

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

Meeting Minutes
Orange County Fire Authority RFOTC
April 13, 2005

Members Present:

Kim Zagaris, Chief, Fire and Rescue Branch – Office of Emergency Services
P. Michael Freeman, Chair – Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
William Bamattre, Chief – Los Angeles Fire Department
Bob Roper, Vice Chair – Chief, Ventura County Fire Department
Charles “Chip” Prather, Chief – Orange County Fire Authority
Ruben Grijalva, State Fire Marshal/CDF
Chuck Knapp – CSFA
John Sherri, Chief – Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Sue Husari, Fire Management Officer – National Park Service
Bill McCammon, Chief – Alameda County Fire Department
Hank Weston, Chief – Grass Valley Fire Department
Dennis Thompson – Kern County Fire Department
Larry E. Webb, Chief – San Marcos Fire Department
Les Matarazzi – Bureau of Land Management

Members Absent:

Henry Renteria, Director – Office of Emergency Services
Stewart Gary, Chief – Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department
Dale Geldert, Director – CDF

Others Present:

Bill Dean, Assistant Chief – Orange County Fire Authority
Dan Drake, Division Chief – Orange County Fire Authority
Bob Praytor, Deputy Chief – OES
Pat O'Bannon, Assistant Chief – OES
Steve Gage, Deputy Chief – OES
Ishmael Messer, Assistant Chief - OES
Rich Green – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
George Motschall - United States Forest Service
Ken Waldvogal – Santa Clara Fire Department
Mario Rueda, Deputy Chief – LA City Fire Department
Greg West, Assistant Chief – LA City Fire Department
Tom Tisdale - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Doug Woods – Homeland Security
Mike LaPlant - Ventura County Fire Department
Darrell Ralston – Ventura County Fire Department
Nick Dunn – Kern County Fire Department
Art Bishop – Apple Valley Fire Department
Dave Stone, Battalion Chief – Los Angeles County Fire Department

Introduction and Logistics

Chief Prather welcomed all in attendance and invited everyone to tour the new RFOTC Headquarters facility after the meeting. Self-introductions were made.

Approval of previous meeting Minutes

Michael Freeman

- Review of previous meeting minutes

Motion

Motion was made to approve previous meeting minutes as submitted.

1st Weston

2nd Webb

Motion Passed

OES Director's Report

Kim Zagaris

- Group was reconvened to reactivate SIMS Advisory Board. Mike Warren assured that FIREScope would have representation.
- Director passed on appreciation for assistance with the 2005 winter storms. A declaration has been approved for January (February pending).
- Working on identifying costs for disasters.
- Statewide Emergency Management Strategic Plan is on website. The Director is setting the plan into place with input from State, Federal and local government, as well as interested private cities.
- Continuing to work with First Lady Maria Shriver on Disaster Preparedness campaign. Will be in Chatsworth on 9/25/05 and San Francisco on 9/27/05.

US Fire Administration – Fire Assistance Grants Process Update

Doug Woods

- Doug conducted a presentation on grants available in 2005 to fire service agencies.
- The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for 2005 is no longer a FEMA grant, but is owned by the State.
- A website has been constructed by the Department of Homeland Security to provide grant information and assistance with the grant application process. This site also contains a link to success stories of grant recipients. The web address is: www.firegrantsupport.com
- New this year, of the AFG funds, 3.5% must go to EMS.
- Also new this year, non-affiliated EMS organizations are eligible for a maximum of 2%.
- \$65 million grant available for hiring of firefighters through the SAFER Program. Application period begins 5/31/05 and close on 6/28/05. (see website for further details)
- Fire Prevention and Fire Safety may apply separately this year.
- Shared projects by various communities can partner together to apply for regional grants.
- California Fire Agencies must pay sales tax on items purchased with grant funds. Sales tax may be requested as a separate item in the grant request.

- Doug provided a breakdown of the application history in California from 2002-2005. There was a 12% increase in 2003-2004 which coincides with the OES Partnership for Application Workshop.
- Doug provided an overview of vehicle applications from 2002-2005. Information showed mostly type 1 and 2 wildland vehicles were approved.
- Grant money is available this year for Wellness and Fitness Programs.

NIMS Update

Kim Zagaris

- Handouts provides on NIMS Training Development Guidance and Resource Typing Guidance.
- Handout provided on IS 700 NIMS Course. Course materials and online training may be accessed at: <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>
- Michael Freeman reported that there will be a new Secretary for Homeland Security coming in soon. Matt Mayer is serving as the Interim Director.

Ops Team Report

Darrell Ralston

- Darrel Ralston has replaced Steve Vittum as the Chair of the South Ops Team.
- Darrel suggested that North and South Ops be combined into one team, and asked the Board to consider.
- Commission items – The Task Force is working on double shifting issue, and hopes to finalize at the Ops meeting in July.
- Mayday ICS 910 developed, request to use emergency traffic. A letter will be drafted to the Board to get back to clear text.

Motion

Chief Prather made a motion to modify 410-4.

1st Roper

2nd Sherri

Motion Passed

Task Force Report

Mike LaPlant

- Task Force report handed out and reviewed by all members, regarding issues that the Task Force has addressed for the Board.
- Task Force continuing to cooperate with EMSA and CAA in development of the Ambulance Strike Team concept.
- Task Force assessing which ICS forms are within the purview of FIRESCOPE and which are maintained exclusively by the NWCG.
- Bill McCammon – Working in his county to start typing teams, and has found some duplication in tech and specialist.
- Kim Zagaris – Moving forward with forming Aviation Specialist Group.
- Bob Praytor – Currently, 22 people on list for Air Ops Specialist. Air National Guard is very interested, but has not heard anything from law. Freeman suggested contacting law agencies to ensure they are informed.

Structure Protection Guidelines & San Bernardino County Chiefs Letter

- Kim Zagaris – reported letter received in December 2004 from the San Bernardino County Fire Chiefs’ Association regarding the draft Structure Protection Definition and Guidelines. Chief Roper stated that the Forest Service has a new idea that they would like to discuss, and suggested discussing this issue again in July, after other issues had been addressed.

Blue Ribbon Commission Update/After Action Items

Freeman

- Handouts distributed addressing Blue Ribbon Fire Commission issues pertinent to FIRESCOPE.
- Each item on the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Fire Commission Recommendations report was discussed and some completion dates adjusted to allow sufficient time for specific issues.
- Use of Federal resources and military assets – Item discussed and agreed to as stated on report.
- Military aircraft for WUI firefighting – Discussion that some issues related to this item could be resolved at different times. Some Air Ops issues may need to be resolved separately. Chief Freeman suggested breaking out certain issues, i.e., existing air resources, how to access inventory, etc. He will contact CDF to discuss these issues. The remainder of these issues were assigned a completion date of September 1, 2005.
- FIRESCOPE Air Ops Working Group – Kim Zagaris reported that this group has not yet met. Various issues discussed, including nighttime flight. Chief Bamattre stated that certain issues had been separated out at a meeting in San Diego. Chief Freeman defined responsibilities of FIRESCOPE in this issue. Date for draft policy set for August 2005.
- 4-0 Staffing for OES mutual aid calls with WUI initial attack calls – Item was discussed and date of July 1, 2005 set for development of communication.
- WUI personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment – OES will develop expectations for PPE equipment and ensure that neighboring agencies understand the need to come prepared. Completion date set for July 1, 2005.
- Mutual aid resources to use newer technologies (e.g., foams, gels, etc.) – Kim Zagaris stated that 50 of 110 engine have been complete. He will construct memo to other agencies to encourage use of new technologies. Completion date July 1, 2006.
- State funding of 150 OES fire engines – Kim Zagaris reported that no federal funds available, and they are looking at a 5-year outlay.
- Expand nationwide training agreements – Item discussed and agreed to as stated on report.
- P.O.S.T. –type standards, training and education – Ruben Grijalva stated that a bill currently exists and a recommendation will be going to the Governor.
- Definition of structure protection versus perimeter control – Item discussed and completion date changed to August 1, 2005.
- EMSA (Emergency Medical Services Authority) incorporated into MMAA (Master Mutual Aid Agreement) – Item discusses and agreed to as stated on report.
- Volunteer Coordinator in ICS – Not yet assigned to Ops Team.
- Address inconsistencies in National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, Structure Protection and Cost Apportionment – Chief Freeman reported this issue discussed during conference call and there is no completion in the near future. Ruben Grijalva stated the first phase of this project will begin in May. He will report on progress in July.

- Standardized frequencies issued by FCC for fire and emergency personnel – Item discussed and agreed to as stated on report.
- MIRPS integration – Work is underway and completion date is set for July 2006.
- Research & Development Working Group within FIREScope – No working group has been comprised yet for Research & Development. Gathering information from existing agencies at this time. This item is ongoing.
- Improve public outreach and emergency evacuation education – reference to Working Group will be removed from this issue. Completion date is July 1, 2006.
- The Governor’s Blue Ribbon Fire Commission draft document was handed out, and comments were requested back by April 22, 2005.

California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Update

Steve Gage

- Work is ongoing. Currently focusing on all-risk side.
- Ruben Grijalva reported that his office extended the grandfather time to the deadline date. Currently, six applications have been received for review and approval. Committee Members and Chair will be appointed on May 15, 2005.

EMSA/Ambulance Strike Team & Radio Frequency Update

Kim Zagaris

- Update provided and survey will be distributed to all ambulance companies.
- Discussion regarding radio frequencies, and possible use of some FIREScope frequencies.

Metropolitan Medical Task Force

Kim Zagaris

- Task Force has met and will provide written report to the Board.
- Future funding for this item discussed, in relation to whether group will continue on.

OES Fire & Rescue Branch Report

Kim Zagaris

- California Fire Assistance Agreement – met in early March.
- Working on rewrite for 2006 to go from wildland to all-risk.
- Letters going out soon regarding rates.
- Special Ops Chief McGroarty retired.
- Charles Hurley hired in Special Ops.
- Looking at setting procedures for dispatch centers at regional level.
- USAR mob-ex exercise in June.
- California/Nevada information meeting in March.

Region I Report

P. Michael Freeman

- Fire season meeting on May 23, 2005, at Camp 2.
- Looking at building bridge for interoperability.

Region II Report

Keith Richter

- Ops updating regional plan.
- Events calendar on web page.
- Expressed appreciation to Chief Zagaris and OES.

Region III Report

Keith Richter

- Nothing to report.

Region IV Report

Hank Weston

- Pre-fire season meeting, April 14, 2005.

Region V Report

Tim Turner

- Nothing to report.

Region VI Report

Kim Zagaris

- Alan Stoval accepted reassignment.
- Tim Turner retiring in June.
- Chief Weston retiring in June. Appointing predecessor April 14, 2005.

CDF Report

Hank Weston

- All 23 aircraft ready for service.
- Looking at using gels in air tankers.
- Distributed DVD on new generation fire shelters.
- Discussion with Forest Service regarding larger fire shelters (1/2 lb. heavier and 6 in. longer).
- Training curriculum distributed soon for fire shelters.
- Kim Zagaris reported that CDF will be releasing document soon on firefighter death in Morin County. Document will also be placed on website.
- George Motschall reported that there are four air tankers available nationally. Three in the State of Florida.

Bureau of Land Management Report

Lez Matarazzi

- Will acquire two more tankers. Also, a light helicopter will be placed in Susanville.
- Fire management position has been filled after being vacant for eight months.

Nation Park Service Report

Sue Husari

- Report on death of hotshot has gone to review board and results will be placed on website when released.
- Preparing for fire season. East side of Oregon and Washington are expecting the most activity.

Old Business

- Discussion regarding allowing contract counties to use identifiers ending in U for wildland fires. This issue will be postponed until July meeting.
- Kim Zagaris requested to reconvene vacancy subcommittee due to upcoming retirements. Would like to recognize Chiefs Weston and Gray at next meeting.

New Business – None

Motion

Motion to adjourn.

1st Roper

2nd Bamattre

Motion Passed - Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting – July 13, 2005