



FIRESCOPE

CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Burbank Fire Department Training Center
1845 N. Ontario Street
Burbank, CA 91505

April 11, 2012, 10:30 A.M.

Members Present

Bob Roper – Chairperson FIRESCOPE BoD, Ventura County Fire
Kim Zagaris – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA
Ken Pimlott – CAL FIRE
Andy McMurray – CAL FIRE
Mike Dyer – Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Mark Lorenzen – Ventura County Fire Department
Brian Marshall – Kern County Fire Department
Keith Richter – Orange County Fire Authority
Dave Rocha – Alameda County Fire Department
Robin Wells – (in for Sue Husari) National Park Service
Richard Webb – Linda Fire Protection District, North
Mark D’Amrogi – City Fire Department North, Cal EMA Region IV
Sam Marouk – (in for Paul Bannister) U.S. Department of Interior BLM
Art Torrez – U.S. Forest Service
Ralph Domanski – FIRESCOPE, Cal EMA
Jim Wilson – Mariposa County Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Departments
Bill Metcalf – Fire Districts South
Mike Richwine – (in for Tanya Hoover) California State Fire Marshal’s Office
Chuck Knapp – California State Firefighters Association
Doug Wenham – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA Region III
Mario Rueda – Los Angeles City Fire Department

Guests Present

Charles Butler – Los Angeles Fire Department
Mike Miller – Kern County Fire
Jim Middleton – Mariposa County Fire
Dan Drake – Orange County Fire
Janet Upton – CAL FIRE
Ishmael Messer – Cal EMA, Region I
Chad Stokes – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA
Jon Kolman – Fire and Rescue HazMat, Cal EMA (Meeting Minutes)
Bob Touts

Welcome, Introductions Logistics – *Meeting Starts 1035 *****

1. Chief Roper introduced himself and welcomed the Board members and guests to the FIRESCOPE BoD Meeting.
2. FIRESCOPE BoD observed a moment of silence for the passing of Los Angeles Fire Captain, David Bailey.

Approval of January 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Action Item – Chief Richter moved for approval of the January 11th, 2012 FIRESCOPE BoD meeting minutes. Chief Metcalf seconded. Motion approved.

Cal EMA Secretary's Report

3. Chief Zagaris stated that because of illness, the new Secretary of Cal EMA, Mark Ghilarducci was unable to attend the Board meeting, however the prognosis for his illness is favorable and hopefully, he will be able to assume duties toward the end of April. Chief Zagaris added that, with a new Secretary, Mike Dayton has assumed the position of Undersecretary.
4. Chief Zagaris stated that in March, the Governor sent out a reorganization plan that will include removing Cal EMA from being at the "secretary level" and placing it back under the Governor's office. He added that this plan has been sent to the Little Hoover Commission, and that they have thirty days to review / approve it before it is sent to legislature for their approval. He further stated that if this reorganization plan is passed, Cal EMA will undergo a name change and go back to being called the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.
5. Chief Zagaris mentioned that meetings are currently being held in regard to closing the CSTI facility that is located in San Luis Obispo, he added that wherever CSTI resides, whether at its current location or another, CSTI functions will continue under Cal EMA or with one of its partners. He concluded by stating that a decision has yet to be finalized and if the Board members have any suggestions on this matter, please send them to himself, or to Undersecretary Mike Dayton's office.

CALFIRE / SFM Update

6. Chief Pimlott stated that CAL FIRE is currently not implementing any new budget reductions, but is still attempting to implement the remainder of the \$80,000,000 reduction that it was directed to take over the last two years. Based on these reductions:
 - The Fresno AIRTAC base will not open, but will instead be consolidated with Porterville.
 - The elimination of five bulldozers across the department.
 - The elimination of twelve of the twenty year-round staffed engines located in the three southern units (San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino).
 - The elimination of the "exclusive use" contract for the very large air tanker.
 - The elimination of the "4th Firefighter."
 - The closure of the state warehouse.
 - Summer staffing will be eliminated for the 2 fire engines at Lake Tahoe.
7. Chief Pimlott stated that currently on the docket are the \$60,000,000 in trigger cuts that have been identified for the department should the Governor's tax initiative not pass on the November ballot. He adds that CAL FIRE is just one of many departments that will take the brunt of these trigger cuts, and that in lieu of this, his department has been asked by the Administration to work on a process that will detail the specific impact these cuts will have if they are to take place.
8. Chief Pimlott mentioned that his department has presented to the Board of Equalization, address information for just over 800,000 parcels, and are currently in the process of generating invoices for property owners, most likely, the first invoice will not go out until August 7th, 2012. Chief Pimlott added that it has been brought to his attention that there are several groups, including the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association, which will most likely proceed with litigation in regard to the addressing of these invoices.
9. In regard to fire season projections, Chief Pimlott states that his department has been watching things closely and despite the particularly wet March, indicators are still well below the normal range for this

time of year. Based on these projections, his department has put together a “Governor’s Office Action Request” to allow early staffing for Southern California regions.

10. Chief Pimlott states that aircraft maintenance is currently on schedule and that a deployment cycle, particularly for Southern California, will happen in the next few weeks.
11. In regard to hand crews, Chief Pimlott states that his department is working closely with the current administration, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation(CDCR), the Sheriffs Association and county cooperators in regard to the realignment of AB 109. He adds that currently, inmate numbers are up at the camps, but, come January, there may be a significant impact based on this realignment.
12. Chief Pimlott states that his department has expressed concern with the level-1 inmate reclassification process that the CDCR is currently performing, and is looking into having them provide the criteria that is used for reclassification.
13. Chief Pimlott states that work is being performed on developing policy for night flying on fires that the state has responsibility for.
14. In regard to USDA Forest Service Large Air Tanker Modernization Strategy, Chief Pimlott stated that CAL FIRE provided comments to the Forest Service last month (***this document is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD member packet***), and states that he remains committed to finding a solution to this issue and will keep the Board members updated.
15. Chief Pimlott states that Wildfire Awareness Week is scheduled for May 7-11, and that work is currently being done on developing a schedule for it.
16. Chief Pimlott states he is pleased that the Governor has completed all CAL FIRE appointments, with the final two being the reappointment of Janet Upton as the Deputy Director of Communication, and Mike Richwine as the Assistant State Fire Marshal.
17. Chief Richwine stated that the State Board of Fire Services met last month and that two main issues brought up at this meeting were state fire training and the safe disposal of fireworks.
 - With regard to firework disposal, Chief Richwine states that California continues to have a significant problem, but his department is currently working with Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal’s office to facilitate the creation of working groups across agencies/departments that will help with resolving this issue.
 - In regard to state fire training, Chief Richwine states that over the past year, his office has come up with a number of strategic directives in regard to developing instructor resources for all courses, and to create a “course plan” that will give instructors the ability to develop their own materials to meet course needs. He adds that over the next 2 years across California, there will be twenty-four no-cost workshops that will help train instructors on this new process.
18. When asked if the air reload at Pt. Mugu has been approved for use, Chief Pimlott mentioned that work continues on the agreements that will enable the base to be used for reloading other type of aircraft beside military, but that a preliminary agreement has been reached with the Base Commander to allow this already.

AB 1387 – EMS Update

19. Chief Rocha stated that legislation on AB 1387 is currently at a standstill, and a recommendation had been made to disband the working group that was tasked with this. He also states that another recommendation has been suggested is to create a regulatory work group under the EMSA that can address any outstanding issues that have come up, as well as develop an educational plan that can be used toward making forward progress. Chief Rocha added that a document that summarizes the history, as well as recommendations, will be made available to the Board members very soon.

CFAA Update

20. Chief Zagaris stated on May 10, the CFAA Executive Group / FIRESCOPE Group will meet to work on issues that continue to affect the CFAA. Among the topics to discuss are:

- The reimbursement issue for civilian personnel.
- Salary survey and Administrative Rate issues.

21. Chief Zagaris stated that the Base Rate had a slight adjustment based on the rate being contingent with CAL FIRE's rate, and their recent rate adjustment. The following rates have changed because of this:

- The new rate for Strike Team leaders and above went from 15.38 to 16.44
- The new rate for positions below Strike Team leader went from 19.01 to 20.08.
- The POV reimbursement rate went from .55¢ to .50¢ a mile.

He also stated that his office is currently discussing the need to create a webinar to help people thoroughly understand the correct methods for rate calculation.

22. Chief Zagaris stated that at the end of January, he sent to Board members a document detailing the findings that the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) found when they audited the California Mutual Aid System (***this document is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD member packet***). Chief Zagaris pointed out that according to the audit, of the 718 transactions that were analyzed that took place between 2006 and 2010, inaccuracies in rates resulted in some agencies overbilling for personnel costs by nearly \$674,000, and other agencies being underbilled by nearly \$67,000. Chief Zagaris stressed to the Board members that it would be wise for them to read this document thoroughly.

23. Chief Pimlott mentioned that a concern of his with this audit, and one that affects CAL FIRE, is the "16 vs. 24 hour" issue and how it relates to the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG). He states that with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) using a "16 hour" reimbursement, and CAL FIRE using a "24 hour," FEMA might hold CAL FIRE accountable for the millions of dollars that were overbilled, but added that CAL FIRE will continue to honor CFAA and will pay "exact costs." i.e. if it's portal to portal, they will pay portal to portal.

24. Chief Roper stated that it is very important, especially for the Regional Coordinators, that the tenants of the CFAA be maintained by all of the cooperators that they represent, and that individuals are going to be held accountable for their actions if or when any future audits might take place.

CWCG Update

25. Chief Zagaris stated that there was a meeting on April 10th concerning CWCG and that overall, he feels that it went very well. Topics that were discussed include:

- This was the first year that the Incident Command Application System (ICAP) has been used and there have been reports of users discovering "quirks" within the system. He also states that discussion took place with regard to California doing its own version of the ICAP system, or the possibility of partnering up with others groups and implementing a system.
- The issue of not having a department head or supervisor's actual "signature" within the ICAP application.
- An individual's tenure on teams.
- A report concerning national IMT's has been finalized and the next stage of implementation has begun. Overall, he feels that there is a movement toward having only one type of IMT which in turn would reduce the amount of IMT's nationally.
- The need for rosters to be viewed and approved by the Operations Group.
- The possibility of eliminating mentee's on teams and having only trainees.
- A number of individuals who are on federal IMT's are "timing out" and/or retiring due to the mandatory retirement issues taking place at the "federal" level. In some cases, these same

individuals are then going back to work at the “local” level and in doing so, have been causing additional internal issues.

- The California Interagency Wildland Fire Safety Officers Conference will be held in San Diego at Humphrey’s Half Moon Inn & Suites from April 17th – April 19th.
- The California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement” (CFMA).
- Updates to the DPA boundaries.
- CWCG was asked to provide a representative to Cal EMA in regard to Type III all-hazard teams.
- The joint Federal / State IC meeting that took place in Lone.
- The upcoming Federal IMT meeting with Command / General staff that will take place in late April.
- The California Mobilization Guide.

Structure Defense vs. Structure Protection

26. Chief McMurray states that during the development of the Structure Protection Guidelines for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), the Operations Team and Task Force discussed further defining and adopting consistent use of the terms “Structure Protection” vs. “Structure Defense.” ***(This document is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD member packet).*** Currently, the term “Structure Protection” implies a “defend at all costs” mentality, which has been a long held culture that ultimately, is in direct opposition to CAL FIRE’s true mission of reflecting more of a defensive posture on WUI tactics.

27. When asked if the Ops Team had any input on this, Chief Rueda stated that at previous meetings, the following concerns have been expressed:

- The timing of these changes with regard to the 40th edition of the FOG coming out so soon.
- The efficacy of whether defining these terms will actually create changes for the firefighter.
- The number of “other” documents that may need changes based on the new definition of these terms.

28. When asked how the federal partners feel about the changes in terminology, Chief Wells stated that he feels it is helpful to have consistent definitions, but whether these definitions correlate to seeing actual changes to individuals “on the ground” will remain to be seen.

29. Chief Roper asked Chief Rueda if there is a possibility that the Ops Team can discuss this issue, particularly in regard to how these changes may affect federal partners, and have their suggestions made available at the July FIRESCOPE BoD meeting. Chief Zagaris suggested that the Ops Team do this as soon as possible and then schedule a conference call with the FIRESCOPE BoD to discuss their findings. Chief Rueda stated that this should not be a problem.

30. When asked what the “shelf life” of the FOG is, Chief Zagaris stated that it is approximately 3 years, but since the current revision is behind schedule, it might not even be that. He also stated that ultimately, he foresees the “paper” version of the FOG going away, and it turning into a digital format which will allow making changes to it a lot easier.

31. Chief Roper concluded this agenda item by stating what he has heard so far, the Board, along with the Ops Team, will need to have further discussion on these changes, and at this point in time, he recommends no changes to these definitions. He also stated that with these definitions, the BoD and Ops Team also need to be aware, and to take into account the “trickle down” effect that will most likely affect other documents that might be sensitive to these definitions.

Action Item – Chief Roper asked the Board members to refer this matter to the Ops Team for further analysis. None Opposed.

IAFC Wildland Committee Report

32. Chief Roper stated that as for the I-Chiefs committee, there isn't much to talk about, but that next week he will be attending a WFLC meeting and will relay all information of that meeting to the next BoD Chairperson.

FIRESCOPE BoD Workshop Update

33. Chief Roper stated that within the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet, there is a document titled "FIRESCOPE BoD Priorities". He suggests that it be made into an agenda item at the July FIRESCOPE BoD meeting.

OPS Team / Taskforce Report

34. Chief Butler stated that the Task Force has completed work on the FIRESCOPE Orientation Packet (***this document is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet***), and that this packet will be useful to anyone wanting to learn the history of FIRESCOPE, and links to this packet will also be posted to the FIRESCOPE website.
35. Chief Butler stated that a document titled "Clandestine Laboratory Response Guidelines" (***this document is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet***) was approved by the Ops Team, and is awaiting approval from the FIRESCOPE BoD. Once approved, a recommendation will be made to the BoD to post this information to the FIRESCOPE website.
36. Chief Butler stated that a document titled "Marijuana Response Guidelines" (***this document is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet***) was approved by the Ops Team and is awaiting final approval by the FIRESCOPE BoD. Once reviewed and approved, a recommendation will be made to have this information posted to the FIRESCOPE website.
37. Chief Butler stated that the Safety Specialist Group submitted a draft document titled "All Hazard Response to Tactical Law Enforcement Incidents" to the Task Force. The Task Force reviewed and returned the document to the Specialist Group for revisions. This document will most likely be available for Ops Team review by June, and completed by the end of summer.
38. Chief Butler stated that in regard to the "WUI Placard", (***a revised edition of the WUI Placard was handed out at the FIRESCOPE meeting and was not included in the packet***) there have been several changes since the last report that was sent to the BoD, with the majority of these edits involving the wording on the instructional side. These changes were made based on input by federal attorneys and currently, the Task Force is awaiting their response back on these latest revisions.
- Chief Butler stated that there has been some discussion as to the time frame on when the placard should be placed in effect. Some have stated that implementation should be as soon as possible, while others think that it might be more prudent to wait until next fire season, since training will be necessary for the correct implementation of it. Chief Butler suggested that once the placard has been approved for use, it be posted to the FIRESCOPE website.
 - Changes that have been suggested to the placard include the following:
 - 1) Added to the placard itself, "The final decision to defend a structure is always up to the assigned resource."
 - 2) Added to the instructions, "**Does it appear** to have access/egress and turnarounds for Type I fire engines?"
 - 3) Added to the instructions, "Does the structure **appear to** have a water source for use by fire engines?"
 - 4) Added to the instructions, "**Does it appear** that a minimum of 100' of combustible vegetation has been cleared away from the structure?"
 - 5) Added to the instructions, "Do civilians **appear** to be present at the site?"

- When asked how this placard would be implemented, Chief Butler replied that the placard is designed to be placed on the property where it is readily visible to any crew coming into the area. Doing this will allow the crew the ability to make a quick assessment of the property.
 - Chief Butler added that some have suggested that the placard come with an adhesive back. He stated that in his opinion, the preferable method would be to have the placard made available via the FIREScope website, with instructions stating that it be printed on thick cardstock and handed out to crews as needed.
 - Chief Rueda stated that once the Board approves the concept of the placard, the Ops Team will create a training plan and informational packet that will describe its proper use. He further added that based on the logistics involved with a project of this type, he doesn't foresee this being implemented this fire season. Chief Butler agreed and added that in regard to its proper use, a PowerPoint presentation will most likely be made available.
 - Chief Richwine stated that his department is currently in the process of updating the "command 1C" course, and has been working closely with the "WUI Group" in regard to documenting the proper use of the placard.
39. Chief Butler stated that the Task Force has created a position paper titled "Incident Command Position Title Review" (***this document is included in the FIREScope BoD meeting packet***), addressing how ICS uses Units in the Operations Section. He states that the Operations Team felt that this paper met the intent of the NIMS request and recommends that the document be posted to the FIREScope website as an informational source.
40. Chief Butler stated that the Task Force is working on a MACS Exercise for the Northern Operations MACS Group, and that this operation will take place at 0900 on May 17, 2012.
41. Chief Butler stated that there are a number of Task Force vacancies:
- City Fire Departments (North) has been filled by Cole Stratton, Deputy Chief of Operations, North County Fire Authority.
 - County Fire Departments (North) is vacant
 - County Fire Departments (South) is vacant
 - Fire Districts (South) is vacant
 - Cal EMA
 - Los Angeles County Fire Department is vacant
42. Chief Butler concluded his report by stating that there are a number of upcoming meetings:
- May 16-17, 2012 – (Redding) Task Force Meeting / North Ops MACS Exercise
 - June 12-15, 2012 – (San Francisco) Task Force / Ops Team Joint Meeting
 - July 2012 (TBD) – (Riverside) Task Force Meeting / South Ops MACS Orientation
43. Chief Rueda stated that it has been brought to his attention regarding a concern with the Area Command document, and in particular, the section that describes the concept of "Staging under Area Command". He adds that there are areas within the Incident Command Structure that do not meet agency needs. More information will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Action Item – Chief Roper asked the Board members if there was any opposition toward approval of the "Orientation Packet"; "Clandestine Laboratory Response Guidelines"; "Marijuana Response Guidelines" documents. None Opposed.

Action Item – Chief Roper moved that the Board approve posting the “WUI Placard” onto the FIRESCOPE website. Motion denied at this time contingent upon further review at the July FIRESCOPE BoD meeting.

Action Item – Chief Roper moved that the Board approve posting the “Incident Command Position Title Review” document to the FIRESCOPE website. None Opposed.

2012 FIRESCOPE Field Operations Guide ICS 420-1

44. Chief Butler stated that the last revision of the FOG was in 2007, and that, over the last 2 years, the Task Force has been working on revisions to it. ***(An envelope that contained a copy of the revised changes was included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet).*** Below is a brief overview of chapters that were changed:

Chapters 1-8:

- Formatting changes were made to some chapters, with others having none at all.

Chapter 9 (Planning Section):

- Minor changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 10 (Logistics Section):

- Minor changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 11 (Finance / Administration Section):

- Minor changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 12 (Organizational Guides):

- Minor changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 13 (Resource Types & Minimum Standards):

- Significant changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 15 (Multi-Casualty):

- Significant changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 16 (Urban Search and Rescue):

- Moderate changes were made to this chapter.

Chief Roper called a “working lunch” @ 1255. Chief Miller (Ventura County) gave a presentation on the “Interoperable Common Operating Platform (ICOP).”

Chief Roper was presented with a retirement gift to show appreciation for his years of hard work and dedication with the Cal EMA Fire & Rescue Advisory Committee, and as a member of the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

Election of new BoD Chair and Vice-Chair

45. Chief Roper gave a brief history of the FIRESCOPE BoD election process that is described in the MACS 410-4 document. ***(This document was included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet).***

Action Item – Chief Roper stepped down as FIRESCOPE BoD Chairperson.

Action Item – Chief Richter moves that the Board nominate Chief Dyer as the new FIRESCOPE BoD Chairperson. Chief Metcalf seconded. None opposed. Motion approved.

Action Item – Per majority consensus of the Board members, election for the FIRESCOPE BoD Vice-Chairperson will take place at the July FIRESCOPE BoD meeting.

Cont...2012 FIREScope Field Operations Guide ICS 420-1

46. Chief Butler continued his discussion of the FOG revisions:

Continued from previous discussion...

Chapter 17 (Terrorism / Weapons of Mass Destruction):

- Significant changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 18 *NEW CHAPTER*** (WUI Structure Protection):**

- “WUI Structure Protection” chapter. This chapter is a new addition.
- Other significant changes have been made to this chapter.

Chapter 19 (High Rise Structure Fire Incident):

- No changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 20 (Protective Action Guidelines):

- Minor changes to both content and formatting were made to this chapter.

Chapter 21 (Firefighter Incident Safety & Accountability Guidelines):

- Significant changes were made to this chapter.

Chapter 22 (Firefighter Safety & Accountability Guidelines):

- Moderate changes made to this chapter

Chapter 23 (Glossary of Terms):

- Moderate changes were made to this chapter.

Appendix A:

- Moderate changes were made to this chapter.

Appendix B:

- Minor changes were made to this chapter.

47. Chief Richter states that he has a concern with the FOG revision that discusses changes in the number of personnel, and asked the Board if there had been any previous discussion with the State in having additional reimbursement allowed with regard to this revision. He added that with the current “economic climate”, he most likely would have a difficult time justifying an un-reimbursable expenditure for another position on the Task Force, and asked that the Ops Team be cautious when making recommendations such as this.

- Chief Rueda stated that in defense of this, the Ops Team have always used their best judgment and effort in creating recommendations such as this, and to ensure that they are safe, effective, and operationally sound, but he also realizes that some of these recommendations can be denied, particularly, when financial commitments are involved but that ultimately, these types of recommendations will continue to be suggested.
- Chief Rueda recommended that the FOG revision regarding these personnel changes be sent back to the Task Force for further input from the 9 sponsoring agencies, and with the recommendation that a “hard cap” be placed on the 29 positions that comprise a team, but to also have the flexibility of adding an assistant, a 2nd Task Force leader, or an additional equipment person if need be.
- Chief Butler stated that in addition to Chief Rueda’s recommendation, the Task Force will also look into revising the FOG guidelines to allow reconfiguring the team to allow the creation of a 2nd Task Force Team Leader, but with the stipulation that another position be dropped in order to stay within the confines of a 29 member team.

Action Item – Chief Richter moved that the Board accept Chief Rueda’s & Chief Butler’s suggestions concerning staffing changes and how they will be implemented within the FOG revision. Chief Wilson seconded. None opposed. Motion approved.

Action Item – Chief Wilson moved that the Board approve the changes to the FOG. Chief Knapp seconded. None opposed. Motion approved.

Old Business

48. Chief Zagaris stated that in regard to the EMAC, NEMA is having a committee meeting in Des Moines, Iowa on May 24, and that there will be 5 individuals sent to this meeting to represent California's interests.
49. Chief Zagaris stated that with his involvement with the I-Chief's, the Emergency Management Committee met in Albuquerque last month and one of the main topics of discussion was Interstate Mutual Aid issues. Chief Zagaris deferred to Chief Pimlott who stated that, following the fires in Texas and the large amount of resources and funds that were ordered, California made a conscious decision not to overburdening adjoining State(s) with this huge resource order, and to bill knowing that legislature meets every other year and would not be able to process payments in a timely manner.

New Business

50. Chief Rueda stated that the City of Los Angeles Fire Department has been in discussion with the City Attorney and the Mayor's Attorney with regard to his department releasing patient information to the media, and having the ability with regard to their privacy while maintaining compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules. He adds that Chief Zagaris suggested a letter be sent to the Cal EMA Secretary's office and to the State Attorney General's office asking for their opinion on maintaining patient rights and compliance with State and Federal laws.
 - When asked what type of information he considers to be in conflict, Chief Rueda stated that the following are all listed in HIPAA guidelines, and is all information that has been given out at one time or another:
 - a) Dispatch Address
 - b) Patient Condition
 - c) Patient Age
 - d) Community in which the event / incident occurred.
 - Chief Richter mentioned that he was under the impression that if State laws are more restrictive than Federal laws, they can override Federal laws. Chief Rueda stated that that is correct, but that the HIPAA rules also state that States are allowed to comply with their own laws.
 - Chief Upton added that HIPAA typically applies to agencies that transport, but that we should be abiding by the California Privacy Act, which is explicit in what is considered privacy information. She concludes by stating that if anyone would like more information on this, to please contact her office.
51. Chief Zagaris stated that the next FIRESCOPE meeting will be held in Sacramento at Cal EMA Headquarters on July 11, 2012.

Meeting Adjourned @ 1425