

**Office of Emergency Services
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
FIREScope BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING OF APRIL 3, 1991 - SACRAMENTO OES

MINUTES OF MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

*William Maxfield, Chairman - Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Department
Donald Manning, Vice Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Donald Perry, Deputy Chief for Rich Peterson - Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
George Lund, Chief - Ventura County Fire Department
James McMullen, Chief - California State Fire Marshal
Frank Buscher, Chief - Tiburon Fire District
James Brannon, Chief - Linda Fire Protection District
Larry Holms, Chief - Orange County Fire Department
P. Michael Freeman, Chief - Los Angeles County Fire Department
Loren Pettis, Chief - Montclair Fire Department
Jack Brochini, Deputy Chief for Gary Costamagna, Chief, Sacramento City Fire Dept.
Dick Henry, Director - Aviation and Fire Management, U.S. Forest Service
Robert Burnham for Pat Kidder, Bureau of Land Management
Merrill McMurray, Deputy Chief for Michael Dacy, Chief, Sacramento County F.D.
Bill Teie, Deputy Director for Hal Walt, Director - Calif. Department of Forestry & Fire Prot.
C. Rich Aronson, Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division*

MEMBERS ABSENT

*Gary Costamagna, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department
Michael Dacy, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department
Rich Peterson, Chief - Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Pat Kidder, Fire & Aviation Officer - Bureau of Land Management
Hal Walt, Director - California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
Chris Cameron - National Parks Service, Branch of Fire Management*

SPECIAL ADVISORS PRESENT

*Eldon Nagel, General Manager, California State Firemen's Association
Jane Crawford for Brian Hatch, General Manager - California Professional Firefighters*

SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT

Brian Hatch, Director - California Professional Firefighters

OTHERS PRESENT

*Ken Brown, Deputy Chief - California State Fire Marshal
Gary Buzzini, Region Chief - Mutual Aid Region III
Nick Gorman, Mapping Specialist - Sacramento County Fire District
R. Blair Springer, Consultant - Governor's Office
John Passerello, Assistant Director - OES
Ann Vasquez, Chief of Staff - OES
Mike Scherr, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division, Riverside OCC
R.D. Starr, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Will A. Brock, Assistant Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Dianne Wirth, Secretary*

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Maxfield opened the meeting at 0930 hours, welcoming members and guests, and introducing Chief Franklin Buscher, Tiburon Fire District, representing Fire Districts North.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 1991 MEETING

The following corrections were made to the January 9, 1991 minutes:

- 1. Page 1, Members Present, Bill Teie for Harold Walt. Correct "California Department of Forestry" to "California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection," reflecting the complete name.*
- 2. Page 1, Special Advisors Absent. Correct the title for Brian Hatch to General Manager, California Professional Fire Fighters.*
- 3. Page 8, Task Force Member Changes. Correct spelling of Mike "Coggan" to Mike Colgan.*
- 4. Page 8, Task Force Member Changes. Correct spelling of Bob "Wyman" to Bob Wineman.*

IT WAS MOVED BY BILL TEIE, SECONDED BY DICK HENRY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 1991 MEETING, AS CORRECTED.

SPECIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS OF FIRE SERVICE CAUCUS

Chairman Maxfield introduced Blair Springer, who briefly reviewed the report, "FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGE OF THE 90's," which was recently distributed to members of the Fire Service Caucus (approximately 53). Assemblyman Mike Roos was responsible for preparation of this report which contains issues to be addressed during the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Springer stated the report is to be used as a tool in deliberating issues with members of the legislature.

At present, there is no chair of the Fire Service Caucus. In order to expedite the selection process, outside input from the fire service is necessary, since the present budget deficit has taken priority over other issues.

General discussion ensued with Chairman Maxfield asking which, if any, Fire Service Caucus members have expressed interest in chairing the Caucus. Mr. Springer replied the best way to determine which members are committed to serving the fire service is to talk to them individually.

REIMBURSEMENT - SALARY SURVEY

Deputy Chief Dick Starr reviewed a statistical report of reimbursement claims submitted and paid since 1987, outlining problems encountered and those which continue to exist. One of the most consistent problems is errors on the F-42. 200 random claims were chosen for review -- 130 had errors such as information left out or improperly entered. Deputy Chief Starr stated that the form will be simplified, but even this will not correct the ignorance some departments have (i.e. not knowing their correct 3-letter designator).

Bill Teie proposed that on an incident, the Finance Chief have authority to sign off the claim as "legitimate." This would eliminate at least two steps in the current process, allowing the claim to reach OES for final processing much faster.

Chief Aronson stated this procedure is in the process of being reviewed and approved, hopefully to be in place before this summer.

The new reimbursement rate for personnel has increased by 5.8% to \$549.00. Copies of the new Cooperative Agreement will be distributed when the exhibits are agreed to and finalized.

SUPPORT SERVICE MANAGER POSITION - OCC

Chief Aronson reported that with the retirement of Charlie Anderson, Jim Jeffery has been moved to Region I, creating a vacancy at the OCC. An examination has been conducted, and a list is being prepared of eligible candidates. OES has requested an exemption

from the current hiring freeze in hopes the position can be filled as soon as possible. The agency has also requested approval to hire more personnel during the summer fire season.

1991 MEETING DATES

A copy of meeting dates for 1991 is included in today's portfolios. These dates have been previously agreed to by all members.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM/FIREGROUND COMMAND

Deputy Chief Don Perry presented a chronology of events regarding the proposed merging of the ICS and Fireground Command systems. The introduction of NFPA Standard 1561 has resulted in numerous meetings to discuss the possibility of creating a single Incident Command System which is a blend of California ICS and Chief Alan Brunacini's Fireground Command. At a January, 1991 meeting it was decided to further develop both systems at a seminar to be held in September in Phoenix. At that time a proposed National Focus Group will be formed consisting of representation from:

U.S. Fire Administration
International Fire Chiefs' Assn.
National Fire protection Assn.
International Fire Fighter's Assn.
National Wildfire Coordinating Group
Fireground Command
FIREScope
National Council of Volunteer Fire Departments

At it's joint meeting in San Luis Obispo on February 14-15, 1991, the FIREScope Operations Teams presented three recommendations to this Advisory Committee as follows:

1. Discontinue the ICS/FGC Sub-Committee and accept the Sub-Committee recommendation that there is further work to be done in attempting to merge ICS/FGS. In addition, the Task Force, Sub-committee and Operations Teams recommend retaining the current ICS without modification at this time.
2. That FIREScope not sponsor or co-sponsor nor imply sponsorship of the ICS/FGS Seminar scheduled for September 12-14, 1991 in Phoenix, Arizona.
3. That we use the Quincy Joint Operations Teams Meeting in July, 1991 to discuss the concept of establishing a national focal point for ICS. Outside attendance to be coordinated by the Operations Teams Chairs and the ICS/FGC Sub-Committee.

Recommend that the FIRESCOPE Decision Process make a statement indicating that we favor the establishment of a national focal point for future coordination of ICS changes but until such time as this group and functional responsibilities is identified -- the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors will provide this service.

General discussion ensued with Bill Teie asking if the intent of Fireground Command could be as a skills course that does not violate ICS and cause other problems. Deputy Chief Perry replied that from his point of view as an ICS "purist," there is some violation, an outstanding example being use of the term "sector," as well as other terminology. He feels ICS is mainly an organizational tool rather than strategy and techniques.

Chief Freeman interjected there is another issue to be considered in addition to those mentioned above -- the entire concept of blending two systems must be reviewed and reconsidered.

Chief Manning stated that ICS will allow more efficiency and a higher degree of safety for California. We should, therefore, keep this system. If it is modified, will it still serve our purpose? If the two systems are blended, will they still be as effective as what we have now?

In concurrence with Chief Freeman's statement, Chairman Maxfield agreed that FIRESCOPE and ICS are moving into the next stage of evolution and we must take a stand.

OPERATIONS TEAMS REPORT

Mike Scherr elaborated on the events leading to the current situation and the attempts to merge ICS and Fireground Command. He has received several telephone calls from fire service representatives not in agreement with what appears to be happening; therefore, he brought these concerns to the February joint meeting. He noted that the three recommendations resulting from that meeting were not by majority agreement, only consensus, which is indicative of the mixed feelings among the California fire service regarding this issue.

With regard to a national focal point for ICS, Deputy Chief Scherr called attention to a letter dated January 28, 1991 to members of the IEMS National Advisory Committee regarding a proposed position paper for a generic ICS project. The letter states it is... "the intention of the IEMS National Advisory Committee to participate in the development and implementation of a generic ICS that does not differ from those currently in effect and being fine tuned. It is further the desire of the National Advisory Committee to assist in the implementation of the generic ICS on a nationwide basis in a multi disciplinary, multi jurisdictional fashion....."

The Operations Teams feel it is too premature to make any changes to the existing system since it works so well.

Discussion continued with consensus to leave ICS intact. If an agency or other state wants to modify the system, they must go through the FIREScope Decision Process.

Deputy Chief Scherr asked if this Committee endorses FIREScope participation in the national focus group for ICS/FGC. Dick Henry feels that, based on the size of the proposed national group, the time necessary to reach a unanimous decision would be excessive. The NWCG could easily assume the role as primary coordinating group.

Chief Holms moved to continue with the current decision making process in ICS and at this time, discontinue attempts to merge with Fireground Command. Instead, focus on current issues and the continuation of the 4-level FIREScope Decision Process. Chief Lund seconded the motion.

Discussion of the motion followed with Bill Teie contending the entire issue could be summed up in a position statement prepared by this Committee.

Chief Holms withdrew the motion, at which time Chairman Maxfield directed Bill Teie, Dick Henry, Chief Manning and Chief Freeman to prepare a position statement for consideration by the Committee after today's lunch. At that time, the Advisory Committee would vote on all three Operations Teams Recommendations (page 4).

TASK FORCE REPORT

Mike Scherr reported on the proceedings of the April 1, 1991 meeting. He presented a copy of the final draft of the NWCG Training and Certification/Qualification Proposal which is intended to be a consolidated response from the FIREScope Decision Process.

IT WAS MOVED BY KEN BROWN, SECONDED BY JIM BRANNON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADOPT THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE NWCG TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION/QUALIFICATION PROPOSAL.

Deputy Chief Scherr presented the Year 1 Summary of the FIREScope 5-Year Plan, recommending that when the new State Fire Marshal and Director of CDF are appointed, this Committee request they get back into the process of supporting funding and a commitment to the 5-Year Plan.

MAPPING

Merrill McMurray introduced Nick Gorman, Mapping Specialist for Sacramento County Fire Department, who gave a presentation and demonstration of CAD (computer aided drafting) mapping techniques. Mr. Gorman cited several benefits of CAD mapping including cost effectiveness and speed of making changes and/or corrections.

Bill Teie mentioned the work that CDF is doing with GIS to digitize and produce city and county maps, and agreed that CAD or GIS are both superior methods of mapping.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chief Holms noted that since the next Operations Team Joint meeting is to be held on July 11-12 in Quincy, and the Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 10, why not hold the Advisory Committee meeting in Quincy. Discussion followed with agreement to hold the July 10 meeting at Sacramento OES headquarters as scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Manning reported on the Urban Fire Forum consisting of 22-24 fire chiefs from around the world (mostly the United States). The group was formed through the NFPA, who has become interested in getting closer to the fire service. The intent of this effort is to develop guidelines -- internal or external -- which will help fire departments in accomplishing things such as fireground operations, affirmative action, marketing the fire service, health and safety, etc.

Chief Manning has expressed some concerns to the Urban Fire Forum regarding the creation of fire department guidelines that could become standards for fire department operations. He was concerned that these guidelines (standards) could make it difficult to manage a fire department in the future. A heated discussion had occurred at the Urban Fire Forum on the last meeting day which was Saturday morning.

ICS/FIREGROUND COMMAND -- POSITION STATEMENT

The following statement was presented to the Advisory Committee for consideration, review and approval. Suggested changes and corrections have been incorporated:

The Incident Command System has its roots in the need for common terminology and organizational scheme. During the development of this command and control system, the focus was on organizational structure, interagency use and safety.

ICS is a very flexible system that has been adopted nationally. It is all risk, the strengths of which lie in the ability to organize the simplest of alarms to the most complex of incidents.

The Fire and Rescue Service Advisory Committee and the FIREScope Board of Directors have adopted the following position:

- ☞ There is a recognized need for an all risk common command and control system.**
- ☞ ICS is a very effective all risk command and control system.**
- ☞ There is an existing four step decision making process for review and change, that we will continue to use.**

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF HOLMS, SECONDED BY KEN BROWN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE POSITION STATEMENT, AS REVISED.

Discussion of Operations Teams Recommendations

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MANNING, SECONDED BY CHIEF HOLMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO REJECT RECOMMENDATION NO. 1 AS WRITTEN AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING: "Discontinue the ICS/FGC Sub-Committee. There is no further work to be done in attempting to merge ICS and Fireground Command. In addition, this Committee retains the current ICS without modification at this time."

With reference to Operations Teams Recommendation #2, Chief Holms feels that with the position statement, it would be inappropriate to endorse or participate in any discussions to change or modify ICS. This, however, does not prohibit attendance at the Phoenix meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF HOLMS, SECONDED BY CHIEF MANNING AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ACCEPT OPERATIONS TEAMS RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.

Discussion followed with the possibility of attending the Phoenix conference to "sell" ICS. Consensus is that this would be inappropriate.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF FREEMAN, SECONDED BY KEN BROWN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO REJECT RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 IN ITS ENTIRETY.

Discussion followed regarding the working relationship between FIREScope and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Chief Maxfield suggesting adding the following to the Position Statement:

"It is the intention of the FIREScope Board of Directors to continue to maintain the excellent working relationship with the NWCG."

After further discussion, it was agreed to leave the Position Statement in tact.

Mike Scherr called attention to a draft article regarding the ICS/FGC merger prepared by Chief Rich Peterson for publication in the CFCA/FDAC Fire Journal. It was agreed that the article should not be published until more complete information (i.e. today's proceedings) could be included.

It was further agreed that today's proceedings and decision to discontinue discussions on merging ICS and Fireground Command would be provided to Chief Alan Brunacini's work group who are planning to attend the July meeting in Quincy.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dick Henry advised that Dick Adams was recently promoted to Assistant Director, Aviation and Fire Management, in Washington, D.C.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1500 hours.