chief in State Fire Training. Will have two new division chiefs in Fire and Life Safety and two new arson and bomb investigators.
 - The Legislature and the Governor's Office has appropriated millions of dollars towards wildland fire prevention community resilience.
 - The different Assembly Bills that affect the agency were discussed.
- 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 Firefighter I, previously were requiring task book completion and experience to get signed off. Now it has been modified and they can apply for certification as soon as the certification exams are completed. If they wait until after the end of the year, they will need to retake the state exam.
 - Introduced a temporary program to allow persons to become a Chief Fire Officer without an associate degree. Currently can use a combination of education and experience. This program will be available through December 2022.
 - Started cadre work. Took 2020 off due to Covid. Have had their Structural Collapse cadre meet. Are going to meet virtually in December. Hoping to have all the material go to STEAC by the January meeting.

- Currently updating their website and moving to a new building.
- Implemented the first fee adjustment in January. The fee is working, and it is bringing in needed revenue. Will be using the full contract amount with Sacramento State University to push as much new curriculum as possible.
- By the beginning of next year will be accepting applications for cadres for updates to Vehicle Extrication, and Firefighter Survival to bring them up to the NFPA 1006 standard. .
- Looking at updating Trench Rescue to bring it into compliance with NFPA 1006 standard.
- STEAC met at the beginning of the month. They asked to look at and evaluate the further expansion of our IFSAC and Pro Board accreditation certification levels. Some of the levels that they asked to be looked at are the Instructor series, Company Officer and the Driver Operator Pump. Not seeing very many certifications coming in for these levels right now.

USFS/DOI Update

Update presented by Baird/Lucas

- USFS
 - Have had 140,000 more acres burn this year than last year.
 - Issues with staffing the Incident Management Teams. Brought in many teams from out of region.
 - Retired the Cobra helicopter. Have invested that money into UAS.
 - The Federal Vaccine Mandate has been challenging. November 18, 2021 is the deadline for all federal employees to be vaccinated. Expecting some impact from that. It will be a condition of employment for next year.
 - The President has ensured that Federal Firefighters will not be paid below minimum wage. Some of the lower grade employees that weren't at minimum wage were given a \$1,000 bonus.
 - Haven't had a permanent director since June of 2020.
 - There is a proposal being put forward by the IHC communities. How do we build resiliency? The members of these crews are each working 1,300 hours of overtime in six-month period. Proposing to add an additional module to those crews and go back to a 30-person Hotshot Crew. The intent is to give a module of that crew a week off in between assignments.
 - Putting a proposal together to put forward to the Washington office to increase night flying capability here in California for the Forest Service. If it is approved in 2022, they are looking at adding a Helco

platform to Southern California. The intent is to separate their night air attack platform out from under the Type II helicopter. Looking to add two additional water dropping helicopters.

➤ DOI

- After seven years they have a new director. A lot of talk about energy and renewables. A lot of focus on wildland fire.
- Nationally BLM was pretty quiet this year. Only two large incidents.
- Still having issues with logistics. Trying to come up with creative solutions.
- Challenges with the back log of invoices between cooperatives and private. Don't have the infrastructure to pay the bills as quickly as they would like to.
- BLM would like the tools to staff what they already have. As they build operationally, not to forget about the other components that they need to support their organization.
- For fiscal year 2022 preparedness, no increase. Getting an increase in fuels funding. Trying to figure out how to spend that. They have a lot of good ideas that are going to require a high level of collaboration with their partners to get it spent and to get good fuels mitigation work done on the ground.
- Fiscal year 2023, an increase in fuels and preparedness. Not sure how much of an increase.
- Nationally continuing with their Mental Resilience and Suicide Prevention Program for fire personnel. Have put a clinical psychologist out of Reno on retainer. He is visiting every BLM fire station across the nation.

➤ NPS

- No report.

Emerging Technologies for WL Operations Presentation

Presentation given by Damian Guilliani

UAS Utilization during the 2021 Fire Season Video Presentation

Report presented by Gerboth/Lyndsay Alarcon

Behavioral Health SG – Updated Links on Website Presentation

Presentation given by Kevin Molloy

Ops Team / Task Force Report

Report presented by Poirier/Gerboth

- Task Force Report

- 2022 FOG Manual & App Revision Update - FIRESCOPE 50th Anniversary Recognition/"What's New"*
 - Informational only
- Quarterly Briefing – Summer 2021*
 - Motion: Stowell
 - Second: Baird
 - Approved
- FIRESCOPE Specialist Group/Subcommittee Reorganization*
 - Motion: Porter
 - Second: Gilbert
 - Approved
- FIRESCOPE Wildland Preplan White Paper*
 - Motion: Baird
 - Second: Stowell
 - Approved
- USFA IMT Performance Capability by Complexity Update*
 - Informational only
- Aviation SG – Pilot Carding & HLCO Update
 - Informational only
- 2021 TS&R OSD Update
 - Informational only
- Specialist & Working Group Updates
 - Informational only
- Ops Team Report
 - Last meeting was on September 22nd and was held virtually.
 - The items in the Task Force Report today were discussed at that meeting.

EMS Update

Update presented by Hartwig/Thompson.

- Pushed to next quarter's meeting.

CFAA Update

Update presented by Marshall/Porter/Baird/Lucas/Lorenzen/Gilbert/Heggstrom/Lopez.

- Pushed to next quarter's meeting.

CWCG Update

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

- The California Wildfire Coordinating Group has been very active. Meeting often. Working frequently. Better quality of work.

- There has been a lot of discussion regarding federal requirements for Covid testing on federal incidents. Can only require federal personnel to get tested. The testing is available for everyone.
- Mandate is affecting FEMA's US&R Task Forces in California.
- Taking a hard look at the Incident Management Teams. Had to put teams down to put other teams up. Nationwide issue.
- Looking at roster composition. Concerned with how much effort is put into the 50 something person roster in April and when it launches that it matches going to an incident. Talking about changing the selection to ICs, command and general staff.
- Doing what they can to support local governments. Trying to make the process less cumbersome.
- Tasked to put documents together for educating IMTs that are here from outside of California, so that they will have information on our rules. Asked to put together a list of how it will all look for the April meeting with the IMTs.

Old Business

Update presented by Fennessy/Meston/Marshall/Vail.

- Blue Ribbon Commission Update
 - Pushed to next quarter's meeting.
- Maximizing Resource Mobilization during Fire Siege Events*
 - Revisiting this subject. Would like to come back to where we left off with the Task Force concept several years ago. The history of it and why it never moved forward.
 - How to maximize the mobilization of available single resources.
 - Staffing shortages.
 - Incidents can order multiple resources. It doesn't always have to be a Strike Team.
 - Discussion to be continued at the next meeting.
- Private Fire Resources AB 2380*
 - Pushed to next quarter's meeting.
- CICC Update*
 - Pushed to next quarter's meeting.
- FIRIS Program Update
 - Pushed to next quarter's meeting.
- OES Type I Engine Upgrade (Fire Following Earthquakes)
 - Pushed to next quarter's meeting.

New Business

- Presentation – Intelligence Aircraft Product and Capability Typing and

Standardization

- Presentation given by Stanley Kubota.
- Presentation – ATT First Net Update
 - Presentation was given by Kristi Mercado.
- Discussion: Adding Agencies/Associations to Board Membership – MACS 410-4
 - Discussion led by Brian Fennessy and Brian Marshall
 - Other agencies/associations would like to have a seat on the FIRESCOPE Board.
 - Advised them to put together a formal letter indicating that they want a seat on the Board and why.
 - Be prepared to speak about it virtually or in person for a couple of minutes.
 - Speak about why the agency/association feels that they aren't being represented and need to be represented on the FIRESCOPE Board.
 - 410-4 is fairly vague and needs to be updated. The Board can come up with recommendations, but the director of Cal OES has the final decision.
 - May need to have another ad-hoc group made up of board members to have further discussion regarding this.
 - Heard from Nathan Gogna virtually who is the Regional Fire Managing Officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His agency would like to be represented on the Board of Directors.
 - Heard from Los Angeles Area Chief's Association. Sylvio Lanzas, Fire Chief from Glendale and the director of the association. Would like to be part of this group.
 - Heard from Chief Ray Gayk – President of Cal Chiefs Association. Would like Cal Chiefs represented on the FIRESCOPE Board.
- Presentation – Cal Guard Operational Update
 - Presentation given by Jeff Smiley
- Blue Force Tracking – Specialist Group Assignment Marshall
 - Might need to do a survey.
 - Who is going to track it? Who is going to take care of the cost of it?
 - The Task Force has the experts to start working on this. Problem identification and solutions.
 - Would like the Task Force to come back in January with some workflow.

2022 Board of Director's Meetings

January 12 & 13, 2022	El Dorado Hills
April 6 & 7, 2022	San Diego
July 6 & 7, 2022	Sacramento (Cal Fire)
October 5 & 6, 2022	Los Angeles (LA Co FD)

Roundtable

Adjournment

Chief Fennessy moved for the meeting to be adjourned, approved at 1718 on Day 1 and 1425 on Day 2.

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