

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING OF APRIL 10, 1986
SACRAMENTO FIRE DEPARTMENT - DIVISION OF TRAINING
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

M I N U T E S O F M E E T I N G

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Powell, Chairman - Chief, Sacramento Fire Department
John Englund - Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Jerry Letson - California Department of Forestry
Ken Brown - Chief, Rio Linda Fire Protection District
Don Manning - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Richard Montague - Director, Aviation & Fire, USFS for Zane G. Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Pat Kidder - Bureau of Land Management
Jim Brannon - Chief, Linda Fire Department
Chris Cameron - Regional Fire Coordinator, National Park Service
James McMullen - State Fire Marshal

SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT

Harry Steimer - General Mgr., California State Firemen's Association
Brian Hatch - Director, Federated Fire Fighter's Association

OTHERS PRESENT

Dale Geldert - Chief, Merced County Fire District
Walt McDermott - State Fire Marshal's Office
Dave Nelson - USFS Nevada City
R.G. Barrows - Chief, Fire and Rescue Division - OES
Will Brock - Deputy Chief, Fire and Rescue Division - OES
Rich Aronson - Assistant Chief, Fire and Rescue Division - OES
Blair Springer - Assistant Director Response & Recovery - OES
Dianne Woodall - Fire and Rescue Division - OES

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 0900 hours, stating that due to a prior commitment later in the day, he would be unable to chair the entire meeting. He therefore requested Chief Don Manning serve as Vice Chairman in his absence. Chief Manning accepted.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Discussion of minutes of meeting of 1/16/86, and review of letter sent to OES Director, Bill Medigovich on April 1, 1986, which outlined the priorities set by the Advisory Committee.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MANNING, SECONDED BY CHIEF BROWN, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 1986.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2986 (ELDER)

Chairman Powell advised the Committee that Nathan Mansky of Assemblyman Elder's Office would present a report on AB-2986, but would not arrive until approximately 10:00 a.m.

General discussion ensued, with Chairman Powell stating the bill originally called for establishment of a Disaster Reimbursement Fund of \$50 million dollars. However, the bill has been amended and now would provide only \$20 thousand dollars for a study by OES of how such a fund would be utilized.

Chief Englund was present when the bill was first heard and amended, and stated there was some support for the bill to proceed with the \$50 million dollar fund. However, Assemblyman Elder was not certain where the \$50 million would come from (i.e., General Fund, etc.), and felt the bill should be studied and recommendations made. Chief Englund, in answer to a question from Assemblyman Elder, suggested the Fire and Rescue Service Advisory Committee conduct the study and submit its recommendations to the Legislature.

Chief Barrows stated he received a call from the Legislative Analyst asking if \$20 thousand would be enough, and how is it to be spent. He further asked the Committee if they would provide the necessary support to conduct the study. The Committee offered full support.

Chairman Powell explained that a bill with a large amount of funding is not likely to pass unless a specific program is laid out as to how the money will be spent. General discussion regarding SB-1473 and how it parallels AB-2986.

Chief Barrows stated that establishment of such a fund is desirable, but a process must be established whereby the State would draw from the fund and then seek reimbursement from the Federal Government according to criteria. He further requested a sub-committee be established at today's meeting to work with OES in studying AB-2986 and to formulate a process by which the mutual aid reimbursement program would be studied.

Chief Englund stated there is such a sub-committee in Region I. Chief Barrows suggested a statewide sub-committee be formed with 3 members of the Region I sub-committee and 3 members from Northern California.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF ENGLUND, SECONDED BY CHIEF MONTAGUE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ESTABLISH A SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING ASSEMBLY BILL 2986 AND PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS. THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL BE COMPRISED OF:

**DAVE SLOAN, LOS ANGELES CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
CARL JOHNSON, COVINA FIRE DEPARTMENT
PAUL HENLIN, PISMO BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT
JERRY LETSON, CALIF. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
BILL TEIE, CDF BUTTE COUNTY
KEN BROWN, RIO LINDA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

At this time (approximately 10:00 a.m.), Nathan Mansky arrived and was given the floor to report on AB-2986. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee next week. There has been substantial discussion as to possible amendments. One such amendment would expand the OES study to include other public safety functions. There is concern that if OES performs the study it would only look at the fire service, while other agencies should have a role as well. He also mentioned the bill has shifted from its appropriation status of \$50 million dollars to a fallback position of a study -- just to keep the bill alive. Mr. Mansky stated there are a number of competing budget initiatives and money is tight. Any bill over \$250,000 is placed in a suspense file to be considered after the budget process. Therefore in amending the bill, time was purchased to determine funding sources.

Chief Barrows stated that up to this time, no one was aware the bill would include other public safety functions. This would have an effect on the validity of the fire service study. When Mr. Mansky suggested that the OES sub-committee could establish criteria for other public safety functions, Chief Englund stated the sub-committee could not speak for any other public service agency except fire.

General discussion continued, with Mr. Montague suggesting a counter-proposal be submitted to use the fire service as a model which other agencies could follow. Blair Springer stated that OES has yet not established a position on the bill. Mr. Springer agreed the bill should focus on the fire service pilot program. Further, Assemblyman Elder should stress the importance of establishing this position, which would allow OES to better prepare an analysis and submit a position on the bill. OES would not be comfortable recommending a position on the bill if it is for general public service agency reimbursement.

Consensus among committee members that the need for mutual aid funding is primarily fire service related. Mr. Mansky stated his willingness to meet with the sub-committee or any other associations. The report and recommendations should be received by early June, at which time the bill gets to the Senate Policy Committee. Once OES takes a position and the bill is firmed up, the option is available to request more money for the study above the original \$20 thousand.

Blair Springer stated that when the executive office received the recommendations from this committee, OES can request a position from the governor on the bill.

Chairman Powell expressed the committee's appreciation to Mr. Mansky for his input at today's meeting.

There was general consensus that AB-2986 is not clear in its present form and the sub-committee should proceed with its report and recommendations with or without the bill, since mutual aid reimbursement is the primary concern. As Chief Manning stated, if a system for mutual aid reimbursement is not in place, some agencies may refuse to provide their services because they cannot continue to absorb the costs. Chief Englund further called attention to the initial 24-hour period as being "free mutual aid"....A lot of money can be spent in 24 hours, as well as during the period before the governor declares an emergency. These costs must be absorbed by those agencies providing the mutual aid. The need to define "assistance" and "reimbursement" was also determined. Financial assistance takes the burden off local jurisdictions whereas reimbursement involves total costs.

Some items to be considered by the AB-2986 sub-committee are 1) to analyze the scope of the study; 2) establish the level of commitment; 3) determine when reimbursement is allowed; and 4) define whether the funds will be "reimbursement" or "assistance." Since it is imperative the sub-committee understand the desires and concerns of the Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee, Chief Englund agreed to represent the Advisory Committee at their first meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF BROWN, SECONDED BY CHIEF MANNING AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT CHIEF ENGLUND ACT AS LIAISON FOR THE FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AB-2986 SUB-COMMITTEE.

The group again concurred that regardless of the Elder bill, the sub-committee should continue to look at what type of mutual aid assistance/reimbursement is required. Chief Powell requested all committee members present at today's meeting submit their thoughts and concerns in writing and they will be forwarded to the members of the sub-committee. Chief Brown suggested April 18 as the first meeting date for the sub-committee.

REPORT ON ASSEMBLY BILL 2185 (WATERS)

Chairman Powell introduced Jerry Schimke and Fred Lercari from the Office of Emergency Services, who would report on AB-2185. Mr. Schimke gave a brief overview of the bill, stating OES has been tasked with carrying out the provisions of the bill regarding regulations on immediate notification of releases or potential releases of hazardous or toxic materials, and developing regulations for area and business plans. The law will require local jurisdictions to identify an administering agency for the program -- this places a burden to prepare the plans in regulatory form, thus requiring the development of enforcement aspects.

Mr. Lercari then provided a comprehensive report on regulations and guidelines for preparation of area and business plans. Preparation of an area plan is mandatory for all counties. Cities may assume this responsibility, but it is not mandatory. Mr. Lercari also provided the committee members with copies of the regulations and statement of reasons (intent for development of regulations). Fire service input during development of the regulations was represented through the State Fire Marshal's Office.

General discussion of the time frame involved for submitting plans, how are plans developed and approved, etc. Mr. Lercari stated that if AB-2187 passes, deadline will be 9/1/86 for counties to submit plans. If 2187 fails to pass, the deadline will be sooner. Mr. Lercari noted that the plans must be produced by the deadline, not necessarily approved. This will allow for revision of plans for large areas such as Los Angeles County.

Chief Barrows spoke for the Committee as to their stated concern for the fire service representation during development of the regulations. Mr. Lercari stated a task force of three OES employees developed the regulations based upon input obtained through the State Fire Marshal's office. Apparently the Fire Marshal's Office contacted fire representatives from California to attend four meetings which were held to obtain input. Chief Barrows further relayed the fact that this committee specifically stated they did not know who was on the task force for 2185. Chief Englund requested Mr. Lercari provide a list of those fire service representatives, along with the minutes of each of the four meetings. Mr. Lercari agreed.

General discussion ensued with the committee agreeing there has been a lack of communication as to who did or should have represented the fire service from the outset of the development of regulations. Mr. Lercari stated the bill mandated that OES work with the State Fire Marshal; however, the committee feels OES Fire and Rescue Division should have been contacted, which would then have allowed for input from the Advisory Committee. As it stands, no one -- not even OES Fire and Rescue Division -- is aware of what input was received from the fire service and who provided that input.

Chief Powell requested Mr. Lercari notify OES Fire and Rescue Division of any changes to the bill which will impact the fire service. Chief Barrows will then notify the state fire service. Chief Powell feels this committee has been bypassed up to this point. Mr. Lercari agreed to maintain contact with OES Fire and Rescue Division.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:00 noon.

REPORT ON UPDATE OF STATE FIRE AND RESCUE EMERGENCY PLAN

When the meeting reconvened at 12:30, Vice-Chairman Manning requested Chief Englund report on the update of the Fire and Rescue Plan.

Chief Englund reported a committee was formed for the revision of area and region plans in Region I with reference to EMS and hazardous materials. A meeting of the committee took place in February, at which time several sub-committees were formed to:

1. Prepare a model area plan
2. Prepare a model Region I plan
3. Make recommendations for the State Fire and Rescue Plan
4. Establish a Disaster Assistance Committee

The next meeting of the full committee is May 22 at which time the sub-committees will provide their reports.

OVERVIEW OF PENDING LEGISLATION

Chief Barrows reported on SB-1512, stating that OES is in the process of performing a bill analysis similar to the one for SB-161. He hopes this bill may have a better chance of getting signed. In a discussion of the role OES plays with reference to legislation, Chief Barrows stated that Fire and Rescue Division must take the position of the Office of Emergency Services -- regardless of whether it is to support or oppose a bill.

Discussion of AB-3865, with Mr. Montague citing the portion of the bill pertaining to mandatory dispatch of National Guard MAFFS (Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems). He is not against using MAFFS, but feels the bill would force them on to the fire service in lieu of their existing equipment. Chief Englund feels the intent of the bill is unclear; and it is difficult to support in its present wording. The bill is being reviewed by Los Angeles County Fire Department Operations. Mr. Letson (CDF) and Mr. Montague (USFS) requested Chief Englund work with them on rewriting or revising the bill.

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF HEAVY RESCUE UNITS AND SHARPS UNITS

Chief Barrows discussed a proposal submitted by OES Fire and Rescue Division, for the purchase of 15 additional heavy rescue-fire units, with initial and ongoing training funds for local fire response personnel; and the purchase of 5 SHARPS (Special Hose and Relay Pump System) units. The proposal resulted from the Mexico City Earthquake and Governor's Earthquake Task Force report. Chief Barrows will keep the committee advised on the progress of the paper.

REPORT ON CALFIRMS ACTIVITY

Chief Geldert (Chairman) explained the Calfirms Committee is preparing specific recommendations on the continuance of Calfirms. A questionnaire was recently sent to the fire service in Northern California, regarding ICS training. Results determined there is no

organized training statewide. FIREScope concepts should be brought to Northern California and the two areas should be merged, with training geared not only to major incidents, but to smaller departments as well. The need exists for central and standardized training, and central warehousing of manuals, etc.

Chief Barrows cited examples of how various training agencies have adopted their own forms and documents. These agencies should work together under a coordinated statewide effort.

Mr. Nelson (USFS, representing N.W.C.G. nationwide) explained how ICS was developed, its purpose and where it is today. It was intended to provide commonality in documentation and procedures, but there is no regulatory system to keep ICS in tact -- everyone is going their own way. Some counties have gone to other states for assistance in preparing their ICS plan. California, being the state where ICS was first developed, has the least continuity in its usage. Mr. Nelson feels three things are needed: a training and delivery system; all-risk development; and control of ICS on a statewide basis. Mr. McDermott will bring the issue up with Fire Marshal McMullen and report back to the committee.

Chief Barrows proposed the existing FIREScope decision process be responsible for future maintenance of ICS. Also, for the committee's consideration, Chief Barrows feels it is time to move from the regionalized concept of FIREScope to the statewide application, moving the Board of Directors decision process to the state level, and, that this committee become the FIREScope Board of Directors. If the decision process is not placed at state level, funding for state level projects will be impossible. General discussion continued, with the committee agreeing the issue is viable and should be taken back to the FIREScope Board of Directors for initial consideration and recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Englund presented copies of a proposal to be submitted at the California Fire Chiefs Annual Conference in May, recommending statewide adoption of a standardized Multi-casualty Triage Tag and Multi-casualty Operational Procedures.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OES Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee will be June 10, 1986 in Sacramento.

Note: Copies of these minutes will also be provided to the Chairman, FIREScope Operations Team; and Chairman, CALFIRMS Committee.