



**FIRE AND RESCUE COMMITTEE
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

January 9, 2008

Burbank Fire Department Training Center
1845 N. Ontario St
Burbank CA 91505

ATTENDEES

Michael Freeman, Chair, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Bob Roper, Vice Chair, Ventura County Fire Department
Kim Zagaris, CA-OES Fire and Rescue
Jim Marquis, Grass Valley FD, Volunteer Fire Departments
Craig Barnes, Bureau of Land Management
Sue Husari, National Park Service
Pat Dennen, San Bernardino FD, Fire Districts- South
Chip Prather, Orange County Fire Authority
Chuck Knapp, California State Firefighter's Association
Candace Gregory, CALFIRE, OES Region V
Kate Dargan, State Fire Marshal
Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda County FD, County- Fire Departments- North
Mario Rueda, Los Angeles Fire Department- FIRESCOPE OPS Team, Representing Chief Barry
Bob Green, CALFIRE-OES Mutual Aid Region VI
Keith Richter, Contra Costa County Fire Department, OES Region II
Ed Hollingshead, USFS Fire and Aviation
Dennis Thomson-Kern Co, Representing Counties South
Richard Webb-Linda Fire Protection Districts- Fire Districts North
Mark D'Ambrogi- Auburn City Fire Department- Region IV
John Scherrei- Santa Barbara County FD
Ken Wagner- Roseville Fire Dept-City Fire Department North
Del Walters-CALFIRE region III



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OTHERS PRESENT

Greg West, Los Angeles Fire Department- FIRESCOPE Task Force Chair
Dave Stone, Los Angeles Co. Fire-FIRESCOPE Task Force
Dan Drake, Orange Co. Fire –FIRESCOPE Task force
Dave Peirce, Orange County Fire Authority- FIRESCOPE Ops Team Chair
Tom Drayer, CA-OES FIRESCOPE
Pat O’Bannon, CA-OES-FIRESCOPE
Deneen Phillips, CA-OES-FIRESCOPE
Romero Rodriguez, State Fire Training- FIRESCOPE Task Force
Lori Halls- CAL FIRE, GIS
David Blankenship- Colorado Springs Fire Department
Bob Toups, CAL FIRE- Riverside Unit
Jack Thorps, USAF Retired
Brian Collins, SRA International Inc.
Ralph Domanski, USFS Fire and Aviation- FIRESCOPE OPS Team
Ish Messer- OES Region 1
Bill Clayton, CAL FIRE (Retired)
Mark Lorenz-Ventura County Fire Department

WELCOME AND LOGISTICS

Burbank Fire Department

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chief Freeman

- **Action Item-** *Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve minutes of the October 10th, 2007 meeting minutes.*

OES DIRECTORS UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

Director Renteria would like to apologize for not being here today. He does however want to express his thanks to all California Fire Agencies for their tremendous job with the response to the fires. There is still a lot of work to do in our dealings with some of the EMAC issues and reimbursements issues as a result of the siege. Our focus is to try and take care of the out-of-state folks as quickly as we can. The period of federal reimbursement for the increased flooding activity due to the loss of watershed as a direct result of the fires has been extended out to last week by FEMA for the southern California area.



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OES DIRECTORS UPDATE (continued)

Chief Zagaris

We also have been dealing with several other items in response to the State's preparedness for the winter storms and we are working on recovery and response issues relative to that. The Director also wanted to say thank you for your support on that end. There will be more to come on the budget side of the house from the Director by the next go around and we would now like to ask Chief Gilbert to give us an update from his meeting that took place at the Capital regarding some of the things that will be coming out tomorrow....

Chief Gilbert- I was requested to meet with the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff and the Finance staff yesterday along with the Police Chief and the Sheriff Associations to talk about some public safety issues that are going to be coming out of the budget that were originally going to be included in the "State of the State Address" but were not.

There will be an initiative that will be moving forward by the Administration that will be related to the fire service in California in that all State agencies will be taking a cut across the board of about 10%. Additionally, there are a number of State-sponsored programs that will be receiving similar budget cuts due to the budget deficit; estimated between 9 or 10 million dollars this year.

That said; based upon the 2007 fire storms and the good work between OES and CAL Fire staff the Governor has recognized the importance of the level of fire protection across the State. He is well aware of the recommendations that resulted from the 2003 Blue Ribbon Commission and he is also well aware of what is coming out of the 2007 BRC Task Force.

He has bought in to pursuing an alternative funding source other than the General Fund and is putting forth some important fire service initiatives developed by Cal Fire, OES and additional staff. He is calling this an "Emergency Response Initiative" which is directed towards pursuing insurance industry dollars in the form of a 1.25% fee or assessment on all policies, including both residential and commercial. This revenue source is expected to produce 125 million dollars annually.

This initiative, if passed will be considered long-term and there will be no "Sunset." If the initiative is approved the plan is to use a portion of the funds generated to support Cal Fire's aircraft replacement program, as there is a lot of compelling evidence which has been put forth on how much more efficient their operations could be with newer aircraft as compared to their existing older fleet.

Additionally, a portion of the funds would also be used to provide for the augmentation of 450 seasonal firefighters annually to increase existing CAL FIRE engine staffing levels year round to 4.0



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OES DIRECTORS UPDATE (continued)

Chief Zagaris

Chief Gilbert- It is also anticipated that some of the additional funding would be used to support the replacement of MAFFS for the California National Guard; the acquisition of an additional 131 OES engines, which does not include the 19 that in progress now, which would complete the order of the original 150 originally recommended by the 2004 Blue Ribbon Fire Commission and enhancements of the current 911 capabilities across the State. The long and short of it is that the Governor's Office is supportive of the recommendations brought forth by both of the Blue Ribbon Commissions.

Worth noting is also that this is a big step on the administration's part to support what we have been asking for years and to do it in the midst of the budgets cuts that are happening across the state is huge; not to mention highly unpopular as we are not going to be the only ones that will be attempting to pursue new money.

Finally, note that additional recommendations have to the language within position paper relative to the fact that this proposal is an all-risk integrated function and not just pertaining to wildfire. So, people in San Francisco can see the benefit of this as well as people in rural San Diego County. Those changes are in progress and we are looking to get a final draft position paper to Chief Warren and Cal Chiefs later today.

CAL FIRE/STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE

Chief Dargan

A presentation and Overview entitled, "Situation Awareness Technology (SAT), Strategic Planning Proposal" was given by Chief Dargan of the State Fire Marshal. There were three presenters David Blankenship, Colorado Springs FD, Chief Bob Toups, CAL FIRE-Riverside, Dr. Jack Thrope, USAF- Retired and Brian Collins, SRA Inc.

The goal of the presentation was to define and build an "Awareness Level" understanding of SA Technology and how such a program, pending support of a proposal to the FIRESCOPE BOD to support an 18-month CA SAT Strategic Planning Initiative, would serve all phases of a fire-based risk system.



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CAL FIRE/STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE (continued)

Chief Dargan

The specific proposal made by Chief Dargan is to complete a FIRESCOPE Strategic Plan –SA Technology that identifies key SA Technologies that can support all phases of fire protection, develops recommendations for integration and governance of SA Technologies in a multi-agency environment, able to create a roadmap for implementation based on capabilities, cost, and potential. This includes obtaining funding, project oversight, partnership, and recommendation to FIRESCOPE upon completion.

- **Action Item:** *Chief Freeman made the suggestion for an ad-hoc group, to include Chief Roper to be formed and meet between now and the April meeting that could work on this issue. Three board members volunteered, Chief Dennen, Chief Richter and Chief Husari. They will come back with a briefing and a proposal to the Board at that meeting.*

Break

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION UPDATE

Chief Freeman/Chief Roper

Chief Warren- Whereas the Governor and member of the legislature have expressed interest in specific recommendations, the 2007 Task Force reviewed the 2003 BRC recommendations, of which there were initially 70 and later reduced to 48 in the final document and provided an analysis of where we are today. With input from agencies such as CAL FIRE and the USFS as well as the other Task Force representatives the final 106 page document has been completed and submitted.

With the current budget situation in the State and all the people involved in putting together the Initiative the Task Force felt that it was important to release the following statement:

“As we are all aware, the information on the insurance initiative got out a little early. Fire protection and prevention is an urgent need that can’t wait for the next hundred year disaster. It is imperative that our investment in fire protection be secure, on-going and where necessary, expanded at all levels of government. While we are mindful of local, state and federal’s financial impacts the consequences of downsizing fire protection based on current risks far out-weight a short-term savings.”



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BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION UPDATE

Chief Freeman/Chief Roper

Chief Gilbert- The Task Force accomplished their task much quicker than anyone thought it would be done and that as it relates to the insurance initiative the report had a lot of detail as to what the fees would be used for. After review, 97% of those items identified are directly traceable back to the Blue Ribbon Commission and their priorities. There doesn't seem to be anything that hasn't been previously discussed at the BOD level or a fire-service standpoint; however, there are some things not in there that some of our organizations would like to see. What we see happening today is that there are several Advocates groups or resistant groups and individuals who do not like the concept of a fee or an assessment on their insurance policies. The Administration is trying to react to that- so, what they have been requesting of the fire service throughout the morning are statements of support for the proposal. They have asked specifically for statements of support from organizations that either represented by or are composed of fire service members from different media areas throughout the State. There is an understanding however that until we all have an opportunity to go back and talk to our members and stakeholders it is difficult to come out in either support or opposition to the proposal. I do think that there is value in having a discussion of support for this. Perhaps Cal Chiefs, Metro Chiefs, District Chiefs and maybe even FIRESCOPE can put out some general supportive statements without locking anyone in to something they would not be comfortable with later. The Administration has put together "Talking Points" that they would like us to consider and certainly we would have the full ability to either use or not use any of these.

Lunch

CFFA UPDATE

Chief Wagner/ Chief Marquis

The last meeting went well and things are progressing favorably.

The next CWCG meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2008. Chief Vail will bring back any comments to the Board from that meeting.



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FIRE AND RESCUE MUTIAL AID PLAN

Chief Prather/Chief Zagaris

There is draft language in your Board packets, which was developed as a result of a proposal to the board at the October meeting to examine the possibility of modifying the MMA current language of allowing the exchange of up to 5 individual resources (1 Strike Team), for Initial Attack between adjoining Regions, with notification to permit the exchange of up to 5 Strike Teams (25 engines), between adjoining Regions, with notification.

- *Action Item: Review Draft language for further discussion/action at the April, 2008 BOD meeting.*

IAFC BOARD ACTIONS- MAYDAY

Chief Freeman/Chief Zagaris

There is a letter in your BOD packet that has been sent out on behalf of FIRESCOPE to the IAFC regarding this issue. Although we have soften our stance on the use of, "MAYDAY for the downed firefighter to communicate his or her plight, the term, "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" is still the primary verbiage used by the IC, OPS, etc. when there is a need to clear radio traffic to initiate the rescue.

CWCG UPDATE

Chief Thompson

There are a couple of new members to the group; USFS Chief Willie Thompson is one of them.

CWCG is currently looking at the issue of Fire Weather/ Predictive Services, specifically, evaluating the work-loads of both Directors and Center Managers as to whether or not they should split those two responsibilities.

A letter in your Board packet directed to Chief Freeman is included requesting that FIRESCOPE consider including some of the principles that have been developed for the "Field Operations Guide" ICS 420-1, and other publications where appropriate.



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CWCG UPDATE (continued)

Chief Thompson

Additional discussions and/or announcements from the CWCG meeting included:

- Further evaluations and discussions of the operational use of ROSS during the October 2007 Fire Siege.
 - National MAC meeting dates: January 15^h-17, 2008.
 - Incident Management Teams: Utilizing Type 2 Team in a single rotation on a State-wide basis.
 - Team assignment selections will take place in February, 2008.
 - The National Team meeting is scheduled for the first week of April, 2008.
 - The first efforts took place in CWCG attempts to identify both existing Specialist and Working Groups and the outstanding request for FIRESCOPE to assist us in providing an inventory of what groups are out there. A sub-group has been created to coordinate between the two.
- **Action Item:** *Chief Freeman made the suggestion to refer this CWCG handout to the Ops Team to look at and possibly place into the next FOG.*

CICCS UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

The State Fire Marshal's Office is requesting that the CICCS Task Force become the PACE 5 Committee which is the group responsible for the review and approval of the ICS 500-600 level applicants. It is felt by the SFM that this would be a logical transition in as the Task Force membership already possesses the composition that PACE 5 requires, as well as knowledge of the peer review, qualifications and certifications process. After discussion it was agreed upon by the CICCS Task Force to assume this role, if the State Board of Fire Services concurs. There are a number of applications currently waiting review by the PACE 5 Committee.

The next CICCS Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 28-30, 2008 at McClellan.



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FIRE SERVICE POSITION OF PRIVATE INSURANCE FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

Chief Roper

- These are private fire suppression groups usually provided by insurance agencies that contract with the homeowner to put a “protective blanket” around their house before the fire arrives.
- In Ventura County we currently exclude them from accessing the incidents by enforcing that they are not exempt from road closures. If we set up these road closures and these companies bypass them and enter the scene are we liable? Their equipment, PPE, training, certifications and qualifications are all concerns with the primary issues being: Legality, Safety and Liability.

➤ *Action Item: OES Legal is to look at this issue and provide feedback via Chief Zagaris back to the Board at the April, 2008 meeting.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE SIEGE ROUNDTABLE

Chief Freeman/Chief Roper

Chief Prather during a discussion about the MACS process during the siege posed the question: If the sky was the limit what would we do different? How can we take what we presently do and improve on it. It was discussed that we would reconvene all the 2007 MACS members to discuss the possibilities.

➤ *Action Item: Chief Prather will facilitates a meeting to include all of the 2007 MACS members and agency representatives prior to the next meeting to discuss the MACS process and its possible improvements. A report will be presented to the Board at their April, 2008 meeting.*

FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM/ TASK FORCE REPORT

Chief Pierce/Chief West

FIRESCOPE Operations Team Report- Chief Pierce

- Last meeting was held via a conference call on November 7, 2007.
- Discussed was the continued development and proposed guidelines for the membership of the FIRESCOPE Operations Team with the Team still awaiting Board direction and approval for modification to the FIRESCOPE OPS Team membership section of the MACS 410-4



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FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM/ TASK FORCE REPORT

Chief Pierce/Chief West

FIRESCOPE Operations Team Report- *Chief Pierce* (continued)

- The Team reviewed the MACS after-action report.
- The Team continues to coordinate and monitor resource typing with NWCG and NIC.

FIRESCOPE Operations Team Continued Items for 2008:

- Night Flying Guidelines (tasked to FIRESCOPE Aviation Specialist Group)
 - Mayday/Emergency Traffic- appropriate usage
 - Operations Team membership configuration/participation
 - Provide additional Information/follow up on the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)
 - Additional needs as requested by the Board.
- Next FIRESCOPE OPS Team meeting: January 31, February 1, 2008 in Shell Beach w/FIRESCOPE Task Force.

FIRESCOPE Task Force Report- *Chief West*

- FIRESCOPE Website has added a “What’s New” button.
- The EMS Specialist Group met for the first time December 2007. They have developed a draft Charter and Plan of Work which will be reviewed at the January Task Force meeting. Their next meeting is February 5-6th.
- The Aviation Specialist Group meets tomorrow January 10, 2008 and will be addressing those issues of Helicopter Manager, Aviation Asset Spreadsheet and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) as directed by the Board.
- The FIRESCOPE Task Force at their February, 2008 meeting preparations for the annual FIRESCOPE MACS orientations and exercises, as outlined on the FIRESCOPE Plan of Work scheduled for late spring, 2008.



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FIRESCOPE Task Force Report- Chief West (continued)

- Two Task Force members, Chief Hollingsworth and Chief West have been selected to participate on the DHS/FEMA Incident Management Working Group, chaired by Chief Steve Gage. Reports back from this working group will be provided through the Decision Process.
- Chief Ramiro Rodriguez, representing the Office of the State Fire Marshal has joined the Task Force to assist in providing the link between the FIRESCOPE Task Force and State Fire Training.
- We still have vacancies on the Task force for Cities North, Counties North and Cities South which we expect to have filled by our next meeting.
- Next FIRESCOPE Task Force meeting: January 30-31, 2008 in Shell Beach w/FIRESCOPE OPS Team.

OLD BUSINESS

All

GOVERNOR'S "EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE" UPDATE

Chief Gilbert- The conference call with the Governor's staff has just concluded and the insurance initiative that we spoke of earlier is being carried forward. The following global joint statement will be issued in the coming days:

"The California Fire Chiefs' Association, Fire Districts' Association of California, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs' Association of California, and the Association of Contract Counties, protecting over 32 million Californians, praised the Governor's proposal to improve the State's ability to prepare for and respond to devastating wildfires. This proposal directly addresses the high priorities of the 2003 Blue Ribbon Commission, and the 2007 Blue Ribbon Task Force, charged with identifying, analyzing and reducing the negative impacts of devastating wildfires in California.

Fire Chiefs recognize that when California burns as it did last fall there are no jurisdictional boundaries. The California fire service operates as one State-wide fire department when disasters happen. The risk is State-wide, the response is State-wide, and the economic and environmental impacts affect all Californians. The Fire Chiefs applaud this innovative and collaborative approach from the Governor to address this ever-increasing life safety issue."



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OLD BUSINESS

All

GOVERNOR'S "EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE" UPDATE (continued)

Chief Gilbert- Advised the Board that the statement will be forwarded to the Governor's Officer for distribution.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Freeman/Chief Dennen/All

California Fires Service History Project

Guest speaker Sarah Wheelock, Project Director, California Firefighters History Project, University of California, Berkley

Ms. Wheelock addressed the Board at the invitation of Chief Freeman, informing them of a research project that she and the University are doing. Her and other students have initiated a research group focused on the history of the California fire service. The results of their project will be a comprised historical recount consisting of both video and written transcripts of the history and evolution of the fire service within California over the last 50 years. She is also anticipating using this historical documentation to author a book on the same subject. She's requesting that if anyone had any information to share with her and her group or any other unique fire service stories that they wish to share to please contact her at the University at: 650-823-1863.

Fire Districts Association of California

Chief Dennen

- Last meeting was in Sacramento.
- At their April 10, 11, 12, 2008 conference in South Lake Tahoe they are requesting a historical presentation of the FIRESCOPE program.
- Chief Dennen will continue to keep the Board apprised of the Association's continued actions



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NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Chief Freeman/Chief Dennen /All

Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS) Training Announcement
Chief O'Bannon

- Upcoming ROSS training dates and locations:
 - February 4-8, 2008 in Sacramento
 - May 5-9, 2008 in Sacramento

ROUNDTABLE

All

AJOURNMENT

- **Action Item:** Adjournment Motioned and Seconded at 1500 hrs.

- NEXT FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING -

APRIL 9, 2008, SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT