



# FIRESCOPE



**FIRE AND RESCUE COMMITTEE  
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Burbank Fire Department Training Center  
1845 N. Ontario St  
Burbank CA 91505  
July 8, 2009**

**MEMBERS:**

Michael Freeman, Los Angeles Co. FD, Chair  
Bob Roper, Ventura County Fire Department, Vice Chair  
Kim Zagaris, Cal- EMA, OES Fire and Rescue, Executive Coordinator  
Chuck Knapp, California State Firefighter's Association  
Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighter's Association  
Douglas Barry, Los Angeles FD  
Del Walters, Cal Fire  
Craig Barnes, Bureau of Land Management  
Pat Dennen, San Bernardino Co. FD, Fire Districts- South  
Ken Wagner- Roseville FD- Fire Departments North  
Richard Webb-Linda FPD- Fire Districts North  
Ed Hollingshead, USFS- Fire and Aviation  
Jim Wilson, Mariposa County  
Nick Dunn, Kern County Fire  
Sue Husari, National Park Service

**GUESTS:**

Jack Froggett, Kern County Fire  
Dave Rocha, Alameda Co. FD- Counties North  
Bob Doyle, Glendale Fire  
Tom Lenahan, Burbank Fire  
Dan Drake, Orange Co. Fire Authority  
Steve Sellers, Cal- EMA  
Tom Drayer, Cal EMA, OES Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE  
Deneen Phillips, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE  
Chad Stokes, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue  
Pat O'Bannon, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE  
Mario Rueda, Los Angeles FD, FIRESCOPE Ops Team, Vice Chair  
Mark Schmidt, Santa Barbara Co. FD, FIRESCOPE Ops Team, Secretary  
Tom Carlyle, Santa Barbara Co. FD  
Dave Stone, FIRESCOPE Task Force, Chair

**WELCOME AND LOGISTICS:**

Burbank Fire Department Training Center, Burbank CA



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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**Chief Freeman**

*Action Item- Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting minutes.*

**CAL EMA SECRETARY REPORT**

**Assistant Secretary Steve Sellers- Cal EMA**

Secretary Bettenhausen sends his regards as he is in Washington D.C. this week. We feel good about the recent FEMA appointments that have been made back East. FEMA Region 9 Chief Nancy Ward is back and we are very excited about that. Cal EMA organization has been established. The Org chart was finalized last week. Fundamentally for the Fire Branch everything remains the same.

The Governor issued a new executive order keeping Blue Ribbon Commission in place.

In terms of the budget itself, we have suffered some staff re-directions in Cal EMA. We have been utilizing all unfilled vacancies in order to keep all of our employees working. Starting Friday, most State government offices will begin closing three days a month to save to offset costs. The shutdowns are part of Governor Schwarzenegger's order to furlough state employees, effectively reducing their pay about 14 percent. The closures are intended to aid the state as it wrestles with a steep decline in tax revenues. With the State now issuing IOUs and no budget agreement in sight, the Governor used his emergency powers to impose a third monthly furlough day starting this month to save an additional \$425 million this year.

The Emergency Response Initiative is alive and well. The ERI proposes a 4.8% emergency response surcharge on all new or renewed commercial and residential fire or multi-peril insurance premiums in California. The revenue generated would be directly allocated to local fire agencies, Cal-FIRE and Cal-EMA for the express purpose of funding critical emergency mutual aid response, equipment and other needed resources.

**CAL FIRE/SFM UPDATE**

**Director Walters**

Following two straight years of below-average rainfall, very low snowmelt runoff and the largest court-ordered water transfer restrictions in state history, Governor Schwarzenegger on June 4<sup>th</sup>, proclaimed a statewide drought and issued an Executive Order,....



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**CAL FIRE/SFM UPDATE** (continued)

.....which takes immediate action to address a dire situation where numerous California communities are being forced to mandate water conservation or rationing.

The Executive Order directs the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to:

- Facilitate water transfers to respond to emergency shortages across the state.
- Work with local water districts and agencies to improve local coordination.
- Help local water districts and agencies improve water efficiency and conservation.
- Coordinate with other state and federal agencies and departments to assist water suppliers, identify risks to water supply and help farmers suffering losses.
- Expedite existing grant programs to help local water districts and agencies conserve.

Last month, DWR's final snow survey of 2008 showed snowpack water content at only 67 percent of normal and the runoff forecast at only 55 percent of normal. As conditions continue to worsen across California, it underscores the state's need for infrastructure improvements to capture excess water in wet years to use in dry years like this one.

Ensuring all state resources are available to prepare for and fight wildfires, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today directed his Department of Personnel Administration to exempt all California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) employees from the statewide furlough program during the 2009 and 2010 fire seasons. So we are able to work without Furloughs until October.

Additionally in preparation, the Governor issued an Executive Order S-05-09 last month mobilizing CAL FIRE to secure and deploy additional resources and personnel necessary to save lives and protect homes statewide from wildfires. He also issued a proclamation declaring May 2nd to 9th "Wildfire Awareness Week" to urge all Californians to do their part to prevent wildfires.

State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan retired as of June 30. Tonya L. Hoover was named Acting State Fire Marshal on June 30, 2009.

We have lost 17 million out of our mobile equipment replacement budget.

Last week, I visited with CHP and also Department of Corrections. With the Highway Patrol, I visited with the Commissioner just to find out if there were any issues for us with them and it appears that there is not. With Corrections I visited with them and they were very concerned about the proposals and a possibility of inmate release.



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**CAL FIRE/SFM UPDATE** (continued)

It is anticipated that 60% of our current camp population will be exempted from any of the proposed releases. Even if they determined to exempt any of those proposals today they could not implement them in time to effect this fire season.

**INSURANCE PRESENTATION- DAVIES**

Mr. Davies provided a PowerPoint presentation and facilitated an open discussion as to the insurance agency's integrated support of the fire service.

**CALSIEC UPDATE**

**Chief Penido**

Chief Richter will be the new FIRESCOPE representative on CALSIEC, replacing Chief Barry. The California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC) has been tasked with managing the state and federally designated interoperability spectrum on behalf of all of our public safety first responders. In December of 2008, they adopted language within the Charter that will increase the membership from 19 members to 46 one from the North and one from the South. Please note that the FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group is very much involved.

Effective 2010 we will be narrow banded and will be renaming and reprogramming our current channel lineups. Michael Crews is assigned to CTD T-Comm in his role as our Communications Interoperability Coordinator. He will now have two assistants their duties will be to present the state views to the locals and get the locals views and present it to the state.

Next CALSIEC meeting is October 15 at Cal EMA headquarters.

- **Action Item-** Chief Barry will identify an alternate for the FIRESCOPE representative on CALSIEC



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**CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP ECONOMIC SUMMIT**

This summit was held in Sacramento and various fire service agencies were in attendance. We can together to talk about the economic issues that we are all facing and we came up with a group of talking points that were distributed as a draft to the group that attended. We would like to put those on to the Cal Fire website and the CPF website.

We talked about the importance of the mutual aid system and the fact that it is stretched very thin and the economic impacts of that. We talked about the Governors' recognition of the statewide nature of the California disaster response network and the impacts of mutual aid in general because of that. We also talked a lot about the Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) and the importance of the California fire service to that.

It is a 4.8% fee/increase in insurance premium to the local homeowners/property owners to generate revenue for Cal EMA, Cal Fire, National Guard and 150 million for local government and the way that would be distributed it is a per capita/ per district destitution formula. The other thing the group recognized is the importance of keeping Cal Fire whole and to continue to support local government. These talking points should be posted on to the Cal Chief website next week.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ERI) UPDATE**

**Lou Paulson**

**This initiative provides California's emergency responders with the resources they need to**

- Fund full peak-season staffing of 336 fire engines with 1,100 seasonal firefighters.
- Ensure that OES continues to have the ability to respond to disasters and utilize its Warning

**The May Revise updates and improves the Governor's January proposal.** While all Californians



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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ERI) UPDATE** (continued)

- 1.40 percent on those structures in areas designated as high hazard zones in terms of
  - This will result in an average cost of about \$12.60 per household
- 0.75 percent on those structures in low hazard zones.
  - This will result in an average cost of about \$6.75 per household

**BREAK**

**USFS STRUCTURE FIRE MEMO UPDATE**

**Chief Hollingshead**

Our new Chief of the Forest is Tom Tidwell he has been with the USFS for 32-years. He recently served as a Regional Forester in Northern California.

In the Forest Service I feel that there are 3 layers in regards to the .25 percent issue:

- Are there places that we are putting ourselves in positions that are not ours?  
If we are then we need to figure out ways to coordinate that with local jurisdictions and remove ourselves.

- In Rural areas we are the only agency in town how do we help the local jurisdiction.
- .25 percent a quarter of the fires that we fight annually gets big and cost us about 90% of our suppression expenditures. We are about 99.75 % effective at keeping fires at fewer than 500 acres. These are the long duration, very expensive fires. Last year the Forest Service in Region 5 spent  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a billion dollars in fire suppression. So we got the attention of congress and a number of others. We have been working on this for a long time.

So this .25 strategy is to identify ahead of time with the information that we have such as time, weather, fuels, etc. What are the likely forest and locations where these fires are likely to happen? In California it is a standard list, In Northern California it is the Klamath, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, Mendocino, and a few in the sierra. The fires in Southern California cost a lot of money but don't last as long except for the Los Angeles National Forest. So the idea is after we identify the list (Top 30 National), is to go to the communities to work with officials and cooperators and come up with a plan of attack.



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**USFS STRUCTURE FIRE MEMO UPDATE** (continued)

Identifying were the problems have been thru out the years. It seems to be a success already it is bringing people together early to discuss the potential of a fire and plan ahead and see what we would do different.

**The Board asked is there some action the board should consider @ this time regarding Mutual Aid. The Board decided to take no action at this time but to monitor.**

Follow-up Discussion and Action Item- *Chief Roper* stated that it is important for the Board to re-affirm that all levels of our system, that reimbursement mechanisms remain in place in order to keeping the system intact. It is very important to us all to handle our own local fire problems. We recognize that there is a financial situation in the State but we also recognize that we are all in this together. If there is anyone who would like to help to craft this letter, please send Chief Roper an email.

- **Action Item-** *Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to craft an advising letter to local government from the FIRESCOPE BOD from the board indentifying our State's current economic situation and the fact that we have discussed within FIRESCOPE.*

## **LUNCH**

## **FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM REPORT**

**Chief Rueda**

### **Meetings held since last BOD meeting**

Mammoth, June, 4-5, 2009 with Task Force  
Conference Call, May 4, 2009

The primary focus of the May conference call was to set the agenda for the Mammoth meeting and to review the 4 applications on file for the OES Region IV representative to the Ops Team. The focus of the Mammoth meeting was continued discussion on several topics up to and including structure protection triage and terminology, an overview of the FIRESCOPE program and the FIRESCOPE Decision Process; an overview of the NIMS Incident Operations Standards



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**FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM REPORT** (continued)

Working Team and NIMS Incident Management Working Group; and a comprehensive review and edit of the MACS 429, Incident Priority Rating Matrix and the continued progress of the FIRESCOPE MACS 410-1 Working Group.

**MACS After-Action Report Update**

The FIRESCOPE Ops Team and the Task Force continued moving forward with the re-write of the 410-1. The sub-group of subject matter experts that was convened to review all MACS documents and consolidate MACS information has completed the final draft of the MACS 429, Incident Priority Matrix, of which the Task Force provided to the Ops Team with a recommendation to approve and move the document to the Board at their January, 2010 meeting. One additional agenda item of importance discussed at the Mammoth meeting was the status and review of the current MACS 410-3, Fire

The FIRESCOPE Operations Team comprehensively reviewed and edited the MACS 429 to include an all-hazards perspective applicable to both California and the Nation; and will continue to monitor the Work Group and the Task Force's process with a scheduled presentation of the MACS 410-1 Weather Warning Program Guide and the progress underway of the revision by the FIRESCOPE Predictive Services Group.

**Structure Protection Triage and Terminology**

The FIRESCOPE Operations Team entertained a presentation made by Los Angeles Fire Department's Battalion Chief Chuck Butler entitled, "Structure Triage; A Case for Common Terminology".

This presentation discussed and offered comparisons of the three current models being reviewed by several California fire departments and the IOSWT. The concern expressed by both the Ops Team and the Task Force was primarily that the programs being evaluated provide standardization and clear definitions of terminology, consistent with ICS and in accordance with California State Fire Training. The Ops Team will continue to study and monitor the progress in order that we may eventually make an informed selection of the best practice(s), as they apply to California and provide that recommendation back to the Board.





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**FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM REPORT** (continued)

**Predictive Services—Red Flag; MACS 410-3**

The Ops Team and Task Force participated in a discussion led by the USFS regarding the history of the Red Flag program and the current status of that program and its financial impacts upon the fire service. The purpose of this discussion was to determine and understand the number of warnings that are being issued and the potential impacts on the fire service in mobilizing resources for what may eventually become a non-event. This discussion was a follow-up from the original presentation in Shell Beach in January and the meeting between the NWS and the Fire Service in Orange County in March. The end result is a rewrite of the 410-3, currently underway by the FIRESCOPE Predictive Services Group with the intent to upload that revision back through the Decision Process; with the eventual goal being that FIRESCOPE and the NWS remain in alignment on their criteria.

**Air Ops/Water Dropping Aircraft and Water Contamination**

The Invasive Species issue is still on the table and assigned to the FIRESCOPE Aviation Specialist Group. Their progress on this issue and the annual aviation assets availability spreadsheet was placed on hold due to the cancellation of the scheduled meeting during the Jesusita Incident. They will reconvene soon to continue with this work.

**Future Planned Meetings**

November, 2009	Conference Call
January, 2010	Shell Beach – with Task Force
March, 2010	Conference Call
June, 2010	Mammoth Meeting – with Task Force

**TASK FORCE REPORT**

**Chief Stone**

**FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE (FOG – ICS 420-1)**

- The 2007 FOG reprint begin arriving this month. A total of 50,000 were ordered.
- The 2010 FOG will begin review and revision at the July 2009 meeting.



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**TASK FORCE REPORT** (continued)

**Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)**

- The Task Force conducted a MACS Orientation Class on May 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a Video/Tele Conference held in three locations (South Ops, North Ops and McClellan). The new MACS process was “beta tested” by the group. The reviews by the participants were very positive.
- The Task Force is continuing to monitor the progress of the MACS Work group and provide input to the Group as well as updates to the Operations Team. The MACS 410-1 is still on schedule to be included on the January 2010 Board Agenda for review and approval.

**Task Force/Specialist-Working Group Membership**

- The Task Force welcomed a new member at the May meeting at South Ops. Brit Rosso, FMO, National Park Service. He represents the Department of the Interior.
- The new reformed U.S.A.R. Specialist Group is scheduled to meet at Los Angeles City Fire Station #88 on July 7, 2009. The Liaisons are: Assistant Chief Greg West (LFD) and Division Chief Mike LaPlant (VNC).
- The G.I.S. Specialist Group is scheduled to meet at South Ops, Riverside on July 28, 2009. The Liaisons are: Battalion Chief Jim Hollingsworth (CAL Fire) and Chief Ramiro Rodriguez (SFT).

**FIRESCOPE Projects**

- The Task Force is continuing to work with the CICCS Task Force to finalize the implementation of the Fire line Paramedic position for the 2009 Fire Season.
- The FIRESCOPE Aviation Operations Handbook has been scanned and is in the process of being posted to the web. This item will satisfy one of the BRC recommendations.

**Miscellaneous**

- The Task Force attended the June 2009 Operations Team Meeting at Mammoth Lakes.
- The Task Force will meet in Contra Costa County on July 22/23, 2009.



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**CFAA UPDATE**

**Chief Wagner**

The final CFAA document has been sent to all the signatory agencies to get signatures so hopefully will have that resolved soon. An item that we are still attempting to address is an appropriate standardized formula for support equipment. What you'll see in the Rate Letter this year will be that the agency can use the same rates that we used last year. We are trying to get a formula in place that may be replicated and can then be included in the exhibits of the CFAA at the annual update.

Once the Rate Letter is completed, then the agreement will hopefully be signed. At that point, we may then focus on a couple of things that we have still outstanding such as the support equipment rate formula and a California fire apparatus formula that we believe FEMA will adopt. This will hopefully get us off the Stafford Act schedule and get us on our own approved California rates. We continue to believe that the Stafford Act does not fully recognize the entire costs for a piece of fire apparatus regardless how many hours they are charged for.

**IAFC WILDLAND COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Chief Roper**

- National Fire Safety-Property Insurance Wildfire Summit is scheduled for Dallas, Texas on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The shared goals of the Institute for Business & Home Safety and the International Association of Fire Chiefs for this 2009 meeting is to further develop and pursue joint efforts that were begun last year between the fire services and insurers to establish fire adaptive communities.

If there is anything the FIRESCOPE Board would like Chief Roper to address at this meeting please send him an email.

- The "Ready, Set, Go!" program that has been designed for citizens in fire prone areas. The USFS has now given \$200,000 to the I-Chiefs to take "Ready, Set, Go!" and move it to the national level. The US fire administration is giving another \$50,000 to I-Chiefs to move it to the national level and incorporating it into the FIREWISE Communities program.



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**CICCS UPDATE**

**Chief Duvally**

The CICCS Task Force was asked by this Board to look at other physical fitness requirements other than the "Pack Test". It was timely for two reasons, we were doing regional meeting thru OES and the Task Force thru out the state at the time and reinvigorate everyone about CICCS at the same time. We were soliciting help to some of our working sub committees of which we were standing up before these sub committees on physical fitness.

Knowing that physical fitness is a complicated process and the first version of CICCS it was the most controversial issue that took days of discussion and coordination and they finally came up with what they are working on under right now is as long as you comply and here to your local standards, the agency that is sending out the individual you are compliant with CCIS physical fitness requirements. So the Pack Test is out there and is out there.

We are in the process of looking for alternatives. We have 12-15 people that are on that committee to start looking at these alternatives, and we know it will be a very touchy subject. We will be setting up a teleconference that we will be held the last week of July. There are some alternatives that have already been looked at. Deputy Chief Art Bishop from Apple Valley has already done an extensive amount of research and their Op area has been using some alternative, we are looking at that as basis to start from but as far as concrete results we don't have any yet.

There is one other component, a few of the CICCS committee members also sit on the NIMS working group and one of the five documents that is coming out this summer is a NIMS qualifications guide is the physical fitness component.

Knowing the controversy, they listened to California adhere to the sending agency physical fitness requirements, just to get the first document out the door. It is currently going out for public comment. So right now, California is going to be right in line with the NIMS document that is coming out. We will continue to report back to this group and let you know if we come up with alternatives.

We are also about to be done with the rough draft of the CICCS qualifications guide which will be an update to the 310-1. With CAL Fire 4039 document and USFS 510917 all of the best parts put into this document and that should be going back to this and the state board probably in a month or maybe 6 weeks, it all ties together.



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**EMS UPDATE**

**Chief Gilbert**

No items to report

**BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE REPORT**

**Chief Gilbert**

Last week the Governor signed an Executive Order re-establishing the Blue Ribbon Task Force. Sheldon Gilbert and Lou Paulson are the Co-Chairs. There is nothing to report at this point; however, there are a couple of outstanding issues that are going on that we will be trying to close the loop on in an effort to reduce redundancy thereby having different committees working on the same projects.

Our next meeting will be at the Cal Chiefs annual conference in September in Riverside and we are expecting to conduct a conference call between now and then.

**CWCG UPDATE**

**Chief Kaage**

CWCG has a meeting scheduled for next week in McClellan. The CFAA agreement is on track for the signature due dates back to Ms. Lopez by July 31, 2009. We are also planning on having a presentation from the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Team. We do have some issues with the FS Pro system and how we are going to run that on an Interagency basis as well as some administered issues that we are working through.

**CAL EMA/OES FIRE AND RESCUE UPDATE**

**Chief Zagaris**

In reference to the equipment reimbursement issue of 16 hours versus 24 hours, Cal EMA is rapidly moving forward, along with I-Chiefs to request that FEMA modify the policy that is in currently in place To accomplish this, I have recommended to our Secretary to request a formal change to the Stafford Act in order that we won't have to worry about policy issues, long term down the road.

I'm hopeful that we are going to be able to extend our agreement with HME for our replacement engines. I have not been told yet that I'm not getting them, so as far as I know they are in this next fiscal year's budget.



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**CAL EMA/OES FIRE AND RESCUE UPDATE**

One of the things that I have recently signed, along with CAL Fire is to not pay for resources that do not have an order and request number. So just to remind people that when you send someone out, please ensure that they have been requested and they have been approved otherwise we will consider it a voluntary contribution to the incident. Additionally, when you do send your folks on Overhead assignments, please ensure that they are also fully qualified for the position that they are filling or are a qualified trainee.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Chief Dennen-** Health and Safety Code 14825 is back on the agenda again. We do have some work that we need to be done and it has to do with Private Fire companies that are allowed to establish themselves within your fire districts as long as the health and safety codes are met. Assemblyman Jeffries introduced a bill last year which was enacted which said that once they do meet the 14825 requirements, that they may establish legitimacy once they have registered with the Operational Area Coordinator. It also states in Health and Safety Code 4825 that each County should adopt an ordinance that regulates the establishment or the discontinuance of these companies.

The research that I have done over the last couple of years, shows that almost no Counties in the State have done that. So under the Health and Safety Code, private, volunteer and non-profit status fire companies may exist within some of your fire districts based on this regulation.

So what we are going to do is follow the provisions of this and create a process that will hopefully utilize though OES State-wide how to track these fire companies. We plan to put something online on the FIRESCOPE website that they may fill it out to determine their status.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Chief Zagaris-** We had an overwhelming number of people apply for the County Fire Department-South position and after careful review by the subcommittee. Our recommendation was sent to Secretary Bettenhausen and he has officially appointed Chief Nick Dunn of the Kern County Fire Department to fill that vacant position.

***Action Item-** Kern County Fire Chief Nick Dunn was unanimously approved as the new County Fire- South Representative on the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.*



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**ROUNDTABLE**

All

**AJOURNMENT**

➤ *Action Item- Adjournment Motioned and Seconded at 1430 hrs.*

**NEXT FIRESCOPE BOD CONFERENCE CALL:** September 25, 2009 @ 1600 hrs.

**NEXT FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING:** October 14, 2009 @ Cal EMA  
HQ, Mather, CA