

# **MINUTES**

## **Office of Emergency Services FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Sacramento, California  
MEETING OF APRIL 13, 1994**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Donald Manning, Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
Ken Blonski, Assistant Director - U.S. Forest Service (attending for Dick Henry)  
James Brannon, Chief - Linda Fire Department  
Gary Costamagna, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department  
P. Michael Freeman, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Larry Holms, Chief - Orange County Fire Department  
Russ Richards, Fire Warden - Stanislaus County  
Fred Simas, Acting State Fire Management Officer, Bureau of Land Management  
(attending for Pat Kidder)  
Keith Simmons, Chief Deputy - Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Dave Walizer, Chief Deputy - State Fire Marshal's Office (attending for Ron Coleman)  
Bill Weaver, Deputy Chief - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
(attending for Richard Wilson)

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rich Aronson, Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Chris Cameron, Regional Fire Management Officer - National Park Service  
Ronny Coleman, California State Fire Marshal  
Dick Henry, Director, Fire - U.S. Forest Service  
Pat Kidder, Fire & Aviation Officer - Bureau of Land Management  
George Lund, Chief - Ventura County Fire Department  
Loren Pettis, Chief - Montclair Fire Department  
Jim Thomas, Chief/Sheriff - Santa Barbara County  
Richard Wilson, Director - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

### **SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT**

Eldon Nagel, California State Firefighters' Association  
Brian Hatch, California Professional Firefighters

**DIRECTOR, OES**

*Richard Andrews*

**OTHERS PRESENT**

*Paul Beckstrom, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue*

*Will Brock, Assistant Chief - OES Fire and Rescue*

*Mark Ghilarducci, Deputy Chief, OES Fire and Rescue, Urban Search & Rescue Program  
Manager*

*Ron Larsen, Chief, Sacramento County Fire Protection District*

*Mike Scherr, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue, FIRESCOPE*

*Jerry Smith, Fire Consultant - OES Fire and Rescue*

*Dave Webster, Don Worsbeck & Warren Douglas, Rockwell International*

*Kim Zagaris, Assistant Chief - OES Fire and Rescue*

### **OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 0959 hours by Chairman Manning. Self introductions were made.

### **LOGISTICS, LUNCH COUNT**

Paul Beckstrom discussed logistics.

### **APPROVAL OF APRIL 13, 1994 MINUTES**

Gary Costamagna suggested that a motion be made to approve the August 1993 minutes.

*It was moved by Keith Simmons and seconded by Gary Costamagna and unanimously carried to approve the January 12, 1994, Minutes as submitted.*

### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES: AFTER ACTION REPORT**

Director Richard Andrews explained that OES has a statutory responsibility as part of SB-1841 to prepare, within 120 days of declaration of a gubernatorial or presidential disaster, an after action report. Our time schedule for the preparation of this report has been effected by the Northridge Earthquake that occurred on January 17, 1994. Work has continued on the Southern California Fires After Action Report. The initial draft of this report has been submitted by Terry Haney, the consultant working on it.

Director Andrews asked Jerry Smith, OES Consultant, who was also involved in conducting interviews for the after action report to make a few comments about the process he followed and a few of the major points.

Jerry Smith gave a brief report of experiences, and concerns he collected from the interviews he conducted of mutual aid users and providers. Some of the problems experienced were:

1. When the mutual aid system reaches a severe drawdown, we lose our ability to track a large number of resources and our ability to coordinate and manage.
2. Multiple incidents tend to compete for resources, thinking it's better to have more resources than not enough.

3. *Fire fighters had to operate in radio repeater dead canyons where cell phones also did not work.*
4. *Many different radio systems and frequencies were being used.*
5. *Inexperienced fire service personnel. Over 570 firefighters reported injuries ranging from minor irritations to serious burns.*

*These are only a few of the concerns Jerry Smith compiled during the after action review process, which are addressed in the Southern California Fires After Action Report. Upon completion of this report a draft report will be circulated to all the Members of the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors for review, prior to any final publication. Presently, there is no time frame as to when this will happen.*

#### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NORTHRIDGE-AFTER ACTION REPORT**

*Director Dick Andrews distributed and discussed testimony he gave to a hearing that Senator Diane Feinstein conducted in Los Angeles on the Northridge Earthquake and also to the House of Representatives, Public Works and Transportation Committee, that was holding field hearings also in Los Angeles.*

*During the fire sequence, Senator Feinstein and James Lee Witt, Director of FEMA, visited the OCC in Riverside and had an opportunity to observe, first hand, the OCC in action and the MACS process. Senator Feinstein was very impressed by this effort and commented to President Clinton on how valuable she thought the FIRESCOPE program was. President Clinton asked James Lee Witt to come up with a recommendation on what might be done to make the FIRESCOPE program a national program. At another hearing, James Lee Witt commented that he did intend to make FIRESCOPE and the Incident Command System a national model.*

*A briefing will take place on April 14, 1994, in Riverside, with members of the FEMA Director's staff on the operations at the OCC and on the work that goes on between the various agencies that are part of the OCC day-in and day-out basis, the Incident Command System and other aspects of the FIRESCOPE program. We expect some continued follow-up including a proposal to the federal government regarding how the FIRESCOPE program could be expanded here in California, and as well as how the program could be transferred to other parts of the country.*

*Richard Andrews handed out a report on the Northridge Earthquake. He also spoke on the events that took place in response to the Northridge Earthquake. A discussion and review of the earthquake followed.*



One issue discussed was the Urban Search and Rescue operation and the request from several departments in California to form additional Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces. There are some Task Forces being formed independently. Some groups are now calling themselves Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces that, in fact, do not have the same level of training, or same level of equipment that the eight certified teams have. Director Andrews wants this issue on the next meetings agenda, to establish a process by which the FIREScope Board of Directors can be involved in the addition of any Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces.

#### **NFPA 1600 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

Richard Andrews briefed the Board on this document and how a response was due back for review by January 21, 1994, but due to the Northridge Earthquake, this did not happen. The next NFPA meeting will be held in May 1994, and this document is on the agenda in a draft form. Mike Scherr will try to gather information and report back to the Board.

#### **TASK FORCE REPORT AND NORTH/SOUTH OPERATION TEAM REPORTS**

Mike Scherr reported for Mike Dougherty, who was unable to attend.

The Task Force will meet again next week; based on the Joint Operations Team Meeting that took place in Ontario.

The Task Force is working very diligently on a multitude of projects, of which, the finalization of these were in the Boards packets for review. One of the more important documents was a correspondence item dated March 28, 1994, addressed to the FIREScope Board of Directors and signed by Mike Dougherty, along with a letter dated February 3, 1993, from FIREScope to various agencies and departments, in response to the proposed organizational and position changes to the Incident Command System for national application, that would meet the generic ICS curriculum that is being worked on by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

It was moved by Larry Holmes, seconded by Gary Costamagna to support these recommended changes. With no further discussion it was unanimously carried to approve the changes as submitted.

The next document reviewed was the Hazmat Company Typing draft, dated March 17, 1994.

*It was moved by Gary Costamagna, seconded by Larry Holms to approve this document as submitted. With no further discussion it was unanimously carried and approved.*

*The Primary Mobile Suppression Resources, a 3 page document , was reviewed and additional changes were suggested.*

*It was moved by Larry Holms to approve all changes except for the Mobile Communications section, which will need Board Chairman approval when further clarification to this section is finalized, Gary Costamagna seconded this motion. With no further discussion, it was approved with the exception of the Mobile Communications section.*

*The Urban Search and Rescue Resources document was reviewed next and a discussion followed. Two of the major issues were (1) terminology and (2) risk. After much discussion, a recommendation was made to re-look at this document and address these issues. The revised document would then be brought forward for approval at the next FIRESCOPE Board of Directors Meeting.*

*The last document reviewed was the Operational System Description on Urban Search and Rescue and some additional changes were made.*

*It was moved by Dave Walizer, seconded by Gary Costamagna and unanimously carried to approve the document with the changes.*

*Mike Scherr reported on how the Operational System Description document, that was approved by the Board, is in the hands of the National Fire Service Incident Management System Consortium, to develop the organizational structure, that will utilize the Incident Command System.*

*A discussion on a document called Incident Management System Urban Search and Rescue, put out by Frank Bordon followed. Mike Scherr reported this document is on hold until a major clean-up is completed. A suggestion was made to have FIRESCOPE look at strategy and tactics that are already in place and try to incorporate them into this document.*

*Mike Scherr then briefed the Board on some points of interest.*

1. *A briefing on the FIRESCOPE Program to two Congressional Commission's.*

2. *The North/South Operation Team will hold it's next meeting, in Quincy, on July 14 and 15, 1994.*
3. *Mike then noted that he would be giving a 40 Hour/one week instruction on generic ICS to personnel from the Federal EPA, Marine Safety, and CAL EPA the later part of May 1994.*

### **ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION**

*Ken Blonski, Assistant Director, USFS, gave a brief summary on what Rockwell International and other companies like them have to offer the fire service. These companies have the capability to take existing information management systems, calling this "Evolutionary Management", where they use existing systems and make them inter-operable. The capability to do everything from real time resource tracking through a multitude of different agencies with different equipment, different software, different hardware, different telecommunications equipment and make them work with each other, exists. USFS and CDF feel that FIREScope should be the focus point of this group.*

*Mike Scherr commented that he has been contacted by various companies, including TRW, looking at applications, not only military, but also space and other technologies, for conversion, into applications, within the fire service community. Many of these companies offer similar capabilities, but what is needed is a focal point or a resource directory with all the various contractors and their conversion programs.*

*Mike Scherr suggested that the Board look at this issue and reinforce the fact that on these type of contacts, the focus needs to be multi-agency and be beneficial to all within the fire service, whether it's a state, federal or local. This technology should also be capable of extending into other emergency service responders ie, Law Enforcement, etc.*

*Ken Blonski mentioned that NASA has \$3 million to spend and they are looking for a project (GPS Automated Vehicle Locator System) and they do not know where to go. There is no one marrying up these needs, yet!*

*Director Richard Andrews stated that there is a need to set up a Task Group or some type of coordinated clearing house for this issue. It would need to include someone from the Forest Service, CDF, OES and local fire agencies. This group could review any proposals submitted. Director Andrews feels Senator Feinstein would be willing to be part of this group. She has expressed a willingness to serve. George Brown is also very interested in the conversion potential.*

*Ken Blonski made a motion to form a group to act as a clearing house or an Oversight Committee, that would function as a focal point for some of the technological possibilities to enhance FIREScope through military conversion projects, and was seconded by Larry Holms.*

*Mike Scherr made the recommendation that this Oversight Committee not only look at fire but at SB-1821 issues also. This group will have to be given some direction or guidelines of what their charge is. Once policy guidelines are given they should be able to write a very effective charter of responsibility that the Board would buy off on.*

*After further discussion, it was unanimously carried to approve the formation of an "Oversight Committee." It was also agreed that OES Director Richard Andrews make the choice of committee members.*

*Dave Webster, Don Worsbeck and Warren Douglas, all of Rockwell International, were introduced.*

*Dave Webster made a presentation to the Board, of an effort that his company has underway. This effort is called the R-IEMS Concept which stands for Rockwell Integrated Emergency Management System. R-IEMS is an initiative on the part of Rockwell to explore the application of technology, hardware, and software to emergency management. In order for Rockwell to accomplish this, they need to understand firefighting and emergency management needs, then offer potential, affordable, and technological solutions for improvements of the needs that are identified. Rockwell has a wide range of products to offer.*

*One part of their system is called Advance Visual Simulation. In real time it could help the operator validate his decision, can be used as training exercises, it would also give you the ability to explore and evaluate past actions. Rockwell International would like input from the Board; does R-IEMS have a potential for fulfilling fire service needs?*

*A discussion on potential needs and products available to meet fire service needs followed. Larry Holms suggested that the "Oversight Committee," that will be formed, focus on what's most important and/or attainable with Rockwell International or any other company.*



### **SB - 1841 SEMS UPDATE**

Larry Holms reported that the FIRESCOPE Board positions on the regulations in the bill were incorporated into the regulations language.

Terry Haney has been hired by OES to assist a sub group in the development of guidelines and training packages. These will be developed based on public comment and bill language. An area of concern is the term "management versus command." Another issue is the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System versus Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System. The emergency managers throughout the state have a concern that they do not get information from either system. We need to make a connection so that information does flow to the emergency managers.

### **RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

Paul Beckstrom noted that the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System Resource Directory will be updated yearly and only those pages with changes will be mailed out. A pocket size version of this directory will published as soon as reimbursements are completed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### ***ICS Training***

James Wait, Deputy Chief, State Fire Marshal's Office, had a request from Chuck Wilson, Training Officer, from San Diego County, who does ICS training throughout the Western United States, to get the Board's approval on a modified version of I-334 Strike Team Leader and I-220 Basic ICS.

After much discussion, it was suggested the Board wait for the new ICS Modules that will be out shortly before making any decision on this issue and Chuck Wilson will be advised that at this time, No, the Board cannot accredit a modified version of I-334 and I-220 classes.

### **CLOSING REMARKS/NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next meeting date is set for July 13, 1994. and OES will advise the location.

It was moved by Gary Costamagna and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1450 hours.