

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

Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2001  
Ontario, California

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

P. Michael Freeman, Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Michael Dougherty, Chief, OES Fire and Rescue Branch  
Chip Prather, Chief, Orange County Fire Authority  
Bob Roper, Chief Ventura County Fire Department  
Roger K. Purdie, Chief, Vista Fire Department  
Hank Weston, Chief, Grass Valley Fire Department  
Glen Newman, Deputy Director, CDF  
John Scherrei, Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Russell D. Richards III, Fire Warden, Stanislaus County  
Ray Quintanar, USDA Forest Service – Fire and Aviation Management  
John Tennant, State Fire Marshal, CDF  
Daniel G. Clark, Chief, Kern County Fire Department  
William R. Bamattre, Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dallas Jones, Director, OES  
Dennis Smith, Chief, Sacramento Fire Department  
Douglas Sporleder, Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department  
Stewart Gary, Chief, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department  
Ed Wehking, Fire Management Officer, Bureau of Land Management  
Tom Nichols, National Park Service  
Brian Hatch, CPF  
John Jansen, California State Firefighter's Association

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Chuck Bader, Assistant Chief, Sacramento City Fire Department, representing Dennis Smith  
Steve Staump, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara Co. Fire Department, representing Douglas Sporleder  
Les Matarazzi, Coordinator, BLM, Representing Ed Wehking & Tom Nichols of NPS  
Dan Drake, Orange County Fire Authority  
Cary Eckard, KRN, (Joint OPS Team, Chair)  
Mike Esparza, Battalion Chief, Riverside City Fire (Vice-Chair State Board of Fire Services)  
Gary Glotfelty, OES (FIRESCOPE Task Force Chair)  
Dave Driscoll, CDF, OES Region II Regional Coordinator  
Jeff Jones, CDF, OES Region III Regional Coordinator  
Tim Turner, CDF, OES Region V Regional Coordinator

Bob Martines, CDF, OES Region VI Regional Coordinator

**OTHERS PRESENT (continued)**

Neil Honeycutt, OES

Pat Cooney, OES

Ishmael Messer, OES

Len Chesmore, OES

Virginia Hernandez, CDF

Ralph Domanski, U.S. Forest Service

George Whitney, Emergency Operations Division, OES

Tom McGuire, Captain, Los Angeles County Fire Department

**OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS:**

Meeting called to order at 0940 by Chair M. Freeman. Self-introductions were made. Logistics and lunch plans were discussed.

The Board of Directors observed a moment of silence in memory of Rachel Parks. Chair M. Freeman informed that a memorial was written and included in the packets that were distributed. M. Dougherty and M. Freeman thanked all for their support and attendance to her funeral.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2000 MINUTES**

Chair M. Freeman requested approval of the October 11, 2000 Minutes of the FIREScope Board of Directors Meeting. Moved by B. Roper, second by G. Newman. Minutes approved as submitted.

**OES Director's Report**

Mike Dougherty, Chief Fire & Rescue Branch OES represented Director Jones. The Governor has selected a new OES Deputy Director Mark Ghilarducci who previously worked with OES. Most recently, he was with FEMA where he served as the Coordinating Officer for Region Two and Region Nine.

M. Dougherty reminded that there is Terrorism Grant money from fiscal year 1999 and 2000 available for those regions that are eligible. Monies are being managed through OES.

**Energy Shortage ISO**

George Whitney, OES Operations provided the group with an overview on the energy shortage, including discussion on the Governor's initiatives mentioned in his State of the State Address.

In 1996 the Legislature with utility agency support passed a deregulation bill that provided support for a deregulated utility energy market. Some of the effects this created include a 30% increase in general consumption with only a 6% facility capability creating a supply and demand problem. Some of the energy production facilities/generators are out of state or are international companies causing an increase in prices for natural gas, and a "Path 15" problem. Path 15 is a

division between Northern and Southern California on how energy is brought in. That is why we are experiencing situations where there is state shortage of electricity however only part of the state is affected. These situations have created various stages of emergency.

The ISO determines if blackouts need to occur and where they will occur. ISO issues the order to the utility companies. Blackouts are typically described as one-hour intervals. ISO has identified five stages of emergency. When ISO declares a State of Emergency they are trying to generate understanding about the need to conserve and highlighting the potential to go to a Stage Three.

The Governor previously issued three Executive Orders, which created separate task forces to deal with different aspects of this situation. The Energy Reliability Task Force was established to look at the pace at which we consume or decrease the consumption of energy and streamlining procedures. Another Task Force was developed to look at conservation. The state and Consumer Services Agency has been developing a conservation campaign among state agencies. There are plans for an unveiling of an energy campaign to the public later this week.

Some initiatives were discussed by the Governor in the State of the State Address to try to deal with this situation. The Governor has made it clear that if necessary, the State will insist the generator generate electricity. He is also proposing some legislation for criminal penalties against the power generator that was down for unscheduled maintenance. The Governor is working through the Department of General Services and the Energy Reliability Task Force to streamline the approval process for facilities to eighteen months. Potential for Legislation to encourage long term energy contracts. Budget monies have been designated to pursue those who do not want to provide electricity.

OES role has been primarily in emergency response. When ISO declares a Proclamation of Emergency they notify the OES Warning Center. The Warning Center distributes that information to key state agencies. Statewide CLETS messages are sent to agencies notifying that ISO has declared a Stage Three. Additional CLETS messages are sent as situations are anticipated. Utilities are required to make notifications to critical facilities. Local governments all expressed satisfaction on utility communication.

Ray Quintanar questioned if warning to local communities, OES, etc., if done electronically is there sufficient time to get the notification out? G. Whitney stated the fastest method to provide information is electronically through CLETS and it is currently the most effective notification system to public safety agencies.

R. Purdie explained that San Diego had had several Stage Three alerts. The utility company is very involved in working with the local Office of Disaster Preparedness. They are sensitive to local government and have within their agency a Government Affairs Division who contacts local politicians advising of possible blackouts.

SCE has a pamphlet to assist the public in understanding the rolling blackouts.

C. Prather advised that they have had success working with SCE and have a written agreement with them that they will provide grids/plans for areas of potential outages.

Southern California is working successfully with the local energy agencies.

**State Fire Marshal Office Update:**

M. Dougherty congratulated and welcomed State Fire Marshal John Tennant to the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. Chief Tennant was appointed by the Governor this month.

J. Tennant advised the Board that the State Fire Marshal's Office is working on the issue of code development. The State Building Standards Commission decided they would use the Uniform Building Code (UBC) for another cycle. There have been thirty-one amendments including some seismic acknowledgements that will approximate to the International Building Code. The deficiencies found in the International Building Code come partially from a process that does not recognize some of the issues that are important in California. As a result, when that Code is presented in California it is not as objective as the Uniform Building Code. The State Fire Marshal's Office is willing to work through those deficiencies to enhance the Code. The Federal government has also not adopted the Code because of its deficiencies and NFPA has dropped out of the process and are developing their own Code. In the next cycle there will be the amended UBC, the International Building Code with amendments for statutes, and the NFPA codes. State Fire Marshal would like to hear from individuals on the effectiveness of codes and other views. To date no other state has adopted the International Codes. There are significant deficiencies to cause concern. The State Fire Marshal's Office is working on getting the UBC amendments ready and also working on modifying the International Code.

**California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS), Part B:**

P. Cooney provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefed the Board on the second phase of CICCS. He briefly summarized what transpired at the October meeting with the Board acknowledging the document in that meeting with recommended updates. P. Cooney informed that at the request of the BOD "Voluntary Participation" has now been removed from the text. This System has been adopted for use in the Five-Party Agreement, State Fire Service Training, Cal Fire Chiefs Association, and NIOSH.

He stated that the State Board of Fire Services approved the document for implementation at their November 2, 2000 meeting. P. Cooney requested that the BOD provide suggestions on how to implement this program through the OES Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System. He stated that he believed the CICCS documents could be distributed for use after this presentation. Also, he would make the presentation available on the OES website.

B. Martines asked what costs will be incurred at time of purchase as there is an assumption that the agencies are going to have to buy them. P. Cooney said the language on the document states it will be distributed at cost.

D. Driscoll questioned why the certificates issued are State Board of Fire Services certificates when in the past all certificates have been required to be State Fire Marshal certificates. M.

Esparza clarified that the State Board of Fire Services does not directly issue certificates but works with the State Fire Marshal's Office for certificate issuance.

J. Jones questioned if the historical review process resume also goes to the same Peer Review Group. P. Cooney said, yes and he also pointed out that the historical recognition two-year period has already begun. H. Weston expressed concerns over the clock already running on a two-year process that is difficult to implement when the program has not been disseminated. He asked whether there would be an extension on this time period.

M. Esparza suggested that it would be appropriate to apply for an extension. J. Tennant supported this suggestion.

M. Esparza clarified that the two-year historical recognition cycle is a recommendation and not established by policy. The CICC Task Force felt that people were already in the process or just starting the process and that two fire seasons would be sufficient time.

P. Cooney said historical recognition consists of an application packet compiled and submitted to the Peer Review Committee for approval and should not have a cost associated with it. M. Dougherty clarified that the Peer Review Period for the historical recognition ("grand parenting") process was to take all individuals that currently are working those positions and have them certified in the CICC system within the two-year period.

R. Purdie suggested that the implementation of the two-year period should begin when the program is actually handed out to the agencies. H. Weston said that when they have the product they could then go to their local agencies informing them they have two years for historical recognition of individuals. The implementation should start when the Operational Areas receive the program.

Other issues and concerns were discussed.

M. Dougherty made recommendation that the working group do some additional staff work in preparation for implementation. Additionally, the Board of Fire Services and State Fire Marshal need to provide clear direction and recommendations to accomplish implementation.

M. Dougherty is to meet with J. Tennant and finalize implementation aspects of the CICC including how they are going to announce it to the Fire Service. They are to report back to the BOD in April.

### **FIRESCOPE 30<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Update:**

B. Roper distributed a packet regarding FIRESCOPE's Future. He stated the Executive Summary of the document provides a synopsis. He highlighted the main points of the document.

A meeting is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> to work on editing of document and to develop a funding proposal to be prepared to go to the next step. He anticipates having the funding proposal to BOD by the April meeting.

B. Roper asked that any changes and/or additions be sent to him for final editing by January 22, 2001 so that a final copy and funding proposal can be submitted to IO group, and to the BOD at the April meeting.

N. Honeycutt advised a memorandum is also included in today's packet regarding the celebration and OES building dedication.

The Sheraton Hotel has a 150-room block for May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. The banquet room is reserved for the evening of May 8<sup>th</sup> for the FIRESCOPE event. The building dedication will be the morning of May 9<sup>th</sup>. The afternoon program will be a FIRESCOPE presentation on its past, present, and future. Final plans to be discussed at the April meeting.

The Celebration Committee will meet monthly. The next meeting is on February 15<sup>th</sup> at LAC Camp 2.

#### **NWCG Incident Command Team Project**

Dougherty mentioned that R. Alworth (CDF) came forth with a request from NWCG to have a FIRESCOPE representative at a meeting to discuss Federal Incident Management Teams. The meeting was held and time was spent coming up with different ideas on how the Federal agencies may look at the future of Incident Management Teams.

#### **Safety Section Proposal**

M. Dougherty brought up concerns about the Safety Section Proposal from the Fire Department Safety Officers Association. There is a need to help better define and recommend how to run the safety operation without moving it from the Command Staff. M. Freeman stated that multiple safety officers are sent to many incidents. He questioned if there may be an actual deficiency in ICS that needs to be looked at. He asked the BOD if there is a need for some further clarification of how ICS can and does address Safety.

W. Bamattre stated that his first reaction is that Safety is better suited to be at the Command level as opposed to General Staff. He would like to see if the OPS Team has the same conclusion.

This is similar to an earlier proposal regarding the Information Officer position. It was suggested that BOD could direct the OPS Team to look at that also.

R. Purdie inquired if this would be referred back to IMS. M. Freeman stated that what is

currently being contemplated is work to be done by the OPS Team to evaluate where it is now and based on current set-up, should changes and/or enhancements be made in regards to the Safety Officers.

M. Freeman asked for a motion to clarify if the Safety Officer is better served as part of the General Staff, or as part of the Command Staff? Recommend the Joint Ops Team evaluate the recommendation in light of current setup and make changes or not, on enhancement regarding Safety Officers.

Motion made (D. Clark). All in favor. Approved.

#### **New Forest Service Hose Proposal**

R. Quintanar commented regarding the NWCG proposal to add quarter-turn quick coupling hose to the USFS inventory. R. Quintanar stated that a USFS employee and a Canadian Company formed an agreement. R. Quintanar stated he had attempted to obtain information from Washington, D.C., but had not received it in time for this meeting.

G. Newman said it came to his attention through a letter addressed to NWCG that he received from the Chairman of National Association of State Foresters Fire Committee stating the National Association of State Foresters agreed with the Forest Service to go to a quarter-turn hose. Further research revealed a study had been conducted in San Dimas with the U.S. Forest Service. There are concerns that going to a unisex connector would have an affect to Fire Services. G. Newman contacted M. Dougherty and stated that before a final decision is made CDF would like to have the opportunity to be involved in the process. A joint letter from CDF and OES was written to USFS Chief Joe Cruz asking that California fire agencies be allowed the opportunity to have input prior to a decision being made.

R. Quintanar said he would try to have more information by the next BOD meeting.

#### **North/South Operations Team Update**

C. Echard, (Joint Ops Team, Chair) reported on behalf of the North and South OPS Teams. He stated a Joint North and South Meeting would be held at the end of the month at Pismo Beach.

- The Task Force has distributed the Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue OSD to the OPS team members for review.
- MACS - This year they will not hold an exercise but will conduct an MACS Orientation

in both northern and southern California.

- The NFPA 1500 Committee has reviewed the Standard, and has distributed it to all of its members. The Joint Ops Team will review the document to see if there is an impact on ICS.

### **Task Force Report**

G. Glotfelty briefed they activated the Weather Specialist Group, and tasked them to rewrite the Red Flag Alert, MACS 410-3. It will become a statewide document and hope to have it by fire season. The Task Force is currently reviewing the ICS 209 and discussing it with a state and a federal group. The proposal is to expand the 209 to include better intelligence information.

The new 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Field Operations Guide (FOG) will go to print in February. The Task Force will also discuss the recent proposals on Crew Typing. These issues will be discussed at our next meeting prior to the Joint Ops Team meeting in Pismo Beach.

### **OES Fire and Rescue Branch**

M. Dougherty thanked everybody for their support at the Viejas Fire in San Diego County. The OES Fire Mutual Aid System worked well. 43 Strike Teams responded to the incident.

OES Fire currently has four vacancies - Two Deputy Chiefs (FIRESCOPE and Special Operations) that will be advertised soon. The FIRESCOPE support position at the OCC has also been advertised. (This is the position that was held by Rachel Parks). Our reimbursement clerical position in Sacramento is vacant. Rick Helton promoted to DHHS.

Five of our new Engines should be arriving soon. The first group of Engines will be assigned to the greater Sacramento area. This will allow our fleet manager to monitor the new prototype Type I Engines.

OES received first step approval from the Department of Finance on a Budget Change Proposal regarding Helicopters.

### **Regional Coordinators Report**

Region I – M. Freeman: The fire on December 26<sup>th</sup> was supported by Ventura County. The Erickson Type I Helitanker was utilized. The contract will be terminated if the predicted winter weather occurs.

Region II – D. Driscoll: Largest fire was a four thousand acre fire and also had numerous fires in the Bay Area and Contra Costa. Twelve fires occurred in Humboldt County during January. CDF has reduced their Incident Management Teams from twelve to ten teams. Region completed the evaluation on the thermal imaging device, a report will be completed. Once written, it will be routed through CDF channels.

Region III – J. Jones: Two meetings are scheduled, one for January 29<sup>th</sup> and the other in May. Upcoming interagency training: National Helicopter Short Haul, February 27 & 28 in



Sacramento, Interagency Dispatcher Workshop in Riverside, Interagency Aircraft Workshop in Sacramento. Joint Interagency California IMT Workshop March 19-22 at the Sacramento Doubletree. CDF Incident Command Teams continue to include local government cooperators and currently have five trainees per team.

Region IV – Hank Weston: The California Sheriffs Association is proposing legislation to place the Sheriff in charge of all Search and Rescue Operations. If adopted by the Legislature this will place, once again, a barrier between fire agencies and the local Sheriff. Region IV is planning two pre-season meetings with the Operational Areas.

Region V – T. Turner: Activated Strike Teams for Viejas and De Luz fires. Wind and rain currently in Fresno. They held their Semi-Annual Area Coordinators meeting November 1st. Region V fire agencies remain interested in AB 11, regarding Cal-OSHA's impact on them.

Region VI – B. Martines: A Region VI Area Coordinators meeting was held on January 9, 2001. B. Martines was elected Region VI Coordinator. The Region supported the Viejas and De Luz fires. G. Glotfelty added the Viejas Incident only had two injuries out of two thousand individuals. Humidity was recorded at 2% during the fire. The CWCG sponsored Riverside Weather Unit forecast the Santa Ana Wind event within one hour of its occurrence. CDF had pre-positioned staff in preparation for the winds. Region VI will receive a new OES engine.

#### New Business

John Scherrei, SBC, said the court granted a motion to dismiss the case where in August 1999 a Santa Barbara City firefighter was killed. The case was dismissed against the United States also. The opinion of the court is that firefighters serve the public and the firefighter is well paid and accepts the risk no matter where you are in the Incident Command System. Santa Barbara County Council stated there is a potential for an appeal to be filed, but J. Scherrei doubted it, as the motion was so strong. Cal-OSHA had named the SB County, the SB City and CDF in this case.

R. Purdie announced he would be retiring in July 2001; however, he plans to attend the July meeting.

J. Scherrei suggested moving the April meeting to May in conjunction with the FIRESCOPE celebration. M. Dougherty supported this suggestion. M. Freeman suggested that a teleconference may be scheduled in March if there are any significant changes regarding the FIRESCOPE celebration.

Consensus to change FIRESCOPE Board of Directors meeting from April 11 <sup>th</sup> to May 8 <sup>th</sup> in Sacramento.
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M. Freeman asked for a motion to adjourn. Moved (by All). Second (by All). Meeting adjourned.  
1340 hours.

**NEXT MEETING:**

May 8, 2001 in Sacramento (FIREScope Celebration)

July 11, 2001

October 10, 2001