



FIRESCOPE



FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sacramento International Airport

Terminal "A"- Media Room

Sacramento, CA 95652

Minutes of Meeting

July 11, 2007

Committee Members Present:

P. Michael Freeman, Chair - Los Angeles County FD.

Bob Roper Vice-Chair - Ventura County Fire Department

Kim Zagaris Ex Officio Secretary – Office of Emergency Services

Craig Barnes Fire Management Officer - U.S. Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management

Kate Dargan - State Fire Marshal

Pat Dennen San Bernardino County FD - Fire Districts South

Nick Dunn for Dennis Thompson - County Fire Departments South

Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda County FD – County Fire Departments North

Ken Wagner Roseville Fire Department – City Fire Departments North

Richard Webb Linda Fire Protection District – Fire Districts North

Sue Husari - National Parks Service

Dan Drake for Chip Prather - Orange County Fire Authority

Jim Marquis Grass Valley FD - Volunteer Fire Departments

Greg West for Douglas Barry – Los Angeles Fire Department & FIRESCOPE Task Force

Ed Hollenshead - USDA Forest Service

Ken Mclean for Ruben Grijalva - CALFIRE

Chuck Knapp - California State Firefighter's Association.

Committee Members Absent:

Ruben Grijalva, CALFIRE

Douglas Berry, Los Angeles City Fire Department

John Sherri, Santa Barbara County FD

Christy E. Bouma, California Professional Fire Fighters

Others Present:

Mark D'Ambrogi, Auburn City Fire Department - OES Mutual Aid Region IV

Bob Green, CAL FIRE - OES Mutual Aid Region VI

Candace Gregory, CAL FIRE - OES Mutual Aid Region V

Brian Kelly, City of San Mateo - FIRESCOPE Operations Team

Tom Drayer, FIRESCOPE, OES Fire and Rescue Branch

Pat O'Bannon, FIRESCOPE, OES Fire and Rescue Branch

Scott Vail, CICC Working Group, OES Fire and Rescue Branch

Del Walters, CALFIRE – OES Mutual Aid Region III

Keith Richter, Contra Costa County Fire Department- OES Mutual Aid Region II

Lance McCasland, Sacramento International Airport Fire Department

John Penido, San Marino Fire Department – California Fire Chiefs Association

Lori Lopez, OES Fire and Rescue Branch

Elsy Votino, OES Fire and Rescue Branch



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Welcome, Introductions, Logistics: Chief Freeman

Michael Freeman introduced Lance McCasland, Chief of the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting for Sacramento International Airport. Chief McCasland welcomed everyone to the Sacramento Airport. He gave an overview of the four airports in the Sacramento County Airport System, what his division does and the construction activities that are going on at the airport.

Approval of Previous Minutes

***Action Item:** Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried, to approve minutes of the April 11, 2007 Meeting Minutes.*

OES Director's Update Report – Director Renteria

Thanked everyone, Departments and staff for their work. The Governor had a chance to visit a couple of fires earlier this year and he was expressed that he was most impressed with the unified command structure, the use of the mutual aid system and the mobilization and coordination of the State's fire resources..

Legislative Issues:

SP728, the California Disaster Assistance Act: which allocates State funds to local agencies thereby supplementing that department's 25% portion of the Federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) that is not awarded was not passed this year. It will now become a 2-year Bill and hope still exist that it will be eventually passed. Local government's continued support and assistance will remain critical for this to occur.

AB38, the merger of State OES and Homeland Security: even though it passed the Assembly unanimously this has also become a two year bill as a result of its inability to get out of the Senate, due to it stalling within the Committee on Public Safety.

State OES will continue to monitor both these bills and will report back to you as their status changes..

The Emergency Council: Chief Mike Warren, Corona Fire Department has been appointed as the representative for California fire agencies. The board is expected to meet for the first time in August. As of now, all of the appointments have been made with the exception of local government public health and the Governor's office is still taking nominations. The Director requested that all present consider speaking to their public health departments to see if there are any possible candidates and/or recommendations for nominations to the council.



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Clean up Efforts for the Agora Fire: The county Board of Supervisors met to finalize an MOU to allow the State to take the lead for the clean-up. As these types of events are normally handled at the local level this decision was unique but then understandable due to the environmental sensitivity of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding area. Another concern which forced the decision by the Board was the forecast for potential flash flooding that could potentially wash additional fire debris into the Lake.

Fire Management Assistance Grants: Six "Fire Management Assistance Grants" (FMAG) have been approved for California so far this year and we are one of few states within the Nation that FEMA has not had problems with their administration of the program. FEMA continues to support California in its applications for Federal assistance in suppressing wildfire and our relationship with the agency remains strong. .

New Board Appointments: Chief Freeman gave thanks for the Director's assistance in accepting the recommendations from the BOD Nominating Committee. The Board welcomed Chief Wagner, Roseville FD, Chief Sheldon, Alameda County FD and Rich Webb, Linda Fire Protection District as new members of the Board.

CAL FIRE Report – Chief McLean

DC-10 Update: CAL FIRE has entered into a contract with the "10 Tanker Company" for use of its DC-10 aircraft from June 15 through at least October 15th of this year. During the recent White incident in Kern County there was an incident with the aircraft where during a drop it struck a tree and received damage to its wing and other structural components. CAL FIRE anticipates the aircraft to return to service within the next 10 days.

SRA Fee Update: The Bill that has entered into suspense is no longer active.

Fire Behavior and Fuel Conditions: From an activity perspective CAL FIRE has a process where they "Large" fires (300 acres or larger), regardless of jurisdiction or agency. Thus far, this year within the State they have tracked 32 such "Large" fires. Last year, at approximately this time they had tracked 19. Fuel readings throughout the State, as of the 15th of June are lower than last year. As such, the Director is working on the production of a Safety Bulletin relative to fuel and burning conditions; which once completed will be distributed to fire agencies throughout the State.

Chief Gregory told of a recent incident during the Inyo Complex, in Inyo County earlier this month where an elderly woman was evacuated during the Inyo Complex and the 3 firefighters assisting in that evacuation were overcome by flames and forced to use a nearby pond for refuge. All were transported to a hospital in Fresno with minor burns and smoke inhalation. The "Blue Sheet" has been released and the "Green Sheet" will be released tomorrow.



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CAL FIRE Report (continued)

Chief Green stated discussed that during the height of last week activity in Southern California there were multiple OES Strike Teams activated and four additional fires in Mono County. Sixty acres have burned thus far due to lighting.

Chief Walters spoke of the current activity in Northern California and stated that 30 SRA fires, 22 of them since 1800 hours yesterday have occurred due to lighting.

Chief Darden thanked the USFS Damage Assessment Team on the Angora Fire who was analyzing various fuel treatment programs for application to the damaged area.

FIRESCOPE Summit Overview

Blue Ribbon Commission: Chief Gilbert stated that during a recent conference call, a great amount interest was expressed regarding re-assembling the Ad Hoc committee with the goal of continuing to move the Blue Ribbon Commission's "agenda" forward. There was consensus among group to contact the Governor's office, put the work group back together and again begin working those issues previously identified. As of this week, there has been no word back from the Governor's staff as to this proposal. It is Cal Chief's intent to have a meeting on this issue July 18th.

CFAA Update from Sub-Committee and CWCG

Chief Roper discussed working on the New CFFA document and explained that there are many issues with the CFAA negotiations. He also acknowledged Ken Wagner, CFAA Negotiating Team and newly appointed to the Board. Both the CFAA committee and the CWCG have agreed to use an outside facilitator. Discussion ensued over the 2007 Rate letter. At the CFFA meeting there were 3 different formulas proposed to the CFAA Team and CWCG. CWCG and CFAA have agreed on the number 2 formula that was proposed. It is a 5% increase over the current formula. The CFAA Committee and the CWCG will review and make final comments.

Base Rate: The purpose of the base rate is to make the fire department sending resources financially whole. Current discussions revolve around the equipment daily rate, 16 vs. 24 hours.

The Ordering Process: There currently are no proposed changes to the ordering process. There are items that both sides want to resolve during the course of the CFAA meetings. The core item being when resources are ordered those resources going out the door from the home agency should know how they are ordered and whether they are to be reimbursed.



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CFAA Update from Sub-Committee and CWCG (continued):

Implementation and Training Plan: Judith Downey from the US Forest Service has put together a mix of agencies to develop a training plan. They will come up with a plan in the near future on how to distribute this training to the entire California Fire Service,

Chief Roper: Proposed that the Master Mutual Aid Agreement be included as an agenda item at the October meeting. OES Staff will send out documents explaining the history of the MAA

Chief Zagaris explained that master mutual aid document was signed in the 1950s. This document is locked in and any modifications to the document will be a legal issue. He recommended that they have an attorney attend the next board meeting.

Chief Zagaris stated that his staff would get it out to the subcommittee for their review. After they give a green light it will go to the CWCG members and eventually needs to go to the Board. After the CWCG partners they will move it forward for legal review.

Rate letter: Chief Wagner will be meeting with the Roseville City attorney next Monday to talk about some suggestive language that the CFAA Committee can use to frame the agreement. Exhibit "D" of the CFAA is still under review.

Interoperability/Interdisciplinary/John Penido

John Penido represents Cal Chiefs on the FIRESCOPE Communications Specialists Group and explained the importance of the state wide Interoperability committee and the FIRESCOPE Communication's Specialists Group. This group understands the practical as well as the technical aspects of the State's communication issues. Chief Penido went over the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council's-Channel Naming Report handout. Due to the work of both groups which was presented during negotiations at the recent national communications meeting in Florida resulted in California receiving approximately about 96 % of what California had asked? Cal Fire plans to do a massive narrow banding with an anticipated completion date of 2010. . The FCC is requiring that all radios be narrow banded by 2013. The Forest Service and many of the Federal agencies have already accomplished many of their agency's objectives. FIRESCOPE is attempting to secure all of our naming conventions for regional and state frequencies before the balance of the reprogramming starts. What is still left to be decided is what exactly those regional and state names will look like. Chief Penido also went over the Nationwide Plan for Interoperable communications guiding principles. FIRESCOPE will send a letter that supports the concept of guiding principles.



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FIRESCOPE Board Summit, Refocus/Restructure/Revamp:

Michael Freeman asked if there was anything of the refocus, restructure, and revamp.

Bob Roper commented on the day's meeting being held at the Sacramento International Airport and questioned as to whether or not this would be a permanent location? Chief Zagaris answered that we were working on making that happen.

Kim Zagaris also stated that Chief Drayer is exploring the possibility of holding the Southern California January meeting at Ontario International Airport in order to ease the travel requirements of the of the Board.

Operations Team Report/Brian Kelly:

Membership: Re-emphasized that those members who are assigned to the Task Force need to participate fully to the extent that they can. Requested of the Chiefs present that if they have people assigned to the Task Force whose are inconsistent in their attendance that they be replaced.

Task Force Report –Greg West:

- Night Flying Guidelines: Spoke of the guidelines surrounding aircraft cut off time and night vision technology. For those agencies considering night flying operations it provides them a check list to consider before flying at night. Once the Board approves the document it will then be posted on the FIRESCOPE Website for availability to fire agencies throughout the State.

Action Item: *It was decided by the board to schedule a conference call in 2 weeks to review the guidelines before giving an approval to post the document on the FIRESCOPE website.*

- El Dorado Fireline EMT/Paramedic Letter/Update: Chief West stated that the Task Force has prepared a letter for Chief Freeman's signature to go back to the Chief Fry at El Dorado advising that the issues surrounding the Fireline Paramedic and EMT positions would be addressed by the newly formed FIRESCOPE EMS Specialist Group.
- Field Operations Guide: The New Fog is on the FIRESCOPE Website. ICS Forms are still being worked on Task Force levels and should be completed by the next Board meeting.

California Incident command Certification System (CICCS) Update:

Scott Vail asked for the Board to recommend adoption of the Fire Qualification's Card to be used state wide. He asked for the adoption of the Incident Qualifications System as the training and qualification database for California. They were both accepted.

Chief Vail went over the CICCS hand out. He also explained that they are working on the equivalency matrix and a California Incident Qualifications Handbook.



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Meeting Broke for Lunch 12:00 to 1:00 p.m

Meeting continued at 1:00 p.m

Resource Ordering Project:

Bob Green discussed the Resource Order Comment/Feedback Form. Once the form is completed, it will be shipped via e-mail. Tom Drayer explained that he has talked to Don Weiss about creating a Database for this form, where the information could be entered online. Chief Green is to make minor modification as suggested by the Board and return for review next meeting.

OES Region II Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP)/Keith Richter:

Keith Richter explained the background surrounding their local attempts to contract with a company named the URS Corporation to develop and write a regional emergency coordination plan for the 10 Bay area counties. The plan which is supposed to be inclusive of all disciplines has resulted in meetings be held all over the bay area with representatives from Fire, Law, Health Public Works and politicians to try to develop this RECP. The product that they came up with for Fire and Rescue has been put up as a draft plan and it was sent to fire representatives within Region II. It was discussed in the last Region II annual meetings with some concern and additional meetings are underway to address those concerns. It is felt among the Bay Area fire departments that there is an attempt to undermine their command and control authority within the Region as it pertains to fire resources. Chief Richter will continue to update the Board as the RECP issues in Region II progress.

OIG Report-Esperanza Accident Investigation Update/Ed Hollenshead:

Ed Hollenshead explained that Washington's scrutiny for expenditures on incidents is increasing. For every fire over 5 million dollars W/O will assign a Regional Forester's Review of the incident. All federal fires are now compared to the historical cost of fires in that particular area. Ken McLean explained that the LAO is discussing some ideas that have come out of the OIG report for possible application to the State. The USFS is In the process of actively working with other federal agencies and internally to develop a fire fighters survival study course utilizing the lessons learned during the Esperanza incident. It was announced that the program will be distributed widely once it is completed.



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OES Fire & Rescue Branch Report/Chief Kim Zagaris:

Chief Zagaris reported that federal funds expected for upgrades for the expansion of swift water caches are on their way. Also stated, that the type 2 medium USAR trailers were approved for partial funding from Homeland Security last month. There may be enough funds available to get 1 to 2 additional trailers. The next 21 OES replacement engines went to bid the 1st of this month. The 21 engines which were part of the Cal Fire engine purchase have gone out to bid. The Chief spoke of the FMAG process and identified some recent conflicts with the accompanying 209 documentation. He then emphasized the importance of consistent reporting when submitting applications.

Ambulance Strike Team Leader Update/Sheldon Gilbert:

OES Fire met with EMSA and shared with them concerns from a Fire Mutual Aid perspective. There is interest by EMSA to parallel their ordering system with the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System. OES Fire will continue to work with EMSA when requested as they work through the issues.

2007/Fire Season Discussion:

Chief Freeman questioned the members on any fire season issues

Brian Kelly asked about safety for firefighters. Ken McLean responded that Cal Fire is sending the message out to their firefighters that it is OK to abandon structure protection efforts if the situation becomes untenable.

2007-08 FIRESCOPE BOD Chair/Vice Chair Nominations:

Chief Freeman opened elections for the BOD Chair and Vice Chair positions. Chief Freeman said that Chief Roper will stand in nomination for vice chair and that he is willing to the same. He asked for nominations from the floor and there was a motion and second to close the nominations. All were in favor in both Chiefs Freeman and Roper retaining their offices.

Old Business:

No old business issues.

New Business:

Chief Zagaris stated that Assembly members Kevin Jeffries from Riverside and Gene Paul were appointed to a new committee for rural fire protection.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be on October 10, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.