

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

Meeting Minutes
San Marcos Fire Department
January 11, 2006

Members Present:

P. Michael Freeman, Chair – Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Kim Zagaris - Chief, Fire and Rescue Branch, Office of Emergency Services
Bob Roper, Vice Chair – Chief, Ventura County Fire Department
William Bamattre – Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department
Dave Lord – Asst. Chief, Alameda County Fire Department
Les Matarazzi – Bureau of Land Management, for Ed Wehking
Julius Cherry – Chief, Sacramento Fire Department
Dennis Thompson – Chief, Kern County Fire Department
Sue Hasari – Fire Management Officer, National Park Service
Del Walters – CDF, Northern Operations Region III
Candace Gregory – CDF, Region V
Ruben Grijalva – State of Fire Marshal
Bill Dean – Orange County Fire Authority
John Scherrei – Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Ralph Domanski – United States Forest Service, for Ray Quintanar
Tom Tisdale – CDF, South Ops
Chuck Knapp – CSFA
Larry Webb – Chief, San Marcos Fire Department
Hal Rooney, Asst. Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department

Members Absent:

Chip Prather – Chief, Orange County Fire Authority
Jim Wright – Deputy Director, CDF
Ray Quintanar – Director, Fire & Aviation Management, USDA Forest Service
Ed Wehking – Fire Management Officer, BLM
Ben Lopes – Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department
William McCammon – Chief, Alameda County Fire Department

Others Present:

Rich Green – CDF
Pat O'Bannon – Assistant Chief, Office of Emergency Services
Bob Praytor – Deputy Chief, Office of Emergency Services
Vince Cohee – OES, Riverside
Darrell Ralston – Ventura County Fire Department
Mike LaPlant – Ventura County Fire Department

Dave Stone Battalion Chief – Los Angeles County Fire Department
Nick Pavone Chief – Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department
Mario Rueda, Deputy Chief – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Dan Drake, Division Chief, Orange County Fire Authority
Kate Dargan – CDF, State Fire Marshal
Todd Newman, Deputy Chief– San Marcos Fire Department

Introductions and Logistics

Chief Freeman opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Chief Webb thanked everyone for traveling to San Marcos. Self-introductions were made.

Approval of October 12, 2005 Minutes

Motion

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

1st - Roper

2nd – Cherry

Motion Passed

OES Director's Update

Kim Zagaris (OES)

- 2005/06 winter storms affecting 23 counties. Disaster proclamation done by Governor. Preliminary damage assessment being done. Trying to qualify for federal declaration. About \$200 million in damage both public and private.
- EMAC reimbursements for individuals working in damaged areas.
- SIMS maintenance system. SIMS advisory board continues to meet and work through several items. Copy of letter in packet from the director regarding status on SIMS. E-mail sent out September 29, 2005, signed by both director Rintera and OHS Director Bentonhouse, to FEMA identifying California self-certification of NIMS compliance for fiscal year 2005
- Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Commitee. The 2006 State-Wide Integrated Public Safety Communication Strategy Plan approved, and OES has requested authorization to submit it to the legislature.
- In response to gulf coast hurricanes, OES currently working on developing a local government guide to mass evacuations. OES also working with Department of Social Services to address evacuation care and sheltering issues.

NIMS Update

Kim Zagaris - OES

- Letter asking for FIRESCOPE representation discussed at last meeting – still no response.

Operations Team Report

Darrell Ralston – Ventura County Fire Department

- Discussed main topic from previous meeting: structure protection position paper.
- Toured the Aviation Safety Management School at the Forest Service's McClellan Base.

- Next meeting in Pismo Beach. Main topic will include the structure protection position paper and the Blue Ribbon Commission summary report.
- Looking for representation from the Forest Service in the north to replace Tom Hatcher who retired, and Steve Sunderland for CDF who retired.

Task Force Report

Mike LaPlant – Ventura County Fire Department

- Brief summary in packets of the last meeting. Items reviewed briefly.
- Membership: looking to fill position from the Forest Service.
- Ambulance Strike Teams: monitoring activity.
- ICS Forms Review: determining what forms are really FireScope forms. Most have migrated over to NWCG. Will link FireScope web site to the NWCG web site.
- MACS 410-1: being finalized.
- NWCG Activities: are a lot longer.
- Training: monitoring NFA and NWCG Training development.
- FIRESCOPE Logo: recommendation will be made in January meeting.
- Field Ops Guide for 2007 Rewrite: give ourselves about a year for that process.
- MACS Exercises: North will be May 17, South in June.
- Guidelines for the Application of ICS on WMD Incidents: will discuss in January.
- SEMS/NIMS Development and Coordination: O'Bannon working on SEMS information and update.
- Specialist/Working Groups:
 - Safety Specialist: very active in making sure that safety is addressed and all documents are updated.
 - High Rise Specialist: will be meeting February 7-8. May be delayed about a month.
 - Communications Specialist: looking at interoperability issues.
 - Haz Mat Specialists: OSD done. Waiting to be complete in 2007.
 - Training Specialist: re-establish and re-energize the training specialist group due to ICS forms.
 - Air Ops Specialist: next meeting scheduled for February 22, Camp 2, L.A. County Fire.
- Discussion regarding position qualification: rapid response element for interoperability to major fires, concept of deployment, small core of people.
- Discussion regarding Safety Specialist: Departments have up-to-date PPE's for wildland before the start of fire season.
- Discussion regarding Communications Specialist: possible synopsis of best practices state-wide on interoperability for Board.
- Discussion regarding FOGS: amount ordered and distributed. Logo still not confirmed. Ask for representative to become part of FireScope.
- Discussion regarding Communication Unit Leaders: verify the qualifications of individuals that are classified/qualified as a CUL, possibly 150 individuals. Recommend a letter be sent out to evaluate position with other agencies. Inform Board of results at next meeting regarding the 150 individuals.

Update on Ambulance Strike Teams

Kim Zagaris – OES

- After meeting with EMSA, fire-based ambulances and personnel would stay in the fire and rescue mutual aid system. Ambulance Strike Team Program is for private, non-profit fire and ambulance groups. Radio frequency issue also discussed. OES authorization was not given to program their radios using ICS-420-1, Appendix A. CDF also not going to authorize pre-programming to their frequencies—except for ambulances that work through local agreements at the local level. Also working towards EMS mutual aid system.
- Suggest having an additional Board member involved to keep things moving along.
- Chief Freeman discussed the importance of trying to get this accomplished and bring it to closure.
- Chief Bamattre discussed lawsuit regarding dual function of firefighter/paramedics.

OES Engine Procurement Plan Update

Kim Zagaris – OES

- Type 3, model 34s are through the process and at State procurement. All paperwork signed off. Placed order for four Type 1 engines from same budget money. Contact Chief Praytor if interested in purchasing SAFEACT engines.

Blue Ribbon Commission Update/After Action

Kim Zagaris – OES

- Last update done by Cal Chiefs – information sent out to everybody
- Joint Emergency Service Homeland Security Committee met in San Diego. Update done from several agencies on status with Blue Ribbon Report.
- Several long issues that impact OES, mutual aid system. FIRESCOPE Board well entrenched with several items. CDF and Fire Marshal's office is working through their side of it. Cal Chiefs has issues too.
- Governor's new budget report did not provide for any additional engines. Conversations with Les Wiseman, Governor's public liaison, try to get more money to buy some additional engines like before. Wiseman very supportive.

Topanga & Harvard Incidents

Bob Roper – Ventura County Fire Department

- Thanked those who sent resources.
- Discussed facility in burn area that may possibly be a health issue due to radioactive waste. Couldn't gather air samples due to power outages. Federal government did not release any information. No cases of firefighters or public being symptomatic. Malibu Times article states there's a government hide up of information, but as far as fire goes, the fire went well. Any employees with health issues, forward concerns to us and we'll help out.

William Bamattre – Los Angeles City Fire Department

- Shared appreciation for responding resources. 3,000 firefighters at fire within 24 hours—amazing accomplishment.

CFAA/Local Agreements Update

Kim Zagaris – Office of Emergency Services

Bob Roper – Ventura County Fire Department

- People that comprise the CFAA negotiation team are excellent people to work with. Division paper, as far as the changes we want them to do, it's been well received. One goal-to have this done for next fire season, but absolutely no way to do it. After few meetings, talks of where does cfaa need to be—who needs to be in it. Hsn't been in it and agreed to be in it is the BIA—no way they could do it before start of fire season. Some of the contents introducing are so new, it's going to take time. Hard to get players to agree. Will return to this Board for approval, then sent to state and federal for legislative review. Hopefully ratified later this year, will give us time for training program to be created and be disiminated for the '07 fire season.
- OES and CDF been instrumental in getting some of the Nevada, around the Tahoe area included in round about agreement as part of this, during the Biscuit Fires, what were the issues with Oregon, look at Nevada, look at Arizona at same time. Not quite sure if we're going to have enough time to bring in other people that should be apart of this agreement. Talked about extending our goal of making this an inclusive document-once created, be used for the federal and the state agencies and local agencies.
- Give and take regarding local agreement into the CFAA. Local rates and CFAA rate. If you go with one rate, then some agencies may lose money, some make money. Once in concrete, put it out as a draft. Letter from San Barnardino Fire Chief Peter Hill in packets.

California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Update

Rich Grijalva – State Fire Marshal

- Grandfather provision ended December 31, 2005. Received applications for level 5, level 6 certifications that have been reviewed by case committee. Asked Ron Coleman to chair the State Training Education Advisory Committee: works together with Cal Chiefs to put together a training master plan for State Fire Training to incorporate CICCS certification system in the state-wide master plan. Big issue will be funding mechanism.
- Annual report of things accomplished for the last fiscal year. Also putting together a 2-year work plan that shows what the State Fire Marshal's office will be working on.
- Recently elected as Acting Director of CDF. Kate Dargon as the Assistant State Fire Marshal. She is running the day-to-day office of the SFM, as well as being a key advisor for Grijalva on other CDF issues.
- Coded option process: Board Advisory Committee met, looked at work of the working groups-there's over 250 state-wide working on coded options. Stakeholders, public stakeholders, will incorporate all the various industry affected by the code changes, and they'll have an opportunity to add room to the new changes before it goes to the SFM for finalization.
- Survey out soon. Preparing fireworks season. Last year-aggressive enforcement plan to put together a task force involving local, state, and federal agencies. Need for a long term solution in dealing with fireworks disposal problem. Currently working with DTSE on detaining 4 mobile units that will allow us to go to local jurisdiction and process and treat fireworks locally.

- Need to update the regulations relating to pyrotechnics and fireworks. Looking for injuries, deaths, property damage resulting from the use of various kinds of fireworks. Get a handle on where we need to focus in on the changes in the regulations in California relating to fireworks.
- Revamping of the fire hazard severity zone in California-LRA and SRA areas will all be rezoned in the next 2 years. Impact you at building department levels. Building/planning officials will be required to use through the wildland urban regulations. Massive training to building officials/inspectors
- Continue to work to develop a SFM certification program for people conducting inspections in the areas of defensible space. Opposition from CDF firefighters and from CPS. There's not enough firefighters to do these inspections. We need to do certification training of non-firefighters, not enforcement aspect of it, but actual inspection and certification. Building officials, under law, required to make sure there's certification of defensible space. Weren't able to reach an agreement with CDF and CPS firefighters, legislation was pulled. Continue to work with CPF and CDF to reach a compromise. Training packet ready to go.

OES Fire & Rescue Branch Report

Kim Zagaris – OES

- Sent e-mail regarding assignments and promotions within Fire & Rescue. Chief Praytor taking on Operations. Tom Drayer in FIREScope. Charley Hurley is Deputy Chief for Special Operations.
- Testing - 17th and 18th of this month for positions. Four chief officer vacancies, an Admin Chief, and Asst Chief vacancies in the field. Paul Becktram working with next batch of replacement engines.
- State assistance fire equipment-15 engines need homes at local agencies. If not, look at legal ability to sell them out of state, or state auction
- In packet, document on USAR typing. USAR and Haz Mat arena- new equipment and brought in new teams on the USAR side. Have not brought any new Haz Mat teams in the state since 9/11.
- Still receiving calls from hurricane folks that went out as a 1,000 2 person teams. Funding not quite what they were expecting.
- Gulf Coast response—is California prepared. Initially told media 72 hours to be prepared, ready to go. Now may be 96 hours or 5 days before government can step in and help on a real major disaster.
- First Lady program—launch April 15-be smart, be responsible, be prepared, get ready. Up to us that we need to remind our citizens to be prepared.
- Questions of interoperability, not just in radio communications. Also issue of standardization. FireScope has done a good job with ICS and typing – other disciplines need to move along.
- California fire resource inventory system. 200 agencies that are updating inventories. Push to have inventory updated since it's internet accessible.
- Federal OHS, State OHS talking about 2006 and how we're going to be impacted. Sent out e-mail-Sacramento and San Diego may not continue to see terrorism dollars they do have. Those that get money, at least 50 % of that money will now be competitive with everybody else in system.

Regional Coordinators Reports

Region 1 – P. Michael Freeman

- Nothing to report.

Regions 2 and 3 – Del Walters

- Storms brought a lot of assistance, mostly from Bay area. Everything went well. Region 3 has two engine engine swaps going on in Susanville and Mt. Shasta, Shasta County.

Region 4 – Del Walters

- Nothing to report.

Region 5 – Candace Gregory

- Very little to report. Have had several operational elections making for changes. Change done in Tulare County, it'll be coming up next year. From CDF, respective, Tulare County cancelled their contract with CDF. Have some different responses on our mutual aid time. Working for some agreements between county, state, and city throughout Tulare County.

Region 6 – Tom Tisdale

- Elections: Peter Hill from San Bernardino elected as alternate. Chief Anthony from Riverside was elected as local coordinator. Mike Warren selected as Chief Anthony's alternate. New fire chief in Mammoth Lakes, Rick Harper. One fire engine in La Mesa that's definitely out of service.

Forest Agencies Update

Ruben Grijalva – CDF

- Jim Wright in Florida attending the National Association of State Foresters.
- Has been a change in leadership in CDF. Asked for 2-year work plan from each major area identifying the top 5 priorities in those areas. Initial view of CDF-big deficit. Spending a lot of times with control agency and finance.
- Transition into Tulare–Region 5 lead in making sure to provide high quality customer satisfaction to Tulare.
- Amador policy–critical that we identify what administrative fees are charged and resources shared, who have contracts.
- Salaries negotiation-competition with salaries and benefits.
- Meeting with organizations-Sierra Club, California Forester Association to deal with management.

Rich Green – CDF

- Starting winter preparation in region. Establish mini staffing levels. San Diego minimum staffing, 10 in San Bernardino, and Riverside at 5.
- Still awaiting airtanker in Southern California at Hemet, Ryan and at Ramona. Keep down here on standby pilot availability. Things start hopping, get back on staffing pattern.
- Operationally, active in Northern California area with a lot of rain.

Ralph Domanski - USFS

- Al Hollands selected, National Safety, Boise, Idaho.
- Assistant Director, North Operations, Tom Hather. Susan Costello acting until position is filled. Centralize a lot of support services. Human Resource centralized-moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas-coming into their fire season. Currently have 2 airtankers through holidays, going to be contract-per diem for pilots in San Bernardino at Fox Field, took airtanks down at Texas and Oklahoma.
- Because of gulf storms, part of county will have high fire activity in spring and summer.
- Upcoming fire season, budgets look bleak.
- This fire season, able to staff all engines. No loss of firefighters or helicopter. 16 airtankers passed inspection.

Sue Husari – National Park Service

- Flood damage in California-Point Reyes, Golden Gate, and Redwood. A lot of down trees, employee housing, infrastructure, roads, trails.
- Reviewing the documentation package for Mohave and the costs. Doing national funding for rehabilitation in Mohave Desert. Santa Monica Mountains due to Topanga Fire-working with Ventura County and Los Angeles City.
- Completing a new analysis system-FPA, Fire Program Analysis. Going to involve state and local government. It doesn't recognize agreements with California Fire Protection Agreement and DPA. It produces high levels of funding.

Les Matarazzi – Bureau of Land Management

- Budget not looking good. National Director has retired. Have 2 state fire management officer positions open in Nevada and Colorado. Fire equipment and fire facilities individual in Sacramento retired. State Aviation Officer on short term, about a year to go. Currently aviation responsibilities are in BLM and South Ops. Gary designed new fire engines. Current contract set for few years. Concern with staffing-normally staff 2 medium, 1 light helicopter. Two in So. California, 1 in No. California. Once Type 2 is on cutting block. Not sure of funding. Extending contract on Type 2-Apple Valley about 2 months, totaling about 8 or 9 months.

IAFC

William Bamattre – Los Angeles City Fire Department

- IAFC put together a national task force-try to develop a national mutual aid system. Organized back in November with representatives from each division. Concept - look at best practices across the country and take back to divisions, put a proposal together for a national mutual aid system. Two-day meeting: some states have no system, no chief organization, no operational organization; presentations covering EMAC, national credentialing; national system and components to fill in; name change from mutual aid, possibly to emergency resource management system; resource data base-goal to have nation-wide.
- maintain resource status and deployment, tracking and deployment
- Reimbursement has to be absolute. Big problem nation wide. Right to work laws discussed.

- National typing of resources
- Credtionaling. Needs to be a common credential system, but some states are adamant. Put on typing rather than credentialing
- Typing of resources – problem in gulf states. Look at a system that would accomodate across multi-disciplines.
- Incident Management Teams-discussions and way incident support sent to gult states – have to break out of IMTS.
- Survey – putting together best practices – all the 10 states and ad hoc people on committee.
- Bamattre tasked to do survey of best practices and build upon by the January 20. Possibly have draft, share with Ops Team, draw on expertise. Present draft for national response

Old Business

No old business to report.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Next meeting, 0930 April, 12, 2006 OES Headquarters, Mather, CA