



# FIRESCOPE



## **FIRE AND RESCUE COMMITTEE FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**April 9, 2008**

**Sacramento International Airport  
Terminal "A"- Media Room  
6900 Airport Blvd. Sacramento, CA**

### **ATTENDEES**

Michael Freeman, Chair, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Kim Zagaris, Executive Coordinator, CA-OES Fire and Rescue  
Tom Maruyama, CA- OES  
Douglas Barry, Los Angeles FD  
Sue Husari, National Park Service  
Richard Webb-Linda Fire Protection Districts- Fire Districts North  
Pat Dennen, San Bernardino County FD, Fire Districts- South  
Bob Green, CAL FIRE-OES Mutual Aid Region VI  
Candace Gregory, CAL FIRE, OES Region V  
Mark D'Ambrogio- Auburn Fire Department- Region IV  
John Scherri- Santa Barbara County FD  
Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda County FD, County- Fire Departments- North  
Ken Wagner- Roseville Fire Dept- City Fire Department North  
Chip Prather, Orange County Fire Authority

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Willie Thompson, USFS  
Kevin Nestor, Ventura County FD  
Dan Drake, Orange Co. Fire –FIRESCOPE Task Force  
Dave Pierce, Orange County Fire Authority- FIRESCOPE Ops Team Chair  
Tom Drayer, CA-OES Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE  
Pat O'Bannon CA-OES Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE  
Deneen Phillips, CA-OES Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE  
Dave Powell, CA-OES Fire and Rescue  
Kevin Johnston, CA-OES Fire and Rescue  
Mike Crowner, CSFA  
Dallas Jones, CA Professional Firefighters  
Ralph Alworth, CAL FIRE – Contract Counties  
Bill Metcalf, North County Fire- XSD OA Coordinator  
Ken McLean, CAL FIRE  
Dave Zocchetti, CA-OES  
Lindsay Stovall, Senator Hollingsworth's Office  
Bob Giovati, Senator Hollingsworth's Office



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### **WELCOME AND LOGISTICS Sacramento International Airport**

Chief Zagaris introduced to the Board the new Deputy Chief of Operation for OES, Kevin Johnston. Kevin came to us from Novato Fire Protection District. He started with OES February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 January 9, 2008 meeting minutes.*

### **CA- OES DIRECTORS UPDATE Deputy Director Maruyama, Response and Recovery**

Director Renteria would like to apologize for not being here today. Director Maruyama stated that in regards to the budget issues, there is 10% cut across the board but there will be no reduction in personnel. OES is not filling vacant positions that have been vacant for some time in order that we'll be able to make up the 10% cut We will know more next week when we go before the Senate. The Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for the engines was very well received in the Assembly as the Assembly is very much in favor of the program. Our inter-operability proposal that went before the Office of Homeland Security, which will generate \$94 million dollars back to the State has been approved. Part of the funding will be used to support the Oasis project, plus a number of radios and narrow banding equipment. The FMAG incident period for the October, 2007 fires has closed as of March 31, 2008 and we are still working with Public Assistance to satisfy individual claims

### **CA-OES Fire and Rescue Chief Zagaris**

The current OES Engine contract is still in place and no engines have been cut as a result of the recent budget constraints but we are still continuing to work through budgetary issues. Staff has done a really good job over the last couple of years working with the Director to continue with the projected engine replacement cycle and adjust whatever fiscal issues necessary to maintain the replacement program; however, in order to do this, monies have been taken away from OES Special Operations. The current replacement cycle remain at seven engines per year and the contract is in place for the next 3 years. After the question was posed, Chief Zagaris replied that there currently wasn't a Water Tender contract in place.



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### **CAL FIRE/STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE**

**Chief Ken McLean**

**SRA Fee Proposal-** The LAO's office has again dismissed the SRA fee proposal. Reduction impacts to the Fire Protection Program due to the dismissal are anticipated to be the closure of 21 engine stations, 11 camps and 1 helitack base along with associative cuts for Contract Counties.

**Governor's Wildland Firefighting Initiative-** We are now waiting to see if it passes. At this point there is no legislative sponsor for the Initiative so it is just a proposal and is getting a lot of local resistance. Part of the issue is that there are a couple of perceived Constitutional problems with the Initiative. One is that there is a clause in the State Constitution which protects the insurance industry from any additional fees. So, this Initiative we are anticipating that we may run into problems with that particular Constitutional issue. The other issue or question is, is this tax in disguise? Legislators are currently trying to determine if it is a tax and if so, is there an excess of what is being charged and what exactly is the benefit being provided.

**Fire Season-** In the South, Fire Season will start April 15<sup>th</sup>. We are presently watching fuels, budget and weather projections. As of April 21 our single engine stations in San Bernardino, San Diego, and Riverside Units will be open. We will also be staffing our air-tankers.

### **AB 38**

**Counselor Zocchetti**

AB 38 will merge the Office of Emergency Services and the Office of Homeland Security into one Department. AB 38 is a bill from last year that moved rapidly in the Assembly and then stalled in the Senate. Of concern with some legislators is if the two agencies merged would issues revolving around immigration be negatively impacted as they relate to the provision of emergency services. For example, as people are redirected to shelters or when evacuated would consideration of their individual immigration status be an issue. The issue of the merger will probably be placed on the Senate's Public Safety Committee's agenda sometime near the end of April or the beginning of May. There are two or three other bills dealing with the merger issue that appear at this time to be inconsequential.



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**FIRE SERVICE POSITION OF PRIVATE INSURANCE FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES  
Counselor Zocchetti**

**Discussion:**

At the January, 2008 Burbank meeting, the issue of private insurance firefighting resources came up with the request from the Board at that time that the issue be brought to the attention of OES Legal for an opinion.

**Can public response agencies keep private response agencies out?** *Yes under the Penal Code there are provisions that allow for law enforcement to close an emergency incident to private resources.*

- These are private fire suppression groups usually provided by insurance agencies that contract with the homeowner to put a "protective blanket" around their house before fire arrives
- Liability of the fire agencies involved is and was a concern expressed at the last meeting; and whereas liability issues are very circumstantial, specific issues are hard to address. You have to not only look at your local situation but you also have to examine your local ordinances as well; because they are going to have an impact on liability
- Generally when an emergency has been declared locally or at the State level, which will normally be the case when your dealing with these private companies that are coming into the area a local or a state disaster being declared is not going to make too much of a difference. This is due to both the terms of the liability and the protection once the declaration or proclamation is made. It is during this time that your liability protection is very strong. There have been very few cases where the courts have found that jurisdictions or individuals working in those jurisdictions have been found liable working under emergent circumstances
- When the courts look at liability they are looking at whether or not the person(s) or organization(s) have acted reasonably under the given circumstances
- If you break your department's policy or "rule" you are automatically negligent.



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### FIRE SERVICE POSITION OF PRIVATE INSURANCE FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES (continued)

- In general you are in good shape in terms of liability in your jurisdictions if you make the decision to not to allow the private agencies into your incident or if you allow the private agencies to engage and they create some sort of harm; I believe that you are in good shape
- In Ventura County they are currently excluded them from accessing incidents by enforcing the fact that they are not exempt from road closures.
- If we set up road closures and these companies bypass them and enter the scene are we liable? Their equipment, PPE, training, certifications and qualifications are all concerns with the primary issues being: Legality, Safety and Liability.
- Is there a difference of a property owner saying that they are not leaving and someone who is not a property owner once an evacuation has been ordered? There is a fundamental difference as in the United States we give property owners more rights.
  - **Action Item:** Chief Freeman asked that an agency is addressing this issue through procedure or policy please share your enforcement documents with the Board. All correspondence should be sent to Chief Zagaris by June 20th, 2008 and he will distribute them to the Board in order that we may review such documents prior to the June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 conference call.

### CFFA UPDATE

#### Chief Wagner

- The signatory agencies have agreed that the CFAA will be acceptable to use for all-hazards incidents as a pay document.
- There were three changes to the recitals (8, 9, and 12).
- Work is beginning on gathering information on the validity of the current GPM rates as used by FEMA as the committee thinks that the rates are too low. Assistant Chief Mark Cooper, CA-OES Fire and Rescue is coordinating this effort.



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**CFFA UPDATE** (continued)

- There will be **no** changes to the Base Rate this year. There was **no** change to the CAL Fire EW rate and the changes to the Federal AD rate were not significant enough to generate higher rates using their formula.
- The document is with the solicitors with a due date of May 31<sup>st</sup> back to OES. The new rate letter will be out as soon as the administrative support equipment rates are given to OES from the Forest Agencies. The rate letter should be on the internet within the next couple of days.

**TRIBAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS INTERGRATION INTO THE MUTIAL AID SYSTEM  
Counselor Zocchetti**

**Discussion:**

A lot of your jurisdictions have been working with tribal government over the last several years with Tribal governments becoming more of a service area. Over the last few months we have been discussing with Senator Hollingsworth and his staff as to whether or not there is a way to better integrate the tribal governments into our emergency service system, in particular the area of fire services. There is currently no legal authority in California for fire agencies to enter into agreements with Tribal governments. There is also some protection in state law for Tribal governments that choose to get involved in fire fighting to protect there assets and people; however, there is not much law in addition to that in California. Recognized tribes in California are considered "Sovereign Nations" independent of federal law.

**Lindsay Stovall**, *Legislative Director* and **Bob Giovati**, *Chief of Staff* from Senator Hollingsworth staff were present at the meeting to gather input and ideas on ways to come up with a seamless agreement. In some areas local agreements have worked well while in others they haven't. The Senator sees a need to try to make this work more efficiently. Questions posed were:

- Is this possible?
- What is the best way to come up with an agreement?
- Would like to right an agreement that would work for everyone?
- How is the liability issue on protecting their land?



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**TRIBAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS INTERGRATION INTO THE MUTIAL AID SYSTEM**  
(continued)

- Chief Dennen spoke of their ability to work with the tribes within San Bernardino County which are unique in the way that they overlays all 4 of their Department's districts. We see it as an extension of our fire protection district and therefore do not collect taxes for protection
- California has more tribes then any of state in the country
- Counselor Zochetti commented that criminal law may be enforced on tribal land. We feel that making a mass mutual aid agreement would be a great idea but we should first look into those counties who already have something in place and use those as a model to work off of.

**ROSS UPDATE REPORT**

**John Skeels**

John Skeels, U.S. Forest Service is the Sr. Project manager for the national Resource Order and Status System (ROSS) project. Mr. Skeels then presented the following California facts via a power point presentation:

- 1 CAL Fire ROSS Coordinator
- 1 USFS CA Coordinator
- 1 national ROSS Sr. Project Manager
- CA Ross Subject Matter Experts  
1 @ North Ops  
1 @ South Ops
- 292 ROSS Operational incidents during the siege
- The system processed approximately 26454 requests throughout the 2007 fire siege
- The system executed 160,704 resource requests over the 13 day period which equaled an average of 515 requests per hour.
- 17.2% of the business happened in 3.6% of the years.



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**ROSS UPDATE REPORT (continued)**

- On an annual basis California creates 44% of the total requests nationally in 2007.
- A manual center without the capabilities of ROSS would process about 200 requests a day. We were moving about 515 requests an hour in July and August

**The Issues:**

- Training and Practice deficiencies
- Dispatchers claim they don't have time for training.
- 50% of Help desk calls were related to training.
- 15% can't get into ROSS.
- Incorrect application installs
- Office staffing was not prepared
- We are making changes to our release schedule (avoid busy times)
- Center Managers are not trained.

**BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE REPORT- CPF/Cal Chiefs/FIRESCOPE Integration  
Chief Freeman/Chief Zagaris /Chief Gilbert**

- The Blue Ribbon Task Force should serve as an oversight council for all recommendations stemming from the 2004 Blue Ribbon Fire Commission Report.
- FIRESCOPE shall serve as the primary body for drafting, research and developing staff recommendations for the blue ribbon commission task force. FIRESCOPE, Cal Chiefs and California Professional Firefighters will serve as liaison committee between the blue ribbon commission task force and the governor and the legislator.





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### **BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE REPORT- CPF/Cal Chiefs/FIRESCOPE Integration** (continued)

That was the discussion and the intent that was arrived at as part of the Task Force report in Burbank. The intention clearly was to have FIRESCOPE to play a role in this and to support a lot of the work that needs to be done and at the same time recognize the cooperative effort between CAL-Chiefs and the CPF.

- **Action Item:** *FIRESCOPE Operations Team to look at both the 2004 and 2007 BRC recommendations to determine current status and progress and report back to the Board at their July 9, 2008 meeting*

### **MACS AFTER-ACTION REPORT** **Chief Prather**

In the packet is a draft report of the 2007 Fire Siege Brainstorm Report. At the January 9<sup>th</sup> FIRESCOPE Board of Directors meeting in Burbank, it was decided and the direction was given to gather the MACS participants from the October 2007 Fire Siege to discuss what if anything would help this process work more efficiently. On February 27, 2008 members of the Southern California Multi Agency Coordination Group and the Governors Office of Emergency Services met at the Southern California Geographic Coordination Center/ Operations Coordination Center in Riverside known as "South Ops". The purpose of the meeting was to conduct this facilitated brainstorming session directed to generating a list of items which in their collective opinion would enhance the ability of the MAC Group to fulfill the mission of the MACS.

#### **The following findings were given to the Board:**

- That the group assists in having a final report that includes wide spread stakeholder input for consideration by the Board of Directors during the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are asking that the comments regarding the draft be provided to OCFA Division Chief Dan Drake by May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The MACS group provided recommendations back to the Board and put them into 20 short term (small to no cost) and long term goals. Some of the topics discussed were facility, staffing and technological needs. This draft was also distributed to several incident commanders from the 2007 fire siege for review and comment.



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**MACS AFTER-ACTION REPORT (continued)**

- Chief Green also discussed with the group that after the MACS After-Action group met, he was able to meet with the architects who are working on the new CAL Fire facility at March Air Reserve Base. After meeting with them we were able discuss a lot of the short term goals that were outlined in the draft. Chief Freeman thanked them for the great job that they did on the draft and encouraged the Board to review the draft. It will be an agenda item at the July meeting.

**SAN DIEGO MACS PROPOSAL  
Chief Prather/Chief Metcalf**

The Board was presented a letter from Chief Bill Metcalf, North County Fire Protection District/San Diego Operational Area Coordinator. In this letter the San Diego County Fire Chiefs has requested that FIRESCOPE develop and implement s mechanism to provide San Diego County with appropriate representation whenever MACS is activated in Southern California. They are prepared to participate in anyway the system will allow.

- **Action Item-** *Until the Southern California MACS procedures and guidelines are revised it is the expectation of the Board that a San Diego Representative be included as full participant in the Southern California MACS conference calls, activation and also involved in the upcoming training. This motion was seconded and approved.*

**FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM/ TASK FORCE REPORT  
Chief Pierce/Chief Drake**

**FIRESCOPE Operations Team Report- Chief Pierce**

- The Ops Team continues to follow the issue of Mayday and will continue to monitor until final document is published.
- The Team continues to have no changes in membership.
- The Task force revised the Plan of Work and Updated information during the first quarter of the year to more appropriately reflect their projects and the status.



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**FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM/ TASK FORCE REPORT (continued)**

- The active participation on the Task Force has improved with additional members filling positions.
- Our response to FEMA and the NIC was the majority of our discussion on the conference call this month.
- Additional needs as requested by the Board.
- Next FIRESCOPE OPS Team meetings:

**March/ April** Conference Call

**June** Buck's Lake with the Task Force

**September** Orange County

**January** Shell Beach with the Task Force

**FIRESCOPE Task Force Report- Chief Drake**

- City Fire Departments- South, Fire Districts- South, and county Fire Departments-North. New members have been added to the Task Force representing
- The Task Force will be meeting in the M.A.C.S. Center on April 18, 2008 to prepare for the M.A.C.S. orientation, scheduled for May 22, 2008. The Orientation will be conducted at South Ops and transmitted by Teleconference to sites in North Ops and McClellan Training Center.
- Next FIRESCOPE Task Force meeting: April 24-25 in Atascadero
- The Pocket size FOG is now available. The CWCG guidelines distributed to the BOD in January may be considered for the next FOG, it is too late for this edition.
- The FIRESCOPE representative to NWCG Training Working team will be retiring from this position in January, 2009. The Task Force has nearly exhausted our search for a viable replacement and is asking the Ops team and Board of Directors to assist in finding a suitable nominee for the Board's consideration.



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**FIRESCOPE Task Force Report (continued)**

- The FIRESCOPE Task Force has compiled Rosters, Charters, and Plans of Work for all Specialist and Working Groups. These items can be found on the FIRESCOPE website.

**Updates of Specialist and Working Groups**

**Communications**

- Has developed ICS 205 and ICS 217A forms in an Excel format to facilitate use by the fire service. These forms are now available on the website.

**Safety**

- They have nearly completed a draft of an all-risk Safety Officer curriculum and the corresponding Position Task Books for all-hazard Safety Officer Application. The Task Force is in the process of reviewing the PTB's
- Their next scheduled meeting is April 14, 2008 in San Diego and the next day the Chair will present the "Three Stripes You're Out" document to the Wildland Safety Officer's Workshop in San Diego.

**EMS**

- Is quickly developing a proposal for a Fire line Paramedic.
- Group EMS Agency Administrators are working cooperatively to facilitate an appropriate specialized equipment list and address scope of practice issues.

**Aviation**

- Has completes all of the items on their "Plan of Work", including issues brought to the Group by the FIRESCOPE Board: inventory Military Helicopter Managers, inventory of Helicopter managers, and a Statewide inventory of CWN private helicopters and agency helicopters.



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**FIRESCOPE Task Force Report (continued)  
Updates of Specialist and Working Groups**

**High Rise**

- They have nearly completed their "Plan of Work"
- They have one Position Description left to review and revise.

**Hazmat**

- They are reviewing and curriculum regarding the role and responsibility of the Hazmat Incident Safety Officer and Assistant Safety Officer

**FIRESCOPE RESPONSE TO NIMS ISSUE- NIMS POINT OF CONTACT FOR  
CALIFORNIA  
Chief Pierce**

The FIRESCOPE Operations Team and Task Force seeks clarification from the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors as to who is the official point of contact when an important issues arises and time constraints dictate that FIRESCOPE render an immediate decision.

Chief Freeman directed the FIRESCOPE Ops Team and/or the Task Force access the FIRESCOPE Executive Coordinator, Chief Zagaris as the initial point of contact for the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. In the case Chief Zagaris is not available they may contact Chief Freeman directly.

**SITUATIONAL AWARENESS PROPOSAL UPDATE  
Chief Dargan**

Chief Freeman informed the group that Chief Dargan was unable to attend today's meeting due to an earlier commitment at the State Capital. The Situational Awareness Ad Hoc Group consisting of Chiefs Dargan, Husari, Dennen, Richter, Roper and Freeman will schedule another conference call sometime between this meeting and the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. A proposal will be provided back to the Board at that time.



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**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ROUNDTABLE**

All

**AJOURNMENT**

➤ *Action Item: Adjournment Motioned and Seconded at 1500 hrs.*

**-NEXT FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE CALL-**

June 26, 2008 @ 1600 hrs

**- NEXT FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING -**

July 9, 2008 -SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT