

-FIREScope-
A RECORD OF SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS

1971-

92nd Congress approves funding for Forest Service Research to design a system that will "make a quantum jump in the capabilities of southern California wildland fire protection agencies to effectively coordinate interagency action and to allocate suppression resources in dynamic, multiple-fire situations."

(Congressional records)
(Implementation Plan)

1972-

Forest Service Research establishes a Research, Development, and Application Program to design the system. A Program Charter is developed and approved by Chief of the Forest Service.

(First RD&A Charter)

1973-

The first "FIREScope Technical Team" is established to guide Research design. The first Team is composed of representatives from a variety of agencies and private contracting firms.

(Tech Team notes, 6-73)

1974-

Technical Team membership is re-defined to: Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments, OES, CDF, USFS, Ventura and Santa Barbara County Fire Departments, and the Lake Arrowhead Fire Protection District.

(Tech Team notes, 1-74)

Technical Team reaches general agreement of the concept of FIREScope as suggested in "A Discussion of FIREScope System Functions and Enabling Policies" (MRC/SDC, 12/24/73). Briefly, the concept included:

- Operational Concept
- System functions
- Regional Coordination, with OES to manage
- Incident Organization
- Agency Commitments
- Mapping
- "Mini-Mac" for 1974

(Tech Team notes, 1-74)

Members of the Technical Team, acting as representatives of their agencies, sign a formal agreement ("FIREScope Multi-Agency Coordination System Development Agreement") that outlines MACS.

1975-

On May 8, the Program Office presents a paper ("Proposed FIREScope System"). On June 20, the objectives in the paper are accepted.

The objectives include:

- ICS operational objectives
- IR telemetry to ICP's and OCC
- Orthophoto Mapping
- MACS support by OES

(Agency Policy Meeting, 6-75)

The term "Strike Team" is accepted.

(Agency Policy Meeting, 8-75)

Agencies support the design of a computer system that will provide:

- Resource and situation status
- Data bases
- Regional meteorological data processing
- Fire spread predictions
- Resource allocation planning

(Agency Policy Meeting 9-75)

The first draft of the FIREScope Decision Making process is accepted. The "Agency Policy Committee" becomes the "Board of Directors".

(Agency Policy Meeting, 9-75)

1976-

The "OES Role Statement", formally assigning the administrative responsibility for managing MACS to the OES, is accepted by the Board.

(BOD signature page, 3-76)

Board of Directors approves a six-month trial of the "Operations Team".

(Regional Forester memo 7-76)

1977-

By positive replies to a follow-up letter from the Regional Forester, all Board members agree to continue the Operations Team. (This is the second revision of the Decision Process.)

(Regional Forester memo, 1-13-77)

The "FIREScope Implementation Plan - January 1977", is approved in concept as outlining the process and goals of the implementation effort, subject to annual review and approval of the continuing effort. The need to emphasize urban applications is recognized.

(Board Meeting, 2-10-77)

CDF and OES agree to pursue State funding for the State and local shares for OCC budget for FY 77-78. (\$50,000)

(op cit)

The Board disapproves a third version of the Decision Process, and their modifications are worked into a "Revision 4" which is approved on July 7. This adds Training and Communications Specialist Groups.

(Prog. Mgr. memo 7-21-77)

1978-

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding was agreed to for State FY 79-80. The OES agreed to request State funds for this purpose. An agreement was reached which provided that the State and local share of O&M (to be obtained, if possible, by OES) would be 75% of the annual OCC/MACS support costs, and 25% would be born by the Forest Service. This reflects the fact that 25% of the FIREScope region is under Forest Service administration.

(Board notes 9-8-78)

The Board agrees to "provide for the planning, integration, evaluation and implementation of various urban applications in the FIREScope Program".

(op cit)

In June, as a result of long-term studies and Operations Team recommendations, the Board agrees that the Program Office should proceed with acquisition of a dedicated computer system.

(FIREScope Data Processing History-
Aug. 1980)

First-year trial of the "interim OCC" at CDF Regional Headquarters was deemed acceptable, and the Board supported the Program Office and CDF cooperation to expand the facility.

(Board Notes 11-27-28-78)

Board members sign commitment to improve and maintain Situation and Resource Status reporting procedures.

(op cit)

Board members also sign commitment to implement the Incident Command System.

(op cit)

The Board reaffirmed the belief that all non-Federal funding for FIREScope O&M costs should be a State responsibility.

(op cit)

1979:

Board approved the first recommendations from the Communications Specialist Group. Essentially, these recommendations provide a plan to install synthesizer radios in key agency vehicles to improve communications on multi-agency initial and extended attack situations.

(Board notes 3-14-79)

Board endorses a revised Implementation budget which plans for \$3.7 million annually. The budget also indicates the "stream" of

O&M funding which will rise to approximately \$600,000 annual cash outlay for State and local partners when the system is completed.
(op cit)

Board adopts the "5-incident" capability option in the FIREScope Economic Effectiveness Study (Aerospace Corp. Jan. 1979) as the design level criteria for implementation planning.
(op cit)

A previous decision, that O&M cost sharing formula should be 25% Federal, and 75% State responsibilities was reaffirmed.
(op cit)

The Board approved the Position Statement titled "Integrated Fire Management in Southern California" to express their consensus that the wildland-urban fire problem was multifaceted.
(Board notes 7-31-8-1-79)

The first version of the Multi Agency Coordination System (MACS) Goals and Functional Requirements was approved.
(op cit)

The Board directed a sixth version of the Decision Process which would show the Program Manager as "Executive Secretary" with directional responsibility over the Operations Team, Task Force, and Specialist Groups.
(op cit)

1980-

All partner agencies sign the FIREScope Frequency Sharing Agreement which allows other agencies to use certain assigned frequencies from any given agency (with permission) under emergency conditions.
(Board notes 3-14-80)

Board approves the hardware/software design for the FIREScope Information Management System (FIMS).
(op cit)

The Board directed that any MACS/OCC "alternatives studied or developed must include the provision that Forest Service, CDF, and OES dispatching operations are to be colocated ..."
(op cit)

The Board approved a two-phase plan to (1) provide an additional 1700 square feet to the interim OCC in Federal FY 81, and (2) have CDF and OES explore options for State funding of another 2800 square foot addition in State FY 81-82.
(Board notes 6-18-80)

A decision was reached that the membership of the Board should not be expanded to include other agencies. Principle logic for this decision rested on the fact that other agencies are, and should be, represented by OES.
(op cit)

The Board supported the Program Office "Software Development Process and ADP Program of Work for Federal FY 81-83."

(Board notes 10-22-80)

Two additional personnel, to work for the OCC Support/Services Manager were supported, as was the Manager's long-term staffing plan, with the provision that future proposals for additional staff would be made to the Board before July 1 of the year prior to the need for the position.

(op cit)

The OES was authorized to meet with the State Fire Marshall to develop ways to integrate state-wide training with the FIREScope Program.

(op cit)

OES was designated as "Lead Agency", with CDF support, to take necessary actions to obtain funding for Phase II of interim OCC expansion. Forest Service was designated "Lead Agency" for development of a final OCC plan and location process.

(op cit)

All Board members signed an agreement to progress toward a uniform FIREScope Mapping system.

(op cit)

Qualified ICS Advisors are to be dispatched to all potentially critical incidents.

(op cit)

1981-

CDF, OES, and State Fire Marshall all sign a "Statement of Intent" establishing a mutual commitment to support the FIREScope Program.

(Board notes 2-81)

The Board approved a response to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group which generally supported the national adoption of a uniform emergency management organization. This organizational structure, referred to as "NIIMS" is basically the FIREScope ICS.

(Board notes 5-81)

Board approves the "1981 MACS Procedures"

(op cit)