



FIRESCOPE Aviation Working Group

Meeting minutes for November 7, 2013 at LACoFD Fire Camp 2

Attendees

Tom Short - LAC
Darlene Hall - USFS
Kipp Morrill - BLM
Ken Hood - BLM
Ralph Domanski - CalOES
Scot Davison - LFD
Heidi Dinkler - KRN
Sean Aidukas - USFS
Philip Ketel - USFS
Mike Sagely - LAC
Tim Ernst - LFD
Peter Benesch - LFD
Joel Harrison - LAC
Jeff Carlson - OCFA
Dave Lopez - OCFA
Don Brady – KRN

Notes prepared by Heidi Dinkler

Minutes for the April 11, 2013 meeting were approved. The group decided that future meeting notes can be approved by members via email. The notes can then be posted to the FIRESCOPE website in a more timely manner.

Intros and Updates:

How is this group going to get tasked from here on out. Most of the plan of work items have been addressed. Ralph Domanski will assist with this. We can be tasked or we can task ourselves.

Find the old minutes and send to Ralph Domanski. He will post to the website.

Topics:

Night Flying - Tom Short. LACoFD had the most contact with the USFS ship. Had early fire activity. Vehicle over the side with victims and fire. worked all night. Preseason meeting at Camp 9. Good coordination between departments.

Mike Sagely - Early on there were concerns about integrating an agency's aircraft into the night flying world. However, had guidance of the NVG guidelines, little political pressure to rush the start and operation. Concerns were openly addressed and helped with

communications, and use of pre-established helispots. Also concerned that there would be pressure to use NVG when it's not needed - that was not an issue. The 4 guidelines for dropping at night were very useful. Crawl, Walk, Run is the motto.

Sean Aidukas - 6 ATGS's will be qualified to run the NVG Air Attack. Trying to have an exclusive use ATGS platform and ATGS personnel in place by next fire season. Should come with some FLIR capability.

Phil Ketel - Took time to bring program online. Wanted to ensure good crew CRM. Helicopter Express has the contract for the next 4 years. Should bring some consistency to the program.

Side discussion about next year's NVG drill. Kern will host. Pat Williams will be the contact. Anaheim and Orange County PD's were included in the drill. Pat needs to get a briefing from Dave Lopez on after action items from the last drill. Include plenty of daylight time to pre-brief pilots and crews.

Dave Lopez - NVG guidelines. OC wants to discuss the duty time limitations. This item needs to be added to the Plan of Work. Different agency's use different limits. LACoFD uses 8 hours total flight, with max of 5 hours of NVG.

SA - additions to IHOG are being accepted at this time. This might be a good time for this group to add NVG recommendations.

Lots of discussion about duty times, jurisdiction and cooperator issues, Part 91, 135, pilot staffing agency to agency (pilot depth), mission driven pressure on operators, fatigue management programs. LAFD is working with a Phd. candidate on fatigue management program and decision making for 24 hours operators.

The NVG guideline seems useful and practical for all agency's. The USFS based their contract on it.

Hoisting:

TS - Art Negrety, Consultant to CalFire for their Hoist program.

Do we want as a group to take on development of a Hoist Guideline document. Lots of discussion about using National Guard Hoist program and what CalFire would like help with. Dan Reese (via phone) - quick reminder of 3 recent hoist accidents. Las Vegas, Park Service and Sac Metro. in meetings regarding interoperability, what guidance is there for hoist operations. Do we have minimum standards for hoist? As a group should we look at this? Especially for big event like earthquake. Thinks there is a need for this kind of document, including Military assets and using the in the all-risk environment. Would be included in state emergency plans for catastrophic events. No comprehensive plan for the use of aircraft and rescue aircraft in large scale events.

Ralph Domanski - explanation of how the FIRESCOPE groups can be tasked. From above or from the group. A request goes to the Task Force for approval as a Plan of Work item. Remember FIRESCOPE is how departments work together and resources are ordered on interagency assignments. Minimum guidelines.

Lunch

Ken Hood will take the request for a Hoist Guideline to the Task Force. Dave Lopez will provide a draft framework of the guideline. Ken will let the group know if it will be approved as a Plan of Work item. Have agency's review the framework and come prepared to hammer out a document in April.

Group would like to invite San Bernardino County Fire Dept. to the next meeting

Review of the Plan of Work
Updates captured by Joel Harrison

Discussion of Public Aircraft Operations. Suggestion for all to attend the Government Services Committee at HAI. Ask them to pursue further explanation of Public Use

KH - will notify communications and other groups that if they have issues related to air, let us know and we will send a liason.

Use of the predator on the RIM - good technology but no one was quite sure what to do with it.

Send out PSACC info to members

Next meeting April 10th, 2014, at Camp 2