

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

**Minutes of the Meeting
February 22, 1995
State Fire Marshal's Office
Sacramento, California**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Donald Manning, Chairman-Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Neil Honeycutt, Chief-Office of Emergency Services
Gary Costamagna, Chief-Sacramento City Fire Department
Jim Dykes, Deputy Director-(For Richard Wilson)-CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection
Larry Holmes, Chief-Orange County Fire Department
Jim Sewell, Chief-Ventura County Fire Department
Doug Sporleder, Chief-Santa Clara County Fire Department
Ron Coleman-State Fire Marshal-State Fire Marshal's Office
Ray Quintinar, Acting Director-U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Keith Simmons, Deputy Chief-Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Pat Kidder, Fire & Aviation Officer-Bureau of Land Management

DIRECTOR OF OES

Richard Andrews

MEMBERS ABSENT

Loren Pettis, Chief-Montclair Fire Department
Richard Wilson, Director-California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Chris Cameron, Protection Specialist-Branch of Fire Management

SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT

Eldon Nagel, California State Firefighter's Association
Brian Hatch, California Professional Firefighter's

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Ward, Deputy Director-Office of Emergency Services
Paul Beckstrom, Deputy Chief-Office of Emergency Services
Will Brock, Assistant Chief-Office of Emergency Services
Kim Zagaris, Assistant Chief-Office of Emergency Services
Mark Ghilarducci, Deputy Chief-Office of Emergency Services
Michael Douglass, Assistant Chief-Office of Emergency Services
John Linder, Acting Deputy Chief-Office of Emergency Services

Glenn Newman, South Area Chief-California Department of Forestry
 Gary Gilbert, Sierra Area Chief-California Department of Forestry
 Ron Larsen, Chief-Sacramento County Fire Protection District
 Wally Hurst, Assistant General Manager (For Eldon Nagel)-C.S.F.A.
 Mike Dougherty, Emergency Operational Coordinator-U.S.D.A. Forest Service
 John Buchanan, Chief-Woodland Fire Department
 Andy Anderson, Chief-Quincy Fire Department
 Rachel Parks, Decision Process Technician-Office of Emergency Services
 Darrel Higuchi, Deputy Chief (For Michael Freeman)-Los Angeles County Fire Department

OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Gary Costamagna. Self introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 30, 1994 MINUTES

Larry Holms moved that the minutes of the November 30, 1994 meeting be approved as written. Jim Dykes seconded, and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

41 FIRE AFTER ACTION REPORT

Neil Honeycutt circulated the "41 Fire After-Action Report" and noted that February 26, 1995 would be the deadline for comments.

Glenn Newman expressed concern that the 41 Fire Report had been revised since the last version he saw, and Mike Colgan stated that CDF was holding comments.

Bruce Ward responded that a new copy of the report will be sent out after it is revised.

Jim Dykes recommended that a routine after-action report process be drafted to meet SEMS requirements.

Dick Andrews suggested that a SEMS Oversight Group might be in order, and that the group could oversee future After Action Reports. The goal would be to track recommendations and follow-ups.

URBAN INTERFACE WHITE PAPER

Ray Quintanar presented an update on the Urban Interface White Paper. He stated that the Board needs to identify ways of mitigating costs, losses, and exposures of firefighters, and encouraged landowners to pre-treat their homes with foam, and remove any existing fuels from their properties before fires arrive. Mr. Quintanar suggested that when California sets standards, the rest of the nation often follows, and

that this position paper will give the fire service at large a common base from which to work.

Gary Costamagna moved to appoint a committee to draft a "white paper" on how to mitigate losses, costs, and firefighter exposures during wildland/urban interface fires.

Larry Holms seconded, and the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Ray Quintanar will chair the Committee, consisting of representatives from CDF, State Fire Marshal's Office, Office of Emergency Services, and U.S. Forest Service. Gary Costamagna will also sit on the Committee.

Ron Coleman reported that new wildland/urban interface building code sections are in process, and that the State Fire Marshal's Office is addressing Fire Prevention issues.

Ray Quintanar expressed concern that other states or Federal Agencies could make un-qualified recommendations.

Jim Dykes said that Federal Agencies are apprehensive about their role in local responsibilities, since their fundamental federal missions may not include urban interface.

A discussion followed as to who to would receive the paper. The Congressional Delegation was discussed as a possibility.

Larry Holms recommended that State Fire Marshal study the issue along with local fire departments. Jim Dykes suggested that the paper be designed for multiple audiences.

Administrative Note: Don Manning assumed his role as Chairman of the meeting at 10:40 a.m., having been delayed by airline problems.

LETTER FROM JERRY SMITH

Ron Coleman presented a summary of a letter from Jerry Smith regarding ICS and Mutual Aid during the 1993 fires. Chief Coleman also noted that the State Board of Fire Services feels that Mr. Smith's concerns are more appropriate for study by the FIREScope Board.

Ron Coleman proceeded to note that a considerable amount of work has been done in California to update ICS, and to provide effective training programs.

The Board discussed Mr. Smith's letter, took it under consideration, and agreed in concept with a draft response proposed by Ron Coleman.

The Ten-Item After Action Report for the 1993 Fire Siege

Mike Dougherty reported that he received no further responses to his report in November, and recommended that the Ten-Item Report be implemented.

Mike Dougherty made a motion to accept the Ten-Item After Action Report, and to look at the feasibility of implementing its recommendations. Keith Simmons seconded the motion, and it was passed by unanimous vote.

KERN COUNTY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE FIRESCOPE BOARD

Neil Honeycutt presented a request by Kern County Fire to occupy positions on the Operations Team and the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

Mike Dougherty suggested that Kern County could take the Operations Team position held by Region V CDF.

Subsequent discussion revealed a need to have updated criteria on how members of the Operations Team and FIRESCOPE Board of Directors are selected.

Ron Coleman moved that State OES be directed to propose a decision process and criteria for membership on the Operations Team and FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

Larry Holms seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

WHITE FIRE FREQUENCIES - BULLETIN #28

Paul Beckstrom provided a brief information item on the White Fire Frequencies Bulletin #28, which was approved by a Cal-Chiefs resolution in February. Additions included CALCORD and air operations.

1993 FIRE SIEGE UPDATE - SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ray Quintanar reported that the 10 Action Items related to the 1993 fire siege were accepted in concept by the Board.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE UPDATE

Deputy Chief Mark Ghilarducci, Program Manager for the State OES Urban Search and Rescue Program (US&R), provided the following updates:

National Response System

The Phase One evaluations have been completed, and the phase two site visits of US&R Task Forces will begin this spring. Judging from the results of Phase One, a little over half of the 25 national task forces are operational, with the heaviest capabilities on the West and East Coasts.

US&R ICS 120-1

Mark Ghilarducci and Jim Hone (Santa Monica Fire) are finalizing the training package for the new ICS 120-1 standards, and will be presenting that program at the Training Officers conference in San Jose in May.

95 Floods

The recent flooding disasters afforded OES an opportunity to purchase much needed swift water rescue equipment for the eight California US&R Task Forces. Approximately \$40,000 of swift water equipment will be cached with each Task Force, in addition to a ninth cache at OES Headquarters in Sacramento.

Expansion of US&R Task Forces

OES Fire and Rescue has received several requests from fire agencies to become full US&R Task Forces with State support. The FIREScope Board of Directors may need to play a future role in providing recommendations to OES regarding the funding of additional US&R Task Forces.

Lessons Learned from Kobe Earthquake

Mark Ghilarducci provided a brief report of his experience in Japan during the Kobe Earthquake. He had been in Osaka to speak at a conference when the earthquake hit. Chief Ghilarducci noted that the State of California needs to prepare for an earthquake of similar magnitude and devastation. Based upon the Kobe experience, Ghilarducci warned that neither California nor the nation can have too many US&R Task Forces, and that all agencies should be considering a build-up of progressive capabilities contained in ICS-120-1.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION CONSOLIDATION WITH STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Jim Dykes reported that the State Fire Marshal's Office and CDF are in the process of reorganizing and consolidating based upon State budget recommendations. Details of the plan will go to the Little Hoover Commission in April, then to the California Legislature for a "yes or no" vote (no modifications can be made at that level). Three working groups have been formed to examine administration and support, training, and all other functions.

He added that there is no intent to diminish the missions of either agency, and that there is no expectation of savings. The implementation of the consolidation is targeted for the beginning of 1996.

Don Manning said that the Metro Chiefs were concerned that the head of the consolidated organization should be at the cabinet level for better access to the Governor's Office, but that the appointee should have fire service experience, rather

than being strictly a political appointee. Jim Dykes responded that historically, there have not been problems accessing the Governor's Office.

OES FIRE AND RESCUE REORGANIZATION

Chief Neil Honeycutt explained that following the retirements of Deputy Chiefs Lee Mitchell and Mike Scherr, Asst. Chief Mike Douglass will handle the responsibilities of Lee Mitchell's vacant administrative position, and Asst. Chief John Linder will be assuming the duties of Mike Scherr in Southern California. Both assignments will be on an "acting" basis until the positions are filled through testing. OES' priority is to fill the vacant Assistant Chief positions in Regions II and V. Testing for the vacant positions may take place within 90 to 100 days. Chief Honeycutt noted that all Chief Officer positions are being rewritten to integrate fire and urban search and rescue knowledge and responsibilities, and that cross training will occur. Due to necessary approvals in-house and through the State Department of Personnel Administration, the process of filling vacancies has been slow.

It was noted that Mike Scherr's retirement party is scheduled for April 1, 1995.

The Regional Coordinators' meeting scheduled for March 2 has been postponed. A new date will be set shortly.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Mike Dougherty distributed information on high rise fire operations, National Wildland Coordinating Group curriculum, hazardous materials, the Field Operations Guide, and Oil Spill prevention and response issues. Due to changes in the hazardous materials and urban search and rescue sections, the Field Operations Guide (FOG) will need to be reprinted.

The Board recommended that the revised Field Operations Guide should be implemented on June 1 1995.

Mike Dougherty noted that he has been the Operations Team Chairman, but given his recent Director duties with USFS, he recommended that Ralph Allworth assume the Chairmanship.

SEMS UPDATE

Bruce Ward, OES Deputy Director for Emergency Operations and Training, reported that the SEMS process is on schedule except for the NWCG curriculum. Some of the graphics are being redone to portray better human resource diversity. June 1995 is the target date for completion. Larry Holms underscored the need for consistent and conscientious fire service participation in the SEMS process.

MIRS UPDATE

Neil Honeycutt provided an update on the MIRS program, noting that the program should provide a model for interagency cooperation. The program is concluding its analysis phase, and has circulated a "request for information" on components and systems that will automate such tasks as resource ordering, tracking, movement, and billing. These responses are due in March, and Chief Honeycutt may be able to provide a status report in April. He added that law enforcement representation has been added to the Systems Analysis Group and Steering Committee levels. In the final product, it is hoped that individual systems on the local level will be able to interface with the MIRS system.

CLOSING REMARKS/NEXT MEETING DATE

Chief Honeycutt and the Board set the next meeting for April 12, 1995 in Riverside. This location will give the Board an opportunity to view the newly remodeled OCC facilities.

New Aircraft Restrictions

Jim Dykes reported that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has drafted new regulations on Public Safety aircraft. The draft, which is out for comment, would severely restrict the use of retrofitted military choppers by the fire service, since military aircraft cannot be certified by the FAA. Citing an example at CDF, its helicopters would be limited to emergency response--prohibiting the department from using the aircraft for overflights, tours, and troop transportation from a fire. Stringent requirements must be met before public safety agencies could bill other agencies for the use of helicopters in firefighting. At present, there appears to be no effect upon CDF's fixed-wing aircraft. The restrictions apparently stemmed from the helicopter accidental death of the Governor of South Dakota. Private contractors have complained about competition from public service agencies who charge for services. Small C-130 contractors, however, may be driven out of business for fires if the regulations are enacted.

Fire Weather Service Cuts

New federal budget proposals may cut out many fire weather forecaster positions. The cuts appear arbitrary, and may be indicative of a trend toward privatization of the service.

USFS and BLM Cited for Colorado Fire Deaths

Federal OSHA has cited the directors of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for agency negligence during fires in Colorado in which firefighters died. The citations held management responsible for the enforcement of standards and protocols that might have saved lives. Federal OSHA may take the NWCG training standards and place them into OSHA regulations.

CL215 Aircraft Testing

Jim Dykes also reported that CDF cannot obtain federal funding for testing the CL-215 firefighting aircraft. CDF will continue testing on its own, unfortunately, only two of the

turbo-prop "super scoopers" are in the area, and both are being tested by Los Angeles County Fire. CDF cannot "sole source" the aircraft, as other manufacturers are entering the market.

L.A. City GPS System

Don Manning reported that Los Angeles City Fire is experimenting with small Global Positioning System (GPS) units attached to hand-held radios for the purpose of locating personnel in emergency situations. A small switch would trigger the GPS, sending the location of the radio to monitoring stations. OES US&R is also studying applications of GPS, as are Livermore Laboratories and Rockwell. It was noted that GPS systems may also be used to guide air drops during major fires using AWACS aircraft technology.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil R. Honeycutt, Chief
State of California
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Fire and Rescue Branch
April 10, 1995