

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

Meeting Minutes
Regional Public Safety Training institute (RPSTI) San Diego City FD
January 10 2007

Members Present:

P. Michael Freeman, Chair – Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Bob Roper, Vice Chair – Chief, Ventura County Fire Department
Kim Zagaris, Chief, Fire and Rescue Branch – Office of Emergency Services
Ruben Grijalva, State Fire Marshal/CDF
Chuck Knapp – California State Firefighter's Association
Charles "Chip" Prather, Chief – Orange County Fire Authority
William Bamattre - Los Angeles Fire Department
Deputy Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert for Chief Bill McCammon–Alameda County Fire Department
Candace Gregory – CDF Region V
Mark Schmidt for, Chief John Sherri–Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Jim Marquis – Grass Valley Fire Department
Pat Dennen - San Bernardino County Fire Department
Ed Hollenshead –Director of Fire & Aviation, R5 United States Forest Service
Paul Jacks Deputy Director, for Henry Renteria, Director –Office of Emergency Services
Craig Barnes- Bureau of Land Management
Sue Husari – National Park Service

Members Absent:

Julius Cherry – Sacramento City Fire Department
Dennis Thompson – Kern County Fire Department
Christa Bouma- California Professional Firefighters Association

Others Present:

Dan Drake, Division Chief – Orange County Fire Authority
Ken Mclean – CDF
Mike LaPlant- Ventura County Fire Department
Tom Drayer, Deputy Chief – OES
Pat O'Bannon, Assistant Chief – OES
Vincent Cohee – OES Fire & Rescue FIRESCOPE Program
Del Walters – CDF Northern Assistant Region Chief
Chuck Manor - CDF Northern Assistant Region Chief
Bob Green - CDF Southern Region Operations Chief
Kirk Rowdabaugh - National Association State Foresters
Douglas Barry Chief Engineer Interim, Los Angeles City Fire Department

Introduction and Logistics

P. Michael Freeman (Los Angeles County FD)

P. Michael Freeman opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Self-introductions were made.

Chief Freeman introduced Fire Chief Tracy Jarman, San Diego City Fire Department who welcomed the board and guests to the Regional Public Safety Training Institute (RPSTI).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

P. Michael Freeman (Los Angeles County FD)

Motion

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

1st Bamattre

2nd Prather

Motion Passed

OES Director's Report

Paul Jacks (OES)

Director Henry Renteria was unable to attend meeting as Governor Schwarzenegger is rolling out the State of California 2007-08 Budget.

- Assembly Bill AB38 (NAVA) the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and Governors Office of Emergency Services (OES). This bill will merge the two offices; still many details to be worked out.
- OES has signed an MOU with CALFIRE to use the OES CESARS radio system to be used as a statewide multi-discipline interagency inter-operability channel, Replaces the previous USFS Travel Net.
- OES & OHS has developed a spending plan totaling approximately 15 million dollars to be used for the replacement and new acquisition of eleven hundred (1100) hand held radios, 8 portable repeaters, an expansion of the current California swift water caches, the purchase of nineteen (19) medium Type-II rescue trailers and one (1) light rescue trailer.
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Payments approximately seven million (7,000,000) dollars for claims still outstanding from last year 05-06 FY. Significant needed improvements have been identified within the reimbursement system and new legislation is being developed which may help in the near future.
- The 3-year OES Engine replacement is on track as a recent funding shortage of \$1.3 million dollars was resolved.

OES Director's Report (continued)

Paul Jacks (OES)

- OES believes strongly that the State should be covering the local's 25% cost share. Legislation is being developed to address this issue as part of multi pronged strategy and OES is also looking at another piece of this bill proposal to cover EMAC missions as well. OES is hoping to extend the sunset date on the current disaster response emergency operations account which serves as the OES Emergency Fund.

CDF/SFM Director's Update

Ruben Grijalva (SFM/CDF)

- In the aftermath of the Esperanza Incident Director Grijalva is working with CDF Firefighters, California Professional Firefighters Association (CPFA) and International Association Firefighters (IAFF) to draft federal legislation to address firefighter liability during administrative investigations.
- CALFIRE recently evaluated the DC-10 and the contractor has stated a need for an additional five million dollars (5,000,000) to keep it operating through next year. The Director pointed out that more education regarding the use of the aircraft needs to occur between the fire service, the media and the public.
- CALFIRE will be rolling out the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps this year in process of updating all maps with better and more accurate information. There will be a SFM/CDF representative coming work with local government as they will have to adopt those maps and look at how they affect local government while being successfully adopted & implemented in the jurisdictions.
- SFM/CALFIRE is going before the buildings standards commission this month for the adoption of the international building and fire codes. All local government partners with which SFM/CDF has been working with has done an outstanding job. SFM has introduced code changes at the National level with hearings being held in New York next month.

NIMS

Pat Dennen (San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Recommendations from NIMS working group related to NFPA that should be adopted by local government agencies but not requirements for implementation of National Incident Management System (NIMS). Chief Mclean pointed out that the discussion at National Association State Foresters (NASF) indicated some times lines for NIMS with next draft version out by end of this January, with a 30 day comment period.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Field Operations Guide

Kim Zagaris (OES Fire & Rescue)

Dave Stone (Los Angeles County. FD)

A multi-discipline group putting together a National Field Operations guide and is being developed as a national document. FIREScope has provided representatives to sit on the working group and offered documents which may be integrated into the national FOG. The group is hoping to have a draft completed by July 2007.

Blue Ribbon Commission

Chip Prather (Orange County Fire Authority)

Sue Husari (National Park Service)

A conference call initiated by the California Fire Chiefs Association was held to attempt to identify priorities while clarifying who is responsible for the different initiatives and projects. Director Renteria OES, Director Grijalva CDF and General Wade from California National Guard (CNA) met to discuss accessing military assets with various tasks being assigned that will require follow-up by the group.

CFAA

Bob Roper (Ventura County FD)

Jim Marquis (Grass Valley Fire Department)

- The California Fire Assistance Agreement extension was signed by all parties and did not contain a sunset clause or finite date to an expiration of the agreement. All parties want to return to table and finish up the discussion and dialogue.
- A compilation of results of the BOD CFAA survey previously distributed to the California fire service indicated not many agencies understood its use or how it is applied to Wildland incidents. It was suggested that continued training should be implemented regardless of whether a new agreement is reached.

Interoperability/Interdisciplinary

Chuck Knapp (California State Firefighters' Association)

DHS report card on radio inter-operability which measured urban metro areas as related to radio continuum is out. All cities in CA did fairly well including urban areas. Inoperability issues continue to a primary focus and additional work should be forthcoming from both the Operations Team and Taskforce reference radio issues.

FIREScope BOD Summit- Refocus/Restructure/Revamp

P. Michael Freeman (Los Angeles County FD)

The Board reviewed additional information on the BOD Summit handout. A discussion ensued regarding restructuring the process of the FIREScope board, Chief Freeman suggested at conclusion of the meeting to revisit this topic looking for feed back or suggestions to improve the structure of the agenda.

Ops Team Report

Mike LaPlant (Venture County FD)

Synopsis and report provided. Next meeting February 1st & 2nd Operations team reviewed FOG similarities in MACS, and Area Command for efficiencies. Recommendations are to keep these two subjects separate. Operations liaisons continue to work with NWCG to get Fire line EMT & Fire line paramedic positions nationally recognized and catalog items issued for ROSS. Recommended changes submitted for FOG revision.

Ops team reviewed changes for the FOG the safety specialist group put together with the help of Dave stone and Greg West a document specifying identification hazards zones for IDLH atmospheres

Discussion Mark Schmidt (SBC) There is a renewed interest in bringing back Metropolitan Medical Response teams (MRS) Chief Zagaris indicated that the State Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) has bought 25 (1 ton) strike team leader vehicles with Federal funds for private non-profit organizations. An Operating System Description (OSD) needs to be developed and reviewed by FIREScope. OES Fire and FIREScope will be working with EMSA to developing a resource designation system.

Task Force Report

Mike LaPlant (Ventura County FD)

Handouts provided. Task Force is still working on positions codes versus catalog items which National Interagency Coordination's Center (NICC) uses for ROSS. FIREScope needs to work to ensure catalog items for ROSS in line with California's needs. FIREScope may not want to have to live with someone else's mnemonic/Catalog item for ROSS.

FIREScope website continues to improve members encouraged to see changes. Task Force looks to reactivate specialist working group's geographic information system (GIS) and Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and Urban Search & Rescue (US&R).

The fog rewrite changes are about 95% completed. Various chapters, including Area Command, are being added and updated. These include MCI-OSD, Evacuation Guidelines and WMD. A summary was presented to BOD of significant changes and additions anticipated for 2007 edition of the Field Operations Guide)

Chief Zagaris requested from FIREScope staff a document or spread sheet to indicate where bulks of sales are being purchased by which states, training facilities or institutions to be provided to the BOD at their April meeting

10 Minute Recess at 1130 Hours

Meeting Resumed at 1140 Hours

FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group

CALSIEC National Radio Nomenclature Update

Dan Drake (Orange County Fire Authority)

Presented memorandum in meeting packet addressed to FIRESCOPE with a letter drafted and sent to Allan Caldwell, Senior Advisor International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) relating to CALSIEC and the adoption of nomenclature proposed in 2003 by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and endorsed by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) meeting in Orlando Florida recommendations are going to be reviewed a national standard has not been adopted. California and Florida have a number of recommendations to present to group. Communications Group comments regarding radio naming will be included in recommendations to CALSIEC.

Mayday VS Emergency Traffic

Bob Roper (Ventura County Fire)

Chief Roper discussed how FIRESCOPE arrived at current terminology during 1990's by which Task Force brought forward term "Emergency Traffic" that was adopted with term used to control radio frequency in event there was an injury or Firefighter down. National Fire Academy (NFA) instructional staff continues to teach a program that references the term "MAYDAY" in place of "Emergency Traffic" for the control of operational radio frequencies. NFA presented an article in I-Chiefs on training staff and the use of "MAYDAY". In 2005 FIRESCOPE BOD went on the record with NFA stating term was not an approved nomenclature for use in California nor was it the approved nomenclature used in NFPA 1560 and 1561.

The Board's letter to USFA has not caused them to abandon teaching the use of "MAYDAY" The basic issue is to teach the appropriate common terminology to control the radio frequency to gain attention and focus on a potential serious situation of a Firefighter injury, Firefighter down,

Discussion:

Mike LaPlant pointed out term is somewhat ingrained in its use in other areas of the country being used primarily as an alert. There is a need to establish consistency for fire service.

Chief Rueda commented on the use of MAYDAY in the fire service and stated that there is a need to get other disciplines DHS, FBI, ICE, Coast Guard, port police all on same the page. Chief Roper indicated focus on NIMS and a need to change mainstream thinking while working with NIMS to inject the correct term.

Direction was reaffirmed that FIRESCOPE representatives continue to work with NIMS to reinforce the current position of the FIRESCOPE Board in the use of "Emergency Traffic" as common terminology and that the Task Force present a draft for the April BOD meeting softening the use of "MAYDAY" in the FOG.

Working Lunch 1230 Hours

Resume Meeting 1240 Hours

Special Presentation

Plaque presented to Chief Bamattre in recognition of his exemplary service to the Governors Office of Emergency Services, California Fire and Mutual Aid System and FIRESCOPE.

OIG Audit Report

Ed Hollenshead (R5 Director USFS)

USFS has not had an opportunity for vigorous internal dialog about what this might mean for California; however, it will be a topic of discussion in meeting next week with the USFS California R5 Assistant Directors. There has been a migration from the USFS' primary mission toward the protection of homes and property versus natural resources.

Specific mention was made mutual aid process and that the USFS will honor its responsibility for protection of life and property. A majority of the Fire Chiefs that attended the California League of Fire Chiefs conference agreed that the term "Jurisdiction" equals cost responsibility. National USFS Director Tom Harbor will be speaking to the NASF on this subject.

Chief Marquis asked how the unknown will affect the USFS' posture relative to these negotiations and was there a feeling that the USFS will be in a holding pattern. Chief Hollenshead indicated that the interest is to move ahead with the CFAA agreement. Chief Husari stated that currently this is a concern of the DOI in that the National Fire Plan brought all Federal agencies together and some of the individual pieces of legislation are making it difficult for the federal agencies to speak with one voice.

National Association State Foresters

Kirk Rowdabaugh

Ken Mclean introduced Kirk Rowdabaugh the State Forester in Arizona and thanked the FIRESCOPE BOD and members for accommodating change to allow members to attend both meetings. (FIRESCOPE BOD and NASF)

NASF is a non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia and represents the directors of all 50 State Forestry agencies, the eight U.S. territories (American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia. Through public-private partnerships the NASF seeks to discuss, develop, sponsor and promote programs and activities which will advance the practice of sustainable forestry, the conservation and protection of forest lands and associated resources and the establishment and protection of forests in the urban environment. NASF covers a broad spectrum of forestry issues including fire, urban and community forestry and forest health. NASF also keeps track of the legislative side of forestry, watching forestry-related bills in Congress and informing the debate at congressional committee hearings.

National Association State Foresters (continued)

Kirk Rowdabaugh

Mr. Rowdabaugh discussed the Proposed Wildland Fire Governance structure and how it would relate to functions, organization and membership within those agencies NASF represents.

California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Update

Kim Zagaris (OES Fire & Rescue Branch)

Chief Zagaris spoke of a request from the recently re-formed CICCS Task Force to the Board for a liaison to work with the Task Force as they move forward on the new California 310-1, as well as work through a few issues left over from the 500- 600 peer review group. The next CICCS Task Force meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2007 at the Wildland Fire Training Center (WFTC) at McClellan. The Board requested more information from the Task Force as to determine what the actual need from the BOD is.

Vacancies Non-Charter Members

Kim Zagaris (OES Fire & Rescue Branch)

Chief Zagaris spoke of the two current vacancies that exist on the Board, County Fire Departments North and Fire Districts North. An announcement will be sent out to Regions II, III, & IV requesting letters of interest that outlines the candidates experience and qualifications. That information compiled will be submitted to Membership Subcommittee comprised of Jim Marquis, Chip Prather, P Michael Freeman and Kim Zagaris who will make recommendations to the Director of OES for the appointments.

Chief Roper discussed a need for those who sit on board truly represent the entity that their empowered to represent. A draft document was submitted that would assist in clarifying the role for each prospective applicant and what their relationship would be to the entities they represent. The hope is to get the letters out in next couple weeks to solicit names for vacancies with intent to have the positions filled in time for the April meeting. Chief Dennen will help for Fire districts. Ken Mclean nominated Del Walters to work on a document for County Fire Departments.

Resource Ordering Process

Kim Zagaris (OES Fire & rescue Branch) and Chip Prather

Chief Zagaris discussed a draft resource order comment/feedback form. This document would provide positive feedback in addition to addressing specific problem areas in order to enhance the overall ordering process. The completed form would then be resubmitted back to FIREScope. An adhoc committee was formed to develop and refine the document comprised of Candice Gregory, Bob Green and Pat Dennen who will bring the draft back to the April meeting with the intent of having it finalized in time for the 2007 fire season.

OES Fire and Rescue Branch Report
Kim Zagaris (OES)

OES is making progress in filling vacancies within the Fire & Rescue Branch for Region IV and Region VI. The new Region IV Assistant Chief is Mr. David Powell; formerly the Fire Chief for the Reedley Fire Department and the Region VI Assistant Chief's job has gone to Mr. Brian Woodbeck, formerly a Battalion Chief for the Fort Irwin Fire Department. Vacancies currently remain open for the positions of Deputy Chief, Operations, Assistant Chief, Special Operations, Dispatcher Clerk (2 openings) and Fire Equipment Manager.

For the 03-04 05-06 engine replacement cycle staff continues to work through identified funding shortages and a recent 1.3 million dollar shortfall was resolved. The Department of Corrections (CDC) has indicated a desire to purchase 7 engines off the negotiated OES contract. This will result in a purchase of 21 engines for OES and 7 for CDC.

Chief Zagaris discussed options to remove all extended cab engines with 5- speed, 2-speed manual transmissions. Delivery of the new OES Type III engines should start in July 2007. At the April BOD meeting it is anticipated that discussion will take place, using pre-identified criteria, on how to distribute for assignment these wildland specific engines. OES has begun the retrofitting of fire curtains on all engines with exposed extended cabs and hopes to have project completed by March. OES has distributed all of the Thermo Gel equipment and training to all of the OES Engine assignees in accordance with the BRC recommendations.

OES Assistant Chiefs have been working to facilitate Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS) training for local government personnel at those Operational Area sites that are not yet using ROSS. Additionally, OES is working on obtaining additional funds to offset some of the costs incurred by local government agencies for course fees and per diem.

MACS Orientation training recently was presented to OES staff in Sacramento, and Oakland by OES Fire and Rescue staff.

California National Guard (CNA) MAFF Units has phased out the E models of the C130 and now into J Models currently no modules or slide in tanks for the J models which slide into the Aircraft. CNA behind in development, California will not have the availability aircraft like in years past. If there is a need for aircraft California will need to request from out of state only a couple aircraft available.

OES will be lettering all new OES engines, and command vehicles with the FIRESCOPE website URL. This will be a continuing practice as new vehicles are deployed.

Andy Anderson's retirement was November 11th and was held in Quincy. Chief Anderson was presented with an award on behalf of the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors and OES.

Meeting Adjourned - Next Meeting – April 11, 2007- McClellan