

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2006**

Members Present:

Kim Zagaris, Chief, Fire and Rescue Branch – Office of Emergency Services
Henry Renteria, Director – Office of Emergency Services
Frank McCarton, Chief Deputy Director – Office of Emergency Services
William Bamattre, Chief – Los Angeles Fire Department
Bob Roper, Vice Chair – Chief, Ventura County Fire Department
Julius Cherry – Sacramento City Fire Department
Jim Wright –Deputy Director, CDF
Chuck Knapp – California State Firefighter's Association
Larry E. Webb, Chief – San Marcos Fire Department
Dennis Thompson – Kern County Fire Department
Bill McCammon, Chief – Alameda County Fire Department
Ben Lopes – Santa Clara County Fire District
Ray Quintanar – Regional Director US Forest Service
Candace Gregory – Region Chief, CDF, Region V
Jim Marquis – Grass Valley Fire Department
Mark D'Ambrogi – Chief, Auburn City, Region IV

Members Absent:

P. Michael Freeman, Chair – Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Charles "Chip" Prather, Chief – Orange County Fire Authority
John Sherri, Chief – Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Sue Husari, Fire Management Officer – National Park Service
Wayne Mitchell – CDF Northern Region
Ruben Grijalva, Director CDF/State Fire Marshal

Others Present:

Matt Bettenhausen – Director, Department of Homeland Security
Bryan Keith – Department of Homeland Security
Dan Drake, Division Chief – Orange County Fire Authority
Mike La Plant – Division Chief – Ventura County Fire Department
Ed Applegate - Battalion Chief, ROSS Program Mgr. – CDF
Ed Holinstad, Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Darrell Ralston- Assistant Chief, Ventura County Fire Department
Tom Drayer, Deputy Chief – OES
Bob Praytor, Deputy Chief – OES
Pat O'Bannon, Assistant Chief – OES
Darrell Ralston – Assistant Chief, Ventura County Fire Department (duplicate)

Dave Stone, Battalion Chief – Los Angeles County Fire Department
Mark Schmidt – Division Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Todd Newman – Chief, San Marcos Fire Department
Steve Brown – Chief, Chico City Fire Department

Introduction and Logistics

Bob Roper opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Self-introductions were made.

Approval of previous meeting Minutes

Bob Roper (Ventura County FD)

Motion

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

1st Lopes

2nd Thompson

Motion Passed

OES Director's Report

Henry Renteria, OES

- Flooding - CA is in a State of Emergency. Seven counties have declared emergencies for flooding. All rivers are at or near flood stage, and the big concern is a warm pacific storm that could melt the snow pack. Many of the levies are being carefully watched, with 24 critical sites under observation. Current damage is not enough for a presidential declaration. The Governor is in contact with the local areas impacted by flooding. OES will be updating the 24-hour contact number for all officials in each jurisdiction, fire, police, etc.
- Hurricane Katrina – OES continues to respond to post-Katrina issues, and continue its work on catastrophic planning. The current committee is working on evacuation planning, especially for large cities, with focus on moving and relocating large amounts of population. Documents are currently in draft form.
- Emergency Council - the Governor has started the election process again. Nominations will be interviewed. Both the County Board of Supervisors and Fire Chief Representative positions are available.
- Pandemic flu – OES is working with the Department of Health Services with their planning. An increased role has been identified for both the EMS and Emergency Preparedness with developing public education messages. It is anticipated that West Nile will hit bigger this year, especially with all the water from flooding.
- SEMS/NIMS compliance – a handout was provided. Please review and direct any questions to the OES Training Division. OES will post on their website all of the backup documents.

Homeland Security Update

Matt Bettenhausen, OHS

- Congress is looking to make numerous cuts in all Homeland Security budgets. Everyone needs to communicate more effectively to Congress and emphasize the importance of funds addressing all hazards, not just terrorism.
- Grant programs have been completely revamped to a semi-competitive program. State OHS program funds were slashed in half last year, which goes to most operational areas. Some areas have already been consolidated, but it is making long-term planning difficult. FEMA is currently conducting 10 regional grant programs and will develop an application process for money once allocations are made. It is not known what the allocations will be until this later this year.
- CA has joined EMAC since Hurricane Katrina. It should assist the process greatly in that we will not waste time negotiating if there is a catastrophic incident. Deadlines for fire grant assistance applications have been announced, so make sure your departments are putting in their applications for assistance. Money can be used for all hazards preparedness, improving fire stations, etc. OES and others are available to assist in preparing applications.
- Right now, EMAC has stalled. It has become a huge burden with OHS in that the money is not being spent; Congress is not giving more because they don't know how that money is being spent. The current holdup is from the California Professional Firefighters.
- Kim Zagaris discussed changes to EMAC as a whole, and make it uniform. The biggest concern with EMAC is that someone has to declare an Emergency to enact EMAC, and usually there isn't time to wait for a governor's declaration. This makes the existing interstate compacts critical with those time constraints. One sole plan will not work for every emergency.

IAFC, National Service Mutual Aid System Task Force & Western Division Mutual Aid Work Goup Report

William Bammattre, Los Angeles FD

- Looking at FEMA to take a larger role fiscally, and that some of the questions will be resolved at the national level. The whole system is designed around "best practices", including interstate agreements. At this point, things are going in a positive unified direction.
- Need to have patience for with the National system, as many states are not as progressive with their programs.

NIMS Update

Kim Zagaris, OES

- OES conducted two conference calls with FEMA and the National Resource Typing group. Many want to tweak and adjust various things. OES does not want to do any resource typing as an individual. An example of a problem with typing was given about the city of Seattle wanting to type fire boats. Mutual aid for those resources is not be realistic considering the non-water areas of CA, and the distance those resources would have to travel before providing assistance.

- A lot of work needs to be done for a standard way of how to move and track resources on a national basis. The ROSS system was presented at the federal level. The CFO of FEMA doesn't think ROSS meets all the needs. Resource tracking is a big item, even with EMAC, along with the Req. A, which is a Resources Order form that ends up using a bid process (maybe the cheapest resource various closet).
- Steve Gage is working for the U.S.F.S. in the NIMS/NIC center and has been a big help working behind the scenes for California.
- As Task Force and the OPS Team work towards FOG document updates, we all need to make adjustments to be compliant. Recently DHS and FEMA are looking at adjusting things that didn't work well with hurricane Katrina, although it is thought that a major problem may have been more about personnel not knowing how to utilize the system.
- Ray Quintanar pointed out that Mississippi was closest to using NIMS/ICS than during that disaster any other state. While CA wants its programs to become national, there is concern that we give up much of the ownership to them as we do so. We have a long way to go before we reach a finish. FIREScope needs to be consistent with the role it takes. There have been battles nationally with any system change or adaption.
- Bob Roper brought up changing the FIREScope logo on the FOG. P. Michael Freeman had contacted Gil Jamison, who no longer works in the NIMS/NIC. Nothing about that issue is known. Bob Praytor and Pat O'Bannon with OES were on a call to begin writing a FOG for NIMS. They will be going to Kentucky on May 9 to begin brainstorming this project.
- The NIMS/NIC is looking at an Incident Management FOG revision/update. Al Shumann wants 4 people from FIREScope who are interested in assisting with this. Zagaris will send out an email to the BOD asking for representatives and Kim can forward that list to Freeman.

Ops Team Report

Darrell Ralston, Ventura County FD

- Team met on January 26 and 27.
- 410-1 had significant revisions. The **Firescope** logo change on the FOG was discussed and asked that the Task Force submit some options to back to the Ops Team.
- Brian Kelly, Chief of San Mateo was assigned to monitor ambulance strike teams.
- NWCG – the term “All Hazard” is replacing “All Risk” in the NWCG glossary.
- The FIREScope Ops Team has asked the Task Force to type fire mechanics.
- 410-1 revisions will be included in the July BOD meeting.

Task Force Report

Mike Laplant

- Last meeting was March 20 and 23. Next meeting will be in April.
- Document review – 400-1 document control system is currently updating. The document order and website listing is being upgraded. 410-2 resource designation system is being updated.

- No significant changes to the FOG, except to the Fire Mechanics Typing, which resides at the NWCG level.
- MACS orientation and exercise will be on May 17th, and one in the south in Riverside on June 22.
- Task Force is working on posting minutes on the FIRESCOPE website.
- Issue – implementation of ROSS and how FIRESCOPE fits into that. ROSS and FIRESCOPE typing definitions are different. Options on how to rectify this will be discussed at next meeting with Ops Team.

Update on Ambulance Strike Teams

Kim Zagaris, OES

- Groups are continuing to meet. EMSA is in the process of training trainers to get the private and non-profit ambulances and strike team leaders up to date. Will be identifying ambulance coordinators in operational areas, and put together a database for information gathering for resources. This will help determine what will be available any given day.
- Rough-and-Ready 2006 exercise will be in Santa Clara County in May.
- Programmable Radio frequencies – ambulances have still have not been given permission to pre-program Appendix A FOG frequencies.
- Overall, things are going well, progress is slow but sure. The biggest item is reminding them that fire-based ambulances will only be dispatched through the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System and will not be dispatched or deployed with the private/non-profit ambulances.
- Reimbursement – still working through how it will be done. Currently, private/non-profit ambulances are not reimbursable on their own.

BREAK

Engine Procurement

Kim Zagaris, OES

- Current discussion is on several of the vendors wanting to keep the 15 Type-3 engine purchase contract in CA. Adjustments have been made in how CDF is doing their Type-3 engines to make sure manufacturers deliver on our requests.
- Met on Monday, prior to bid with DGS, with over 42 vendors in the room at the pre-conference bid. All questions were gathered and directed to DGS, CDF and OES, then were responded to and will be sent out to everyone involved.
- May 9 was announced as the new date for the bid. OES has been concerned about meeting timeframes. 8-25% more in the cost if not done in a short timeframe. Penalty and delivery clauses are in the contract, since CDF and OES has had vendors not deliver. A full-performance bond has been requested.

OHS Grant Program

- In 2006 there were some significant changes. Grant program become semi-competitive. A risk and need component were included.
- Held a program review in January of this year, and included the state, locals, and counties. Looked at the target capability list, and talked about the actual program

- and how it could be improved. Took the target capability list and broke them down to specific needs and actions that need to be taken in order to close any gaps. One Work Group was designated for each target capability. 14 investment justifications were identified and put into the FY-06 application. \$4.1 million is guaranteed and the rest is competitive.
- Asked for \$1.3 billion dollars, with only \$765 million available for the programs.
 - Currently doing statewide grant workshops to discuss changes in the grant application process. The state application is due back to OHS by June 30, and then they should know what kind of money we will get, and then will start awarding local applications around July.
 - Will see a \$395 million cut in funds starting in 2007, and may have to repeat the process for that fiscal year.
 - A handout was provided

ROSS Progress Briefing Update

Pat O'Bannon and Ed Applegate, OES/

- The new automated Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS) implementation is well under way will full implementation projected by July 1.
- ROSS is replacing MIRPS and can do more than MIRPS. MIRPS was only designed to do ordering and some reports, but the software is no longer supported by Oracle. Once ROSS is live, MIRPS will put into an archive status (sleep mode). A viewer is being developed for people to be able to look at archived MIRPS data for historical purposes.
- ROSS is bigger, and the new 2.4 version will be available next week. ROSS is setup to go live April 15.
- Training has been an issue, with only half of the personnel requiring training trained so far. A two-day course is being taught down south to assist with data entry. Next year, will have as many training opportunities as this year.
- New version includes an aircraft screen. The earlier start date is due to the oncoming fire season. There are a few issues with the naming components, viewing, and speed, but makes up for it in the usefulness of the content.
- Direct resource ordering is an issue. ROSS does not have the same flexibility as MIRPS did. Update on ROSS' implementation status will be provided at the July BOD meeting.

Radio Interoperability Update CALSEIC-EMS & PSRSPC

Glen Savage

- CALSIEC – Provided an update on homeland security. Robert Sumond gave update on grant process. The CALSEIC website is hosted by OES at www.calseic.org. Draft of interoperability process is now available.
- Issue – there is a national push for a common naming platform for all the interoperability channels. 700-800 mhz have no protocols.
- Trying to establish information gathering on existing radio systems, and come up with an overall system that will communicate across the board. A white paper is being written on the future of State communications.

- A “Vendor Day” is being developed where all vendors can discuss what systems are available. No funding for this is the biggest issue, with agencies volunteering time only. A \$5 billion BCP is being proposed for this program. The purchase contract open to all state agencies to purchase what equipment has been established.
- FIRESCOPE COM Specialist Group – Travel Net is going away in Jan 2007, with the frequency going to the Department of Justice. Looking at a replacement for this. Developed a draft of the standardized ICS-205. Next workshop is in Pasadena on May 15, and the next FIRESCOPE COM Specialist meeting is in Bakersfield on May 2.

CFAA/Local Agreements Update

Bob Roper

- 6 meetings since the last BOD.
- Took the concept issue that FIRESCOPE put forward, using CFAA as primary ordering tool. Trying to determine what to do with local agreements, and if they can roll into the CFAA. Forest agencies are looking into the value of the local agreements. If local agreements are rolled into CFAA with one rate structure, several local areas will have significant differences. Check with your local agreements and know what differences there will be. Some may think that they are losing money.
- Free period is still staying at 12 hours.
- CFAA is being re-drafted as an all hazard tool, so federal can get resources for non-fire emergencies. Currently, CFAA is for forest agencies to access local governments, and there may for it to be for the agreement to be reciprocal.
- Next meeting is May 3.
- BIA and DOD may be a part of the new agreement. They want to bring the tentative agreement to the July BOD meeting. There will also need to be a training packet to accompany the new CFAA. The current version expires 12/2006.

LUNCH

CICCS Update

Bill McCammon, Alameda County FD

- Some departments have said that if their company officers are not certified, they will not go out of the county. Concern exists that that any physical requirements are not being met since the arduous was placed back onto the respective agency.
- Zagaris brought up one item that was left out, which was that the CICCS workgroup needs to be brought back together. Issues have come up and the workgroup needs to answer them or make adjustments.
- Steve Brown added that the Task Force was supposed to get back together on a six month basis. Now that the new 310-1 is out, the group should be getting back together again. Other aspects are not a problem, but the physical fitness part lacks specificity, and recommendations need to be made to the State Fire Marshal. A

memo needs to be sent out to clarify the engine company level. CDF has an All-Hazards Task book that they want to submit.

- Bob Roper pulled out a FEMA handout entitled "Crosswalk", which was primarily designed for volunteer departments, but is now geared to all engine companies. Roper asks that the FIREScope Ops Team and Task Force could bring back recommendations to the group. Pilot States are being considered to try out the plan, and maybe CA can be part of the test group for this.

Retirement Honor

- Larry Webb was honored for his FIREScope service. His vacancy as the Fire District South representative will be advertised

SEMS – NIMS Update

Mike Staley, OES

- 2006 NIMS requirements came out last fall, with very specific areas, including: resource management, after action/corrective action, emergency management credentialing, training and exercises, and public information.
- Specialist committees were tasked with identifying steps necessary to achieve NIMS compliance. The result ended up in a workbook that was reviewed, modified and sent to the SEMS Technical Workgroup, to be reviewed for comment.
- Henry Renteria provided the checklist for becoming NIMS compliant. The workbook is being revised, and will be sent to the SEMS Advisory Board for the meeting on April 26. After approval, workshops will be scheduled throughout the State for all local jurisdictions. The State has to be certified by September 30.
- Full compliance is expected by 2007.

Pandemic Flu Preparedness Update

Gail Lockhart, OES

- Provided an overview - very complex topic, will occupy a lot of state, local and private participation over the next couple of months/years. Several agencies are already involved.
- The lead is the CA Department of Health Services, and their website has a draft plan posted.
- CA Food/Ag has a plan for foreign animal disease, including poultry.
- Fish and Game has convened a workgroup to look at their issues and will develop documents for public viewing by June.
- Emergency management is done by OES working with consultants, and all levels of government and private sector. OES is developing a State level Concept of Operations. Department of Health Services is also reviewing applicable documents.
- OES/CDFR/HHS/CDFG/OHS/Cal-EPA groups are being represented in a meeting to acquire Concept of Operations input.
- Critical issues: Communications issues, how to convey messages to the public, private sector involvement, and how to share information. OES will set up website porthole for pandemic influenza.

- Surveys going out to the emergency management community to see where they are with needs and planning.
- Workshops and exercises are being put together by the Department of Health Services who should have preliminary information out by early June. In July, August, and September, exercises will be conducted. Exercise dates will be released as soon as they are determined.

OES Fire & Rescue Branch Report

Kim Zagaris, OES

- The vacant Deputy Chief of Administration position has been filled by Scott Vail.
- After last BOD meeting, the State had a few fires and the Mutual Aid System worked well. The Sierra fire in Orange County had a great number of resources turn out. The northern part of the state is still pretty dry.
- When wildland engine procurement is done, OES' Paul Beckstrom and Bob Praytor are working on the next \$20 million for engines. We were about \$600,000 short this time around. OES will emphasize the 7-year replacement schedule
- Still working through the Region IV and VI Assistant Chief vacancies as there is a lot of movement in both the Regional and Operational Area Coordinator positions.
- Received a call from Cal-OSHA looking to do hearing on May 24-25 about regulating back-firing and burning operations. 40-45 people will get together to discuss this and whether or not to create a State mandate and pay for training.

Firefighter Line of Duty Death Notification Procedures

Kim Zagaris

- Provided a handout that defines what the Governor's office determines is a line of duty death, and what should be done afterwards. The notification sheet was included. The Governor wants all fatalities to report through OES using the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System.
- One change – CSFA wants to be involved.
- Right now it does not include “non-engagement” deaths. This provides the notification required for the Governor to call family and possibly show up at the funeral. The Governor only wants true line-of-duty death notifications right now.

Region I Report

Dave Stone

- ROSS – Online April 15. Working toward a Regional training facility.
- Partnering with L.A. area chiefs for a wireless communications systems study, which would allow for interoperability for outside agencies.
- Annual fire season Coordinator meeting is scheduled for late May.
- One activation of the MMA System so far with the Sierra fire.

Region II Report

- None to report

Region III Report

Del Walters

- Had a fire in Siskiyou County.
- Had one 400-level CICC application.

Region IV Report

Mark D'Ambrogi

- Getting a handle on inventory for 400-level certifications.
- Region Coordinator's meeting coming up in June or July, looking for new alternates due to Operational Area Coordinator changes.

Region V Report

Candace Gregory

- No fire activity, but lots of flooding and water.
- All ordering is going smoothly so far.
- Fresno Operational Area Coordinator is retiring, and a new Coordinator will be appointed.
- Tulare County appointed a new chief and Operational Area Coordinator.
- Received OES 261 in Madera, and OES 257 in Atwater.

Region VI Report

Tom Drayer

- 19 400-level CICC applications have been processed.
- Many transitions: San Bernardino County has a new chief, San Diego chief is retiring, Larry Webb has retired from San Marcos.
- Had an off-duty firefighter death yesterday, found deceased in home.

National Park Service Report

- None to report

Forest Service Report

Ray Quintanar

- Put an agreement together with FCA, and package will be put together by May.
- Team meetings in Reno right now. CWCG meeting scheduled for May 4.
- April 27 is a one-day mega-fire meeting that Forest Service is hosting in San Bernardino
- Federal crews are responding to fires in Texas, etc.

CDF Report

Jim Wright

- Current year budget has a deficit.
- Many retirements, 165 to date. Incident command teams have been reduced to 9.
- Senate hearing went well, and the Assembly is next week.
- The year-round staffing down south is getting "hit"; officials wonder why the resources have to be available 24-hours a day.

Bureau of Land Management Report

- None to report

Old Business

- SB 1837: Please make a statement to get it on the table over the next few years, to let the Senate know this is something that needs to be talked about.

Meeting Adjourned

*Next Meeting – July 12, 2006
OES Headquarters, Mather*