

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

*MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 1991 - SACRAMENTO*

*MINUTES OF MEETING*

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

*William Maxfield, Chairman - Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Department  
Donald Manning, Vice Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
C. Richard Aronson, Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
James Brannon, Chief - Linda Fire Protection District  
Dick Henry, Director - Aviation and Fire Management, U.S. Forest Service  
Larry Holms, Chief - Orange County Fire Department  
Richard Peterson, Chief - Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
George Lund, Chief - Ventura County Fire Department  
Pat Kidder, Fire & Aviation Officer - Bureau of Land Management  
Merrill McMurray, Deputy Chief for Michael Dacy, Chief - Sacramento County F.D.  
Ken Brown, Deputy Chief for James McMullen, Fire Marshal - State Fire Marshal's Office  
Bill Teie for Harold Walt, Director - California Department of Forestry  
Jack Brocchini for Gary Costamagna, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department*

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

*Michael Freeman, Chief - Los Angeles County Fire Department  
James McMullen, State Fire Marshal  
Michael Dacy, Chief - Sacramento County Fire Department  
Harold Walt, Director - California Department of Forestry  
Gary Costamagna, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department  
Chris Cameron, Chief - National Parks Service, Branch of Fire Management  
Loren Pettis, Chief - Montclair Fire Department*

**SPECIAL ADVISORS PRESENT**

*Eldon Nagel, General Manager - California State Firemen's Association*

**SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT**

*Brian Hatch, Director - California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection*

## OTHERS PRESENT

Frank Curry, Consultant - State Assembly  
Blair Springer, Consultant - Joint Committee on Emergency Services  
Donald Perry, Deputy Chief - Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Stan Lake, Deputy Chief - California Department of Forestry  
Gary Buzzini, Region Chief - California Department of Forestry, Redding  
Mike Scherr, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division, OCC Riverside  
Dick Starr, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Paul Beckstrom, Assistant Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Will Brock, Assistant Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Kim Zagaris, Assistant Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Bev Passerello, Legislative Liaison - Office of Emergency Services, Legislation  
John Passerello, Assistant Director - Office of Emergency Services, Response & Recovery  
Larry Whalen, Battalion Chief - Ventura County Fire Department  
Dan Matson, Deputy Chief - California Department of Forestry, Santa Rosa  
David LeMay, Deputy Chief - California Department of Forestry  
Jim Hone, Battalion Chief - Santa Monica Fire Department  
Bill Lewis, Training Advisor - National Fire Academy/Federal Emergency Mgmt. Assoc.  
Bill Vandevort, Battalion Chief - Monterey Fire Department  
Steve Paulsell, Chief - Boone County Missouri Fire Protection District  
Bruce Teele, Senior Fire Service Safety Specialist - NFPA  
Bill Baden, Senior Fire Service Safety Specialist - NFPA  
Jim Dykes, Region Chief - California Department of Forestry, Riverside  
Mike Dougherty, Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator - USDA Forest Service  
Bill Neville, Assistant Vice President - NFPA  
Mark Ghilarducci, Emergency Services Coordinator - Office of Emergency Services

## OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Maxfield opened the meeting at 0930 hours, welcoming members and guests. Today's agenda will not be covered in order because of the time constraints on those people travelling back to Southern California. We will attempt to cover each item on the agenda before adjourning, however we'll cover the priority items first in case times runs short.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 1990 MEETING

The above minutes will be corrected to show the International Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens (bottom of page 8), to be the International Association of Fire Fighters.

**IT WAS MOVED BY KEN BROWN, SECONDED BY BILL TEIE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 1990 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

### FIRE ACTIVITY POINTER SYSTEM

Dave LeMay, Deputy Chief, California Department of Forestry reported for Loren Poor on the Fire Activity Pointer System. Completions of the updates and plans for Phase One have had vast improvement recently. The system is starting to come on-line and is being tested by Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Orange County and Ventura County. Those agencies report the system is functioning extremely well. The work committee would like to thank the numerous individuals who have provided their input and expertise to the development of this system, including Captain Stan Hook from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

### PRESCRIBED FIRE INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM

Mike Scherr, Deputy Chief, Office of Emergency Services reported for Dave Neff on the Prescribed Fire Information Reporting System. There is a total of 30-32% interaction on the computer prime system at this time and an increase to 50-60% interaction is anticipated in the near future. Phase one includes information being input as it relates to the incident, to accept the data as it relates to prescribed fire. Phase two of that operation is a tailor-made program specific to prescribed fire with the type of form, very similar to what FAPS has requested to accept their data. Phase two will also have the ability to run some information as to tonnage and type of vegetation to be consumed in addition to the amount of pollutant placed in the atmosphere. This information will be stored on both computers, north and south. Bill Teie has sent out letters of request for assistance on a steering committee that consist of representatives from CDF, OES, Parks and Recreation, Air Resources Board, BLM, the Department of Finance, South Coast Air Quality Management District and the U.S. Forest Service.

Bill Teie, Deputy Director, California Department of Forestry reported that there was a Clean Air Act passed on November 16, 1990 with some very specific clauses in it regarding health standards for smoke. In the next 18 months the State will be required to have plans developed to mitigate any of the air basins that violate these standards. There are a total of 73 air basins in the nation, most of which are in the west. The three areas contributing the most are:

1. Dust
2. Wood stove
3. Prescribed fire

The steering committee will be able to focus more on a statewide basis and also the impact as it relates to bordering states, in regard to pollutants within the atmosphere. There has been an excellent response from those people who were contacted for assistance on the steering committee and the first meeting should be taking place soon.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bev Passerello, OES Legislative Liaison, provided a legislative summary of measures that have been introduced so far this year. They included earthquake, toxics and smoking in public facilities. Mrs. Passerello has received letters of inquiry regarding Senate Bill 1250, which contains the \$50 million of local agency retro-fit money. Those letters are on file and will be responded to as soon as information is received from the Office of State Architect regarding development of regulations and the process by which that money will be accessed. The contact person at the State Architect's Office is (916) 445-0769 for anyone who would like to make further inquiry into SB 1250.

The oil spill legislation that went through last year from Senator Keene's office is being followed by a "clean-up" bill dealing with oil spill response. The contact person for that bill at Senator Keene's office is Paul Donahue and he can be reached at (916) 324-2273.

Mrs. Passerello introduced Frank Curry, Consultant to Assemblyman Rusty Areias' Earthquake and Disaster Preparedness Committee, to discuss FIRESCOPE legislation.

Frank Curry reported that due to Proposition 140 the standing committee on Earthquake Preparedness and Natural Disasters has been abolished. However, there has been an abundance of information gathered by staff in regards to earthquake preparedness and natural disasters and what the needs are, and the foundation is being laid for a comprehensive preparedness program. There are five pieces of legislation being carried right now, and Assemblyman Areias will carry those that are directly involved with the fire service and emergency services. It is his desire to promote legislation that will benefit all fire departments and he feels there is no better legislation than FIRESCOPE. SB27, Senator Campbell's bill, which adopted FIRESCOPE did not include any appropriations. In continuing with the FIRESCOPE Five-Year Plan, the first priority is to come up with a system manager, who can actually go out and develop grants or funds and work with the legislature. There has been some legislation drafted that will adopt a position in the Office of Emergency Services, which will be a Senior Fire Coordinator, to work with department directors, agency secretaries, administrators and legislators. This legislation attempts to appropriate \$103,000.00 to get that program working.

At this time, Chairman Maxfield introduced Blair Springer.

Mr. Springer reported that on October 30, 1990 the Joint Committee on Fire Police, Emergency and Disaster Services held a hearing in regard to fire service issues. Their primary concerns involved the series of fires in Southern California that destroyed homes in Santa Barbara County, Glendale and Riverside County. Priorities that need to be addressed during the 1990's were identified and began with local control and building standards. The legislature fought a major battle after the Attorney General's opinion that prohibited the local jurisdictions from adopting minimum standards, established by the State Fire Marshal, as local ordinances. Recommendations that came out of that hearing

dealt directly with urban interface development. Some other issues that were addressed were:

- o FIREScope
- o Training for fire fighters in California
- o Communications
- o Research and development for fire apparatus
- o Equipment

There was some general conversation regarding the Californians for an Effective State Legislature possibly fighting Proposition 140 in court. There is no definite answer as to whether this will occur or not.

Chief Peterson brought up the National Fire Caucus holding their meeting in Sacramento this year. He felt this would be an appropriate time to get the California Caucus kicked in, using the National Caucus as a vehicle to try and strengthen the state effort. Ken Brown stated that Chief McMullen is chairing the National Caucus this year and would like for the California Caucus to be involved with the Federal Caucus.

Blair Springer will supply a list of caucus members to the Board. He stressed the importance of those members being contracted and encouraged to re-iterate their support for the fire service and select a chair so there is a point of contact.

#### **BALLOT ISSUE - VACANCY ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chairman Maxfield explained the Ballot which was distributed to each voting member of the Board. The Board has had four individuals who are interested in holding the position representing Fire Districts North, which was vacated by Ken Brown in October 1990. The outcome of the Ballot will be the Board's recommendation to the Director for appointment.

Chief Aronson re-iterated that the charter states "the Director appoints", however after talking with Director Irwin, it is his desire to have a recommendation from the group. The Board has not been faced with this process in the past and it is open for discussion. Chairman Maxfield explained that he and Chief Aronson felt the secret ballot would be an appropriate means of selecting a candidate for this position.

Ken Brown raised a technical issue regarding one person on the ballot, Chief Russ Richards, who did not appear to represent a district and asked the Board if a county fire safety department constituted a rural fire district.

Kim Zagaris, Assistant Chief, OES Fire and Rescue Division stated that Chief Russ Richards is not only the County Fire Warden in Stanislaus County but he is also the Fire Chief for the McHenry-Dry Creek Fire Protection District under contract. Chief Zagaris

also announced that it was the position of all the OES Assistant Field Chief's to support Chief Richards for this appointment. He stated that he did not feel a secret ballot vote was appropriate, and that anything other than taking a poll vote could possibly be a violation of the Brown Act.

Bill Teie suggested that Chairman Maxfield talk to each of the four candidates and make an appropriate recommendation to the Director.

Chairman Maxfield stated that he would do that, but he felt the committee would like to have involvement and input into the selection. He also stated that he had received communications from several of the candidates and their supporters, but since he did not have all of the correspondence received for each person, he didn't feel it would be appropriate to distribute any of them.

Chief Manning agreed that the Board should not enter into that realm because the process would become popularization.

Chief Peterson agreed stating that he felt it appropriate to have a secret ballot verses a poll vote because people being identified with who they supported would become divisive and counter-productive. He did not feel there was any kind of violation of the Brown Act, because this was an advisory type of issue.

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF PETERSON, SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN MAXFIELD AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO PROCEED FORTH WITH THE BALLOT VOTE.**

Chairman Maxfield asked the voting members of the Board to mark their ballots and pass them forward. The results will be tabulated and a recommendation will be made to Director Irwin for appointment.

At this time Chairman Maxfield introduced Jim Hone for a report on the USAR Specialist Group.

#### **URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE SPECIALIST GROUP**

Jim Hone, Battalion Chief, Santa Monica Fire Department distributed a draft document entitled "FIREScope Draft 1/2/91" which was regarding Primary Mobil Urban Search and Rescue Resources. Chief Hone is the Specialist Group Project Coordinator and also the Chairman of the FEMA Rescue Criteria Working Group for developing standards for the national teams. The group has been meeting for the past six months and accomplishments include election of Chairman, Vice-chairman and secretaries for both north and south. The group has also solidified their charter. One project currently being worked on is the development of an interim stop-gap measure identifying those personnel in California who have received Rescue Systems I training. Since there was a substantial change in the curriculum in 1987, the goal is to identify people who have had this training

Post-1987, enabling OES access to those resources in times of future disasters. The draft document is one of three that will be mailed out with the Form 5's and it may also be used by each department as an in-house tracking system for their own personnel who have received this training. A more comprehensive form will be mailed out later to those individuals identified as Post-1987. This form will ask for a social security number to perpetuate a long range tracking program for those future more in-detailed surveys that will be mailed out later. A draft outline has been produced for Rescue Systems II, including four eight-hour modules with a four-hour introduction and a four-hour conclusion, totalling a 40 hour program. It is anticipated that Rescue Systems II may be implemented in the near future. Another project the group is working on is identifying what the HRF's should carry and what should be included in the OES specialized cache. Rescue Systems III is not on-line at this time, however it is envisioned as being a multi-disciplined modules having a drill site constructed in an environment that would simulate heavy construction. Chief Hone stated the committee is attempting to identify the staffing of heavy, medium and light HRF's the same as the FOG Manual so there are not too many changes from what is currently being used. He also explained the California Task Force organization chart verses the FEMA organization chart and the three elements of each being rescue, medical, and technical and the 28 person California organization chart would be doubled if you were looking at the 56 person FEMA organization chart. The USAR Specialist Group is having a second joint meeting with the FEMA Rescue Criteria Working Group on February 21 and 22, 1991 in Bakersfield to finalize typing and tasking of equipment and identify the specialized equipment for the OES cache.

#### OPERATIONS TEAM REPORT

Chief Scherr reported that Jim Hone's position as Project Coordinator for the Specialist Group was established to build continuity in the program's guidance and direction. The group is managing well within the FIREScope Decision Process and since the Operations Team responsibilities have been accomplished with regards to development of the USAR Specialist Group, he will be stepping back from the program, however he will stay in contact and assist in any way possible. Marshall Goddard with Santa Barbara County Fire Department is the liaison to this group and he and Jim Hone are working closely with Dick Andrews and Mark Ghilarducci as well as FEMA on the national level. The attendance at the Specialist Group meetings has been excellent.

#### TASK FORCE REPORT

Mike Dougherty, Assistant Emergency Operations Coordinator, USDA Forest Service reported that over the last three months the Task Force has spent a lot of time with the USAR Specialist Group on the organization chart that Chief Hone referred to. He stated that he was very comfortable with the decision for California to operate at a Task Force level with the 28 person group, verses FEMA's 56 person group. The Specialist Group has continued with that very well, spending a lot of time on Fire Ground Command over the last few months. The other item that came to the Task Force was the NWCG proposal

to add law enforcement officer to the command staff of the ICS organization. A copy of the response letter to NWCG is included, stating the concerns the Task Force has with adding an additional member to the command staff. The Task Force feels that law enforcement is an important issue but it should continue to be handled as it is currently being handled.

Chief Scherr advised the members that this issue was not brought before the Board for a vote because of the time frame involved in responding to NWCG. Because the Task Force was unable to contact Chairman Maxfield, Chief Aronson was asked, as Executive Coordinator for the Board of Directors, to make signature of that letter and it is hoped that it is representative of the decision process.

Chairman Maxfield concurred with the process and expressed his appreciation for the action that was taken in his absence.

Mike Dougherty continued his report stating that the NWCG has proposed some major curriculum and presentation changes to the ICS Training System. The Training Specialist Group is meeting tomorrow and they will be putting together a package, a recommendation from the Task Force to the Operations Team to the Board of Directors on what FIREScope's opinion is to those changes. The Task Force will meet on February 12 and 13, 1991 to review and make comments on that package and send it on through the process.

There have been a number of changes within the Task Force:

Mike Coggan, Orange County has replaced Jim Farrell  
Marshall Goddard, Santa Barbara County has replaced Keith Simmons  
Ralph Alworth, CDF has replaced Bob Browning  
Bob Wyman, Los Angeles County has replaced Gary Nelson

The OES representative is vacant at this time. It is hoped this position will be filled in the near future.

Chief Scherr advised the Board that Dan Francis has been asked to provide an additional report, regarding the project from NWCG at the next meeting in San Luis Obispo. The Board's verification and ratification of recommendation to this process will be needed by March 15, 1991. It may be necessary to obtain that ratification through a mail-out since the Board does not have a meeting scheduled prior to that date.

#### **PROPOSED 1991 MEETING DATES**

Chairman Maxfield asked the Board members for confirmation of the proposed 1991 meeting dates. Chairman Maxfield suggested changing the April 10 date to April 3, and the October 9 date to October 2.

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAIRMAN MAXFIELD, SECONDED BY CHIEF PETERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO SET THE 1991 MEETING DATES AS FOLLOWS:**

- o April 3, 1991
- o July 10, 1991
- o October 2, 1991
- o January 8, 1992

Chairman Maxfield introduced Mark Ghilarducci reporting on the USAR Advisory Committee Report for Dr. Richard Andrews.

#### **URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mark Ghilarducci reported some changes will be occurring within the Advisory Committee because of the administration changing. Local government and federal government representatives will not change, however, state representative will. The committee met for the fourth time, in Burbank, just before the holidays and discussed the current budget situation. The state budget has been frozen and that also applies to the USAR budget, with the exception of the Satellite Communications Program. OES has submitted an exemption request for the USAR budget and should have a response on that by the next Board meeting. The training center and development at Camp San Luis Obispo, the cache and the equipment for it are on hold. The Advisory Committee has appointed sub-committee working groups. The four areas identified for need of a sub-committee are:

- o Procedures and Guidelines  
Chair: Rich Aronson, OES Fire and Rescue Division
- o Training  
Chair: Fritz Patterson, California Peace Officer's Association
- o International Response and Protocols  
Chair: Lawrence Buffaloe, OES Law Enforcement Division
- o Volunteers and Volunteer Groups  
Chair: Ron Jones, Los Angeles County Fire Department

Advancements in the USAR Programs include isolating 30 acres at Camp San Luis Obispo to be turned over to the state for developing a state owned training center for urban search and rescue. This training center would be for all disciplines and the program would not be in competition with any other center that is currently in place.

The working groups on the federal working group level have met a number of times and have a list of draft recommendations on equipment, criteria, and training. The steering

committee has met based upon those recommendations and are now making recommendations back, specifically with regards to the equipment list, which needs to be pared down quite a bit. The group is re-evaluating that priority. Some committees are meeting this weekend and it is anticipated they will have guidance in place by mid-January for local governments participation as far as a national team. There is going to be a significant contribution on the local end, and that is unclear as to where it stands depending on the guidelines the federal working groups come up with and whether the local departments can efficiently and effectively match that.

#### COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Dick Starr, Deputy Chief, OES Fire and Rescue Division updated the Board on the Subcommittee report. The reimbursement sub-committee met in Orange County on November 7th and reached a consensus on the following: the committee recommended no change in the terms of the current Cooperative Agreement on personnel rate increases or engine reimbursements. The committee discussed the mechanism for feeding during travel and that issue was set aside for a future meeting.

One new issue is the ability for the forest agencies to take requests for overhead personnel through the system. It was decided to include that in the Cooperative Agreement, making that available in addition to assistance by hire. The rate would be the average between Captain and first level Chief Officer. A new salary survey has been sent out to determine what that rate will be before going forward with a recommendation to have it included in the Cooperative Agreement. The qualifications are to be written later. On the discussion of out-of-state response, the determination is that an entirely new document will be needed. The main issues were insurance, liability, and worker's compensation. The committee will be going to the Attorney General to get an opinion on what can be done about the insurance issue. It was determined that for out-of-state response, the personnel reimbursements should be at an assistance by hire rate, not using the terms of the Cooperative Agreement. The next meeting will delve further into this out-of-state response issue.

There are still requests for reimbursement coming in at this time, and a final report should be available at the next meeting. At this time the Cooperative Agreement has been utilized more than any time in the past. There was 57% more utilization this year than in 1988, which was the previous highest year. The Office of Emergency Services has received 1360 claims, for 28 different fires. Twenty-one of those were CDF, five were USFS and two were NPS. The expenditure was 4 million, 453 thousand dollars. The major problem this year, which does have an impact on the validity of the Cooperative Agreement, was the multiple fires and multiple claim forms. Staffing problems contributed to the slow-down in processing along with inaccurate and incomplete claims being submitted. The results of all this was a delay in payment. OES Staff has defined the problems and are working on some solutions. This will be brought back to the sub-committee at the next meeting.

## FIREGROUND ICS GROUP REPORT

Chief Peterson reported that the Fire Ground/ICS Working Group now has a national focus. A determination has been made as to the make-up of the steering committee groups and there will be representation from FIRESCOPE, International Association of Fire Chief's, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, the National Volunteer Council, NFPA and some others. These steering committee groups will meet in July at Quincy, and set up working groups much like those within the FIRESCOPE process. The National Fire Administration will be the parent organization, although at this point they are being called the facilitating organization. Strategy developed to get funding for this effort through the congressional fire caucus, would mean an allocation of funds to the Fire Administration that would pay for transportation and expenses for the groups working on the future efforts of the national focus group. The second thing accomplished was the notion for a September conference in Phoenix. California fire service should become actively involved with respect to both the work groups and the general session presentations to ensure information is appropriate for the whole nation. Chief Peterson stated that he was generally very encouraged by the outcome of the FGC/ICS meeting yesterday.

Chief Scherr asked for confirmation from the State Fire Marshal's Office regarding who would be representing that office on the Operations Team North.

Ken Brown stated that he would send a letter to Stan Lake with copies to Mike Scherr and Chairman Maxfield clarifying who the State Fire Marshal representative would be.

Some general discussion ensued regarding yesterday's FGC/ICS meeting and concerns from some of the Board members who attended.

Chief Lund expressed concerns with the fire ground command system getting a national focus as ICS when it relates only to structure fires.

Chairman Maxfield stated that his understanding was ICS would be the incident command process and fireground, rescue and any of those other agencies would all apply to the ICS management system.

Chief Peterson stated that he felt it was good that the next meeting be with the Operations Team in Quincy because it would give the Operations Team a chance to debate the merits or lack of merits of any suggestions or conflicts and air those issues. It will also allow 18 months to resolve the differences.

Chief Holms expressed concerns with presenting nationally a two level system, instead of a single system. One of the key issues is ensuring that this conference in Phoenix is successfully taught, and ensuring that we, here in California, are comfortable with the instructors. Clarifying that ICS is a management system, fire ground command is SOP;s and ICS is not strictly wildland.

### OES BUDGET REPORT

Chief Aronson reported that the state budget has been frozen in regards to hiring and equipment. Bids are back on hold, but a letter of exemption to the Department of Finance is in the works. Travel money is not affected at this time. The one percent cut may affect travel later. Chief Aronson also announced the retirement of Charlie Anderson and stated that Jim Jeffery has transferred into that position. The earliest date for hiring to fill Jim's position will be July 1, 1991. OES is anticipating another four percent cut in addition to the four percent already cut. The USAR equipment purchase has also been frozen.

Chief Holms asked if candidates are still being accepted for the Senior Fire Service Coordinator and Fire Service Coordinator testing.

Chief Aronson responded that the final filing date has past and applications are no longer being accepted.

### OPERATIONS TEAM REPORT - SOUTH & NORTH

Chief Scherr/Chief Lake reported that the Operations Teams have not met due to the holidays and vacations. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14 and 15, 1991 at San Luis Obispo. A copy of the agenda for that meeting has been distributed.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

None.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 3, 1991 at OES Headquarters, Sacramento.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1305 hours.