



FIRESCOPE



FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Burbank Fire Department Training Center
1845 N. Ontario Street
Burbank, CA 91505

January 12, 2011

Members Present

Chief Bob Roper, Ventura County Fire Department – Chair, FIRESCOPE BOD
Chief Mike Dyer, Santa Barbara County Fire Department – Vice-Chair, FIRESCOPE BOD
Chief Kim Zagaris, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue – Executive Coordinator, FIRESCOPE BOD
(Acting) Secretary Mike Dayton, Cal EMA
(Acting) Director Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE
Chief Nick Dunn, Kern County Fire Department – County Fire Departments South
Chief P. Michael Freeman, Los Angeles County Fire Department – Metro Fire Departments, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue Region I
Chief Millage Peaks, Los Angeles Fire Department – Represented by Chief Mario Rueda, Chair, FIRESCOPE Operations Team
Director Joseph C. Millar, USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management
Chief Richard Webb, Linda Fire Protection District – Fire Districts North
State FMO Paul Bannister, U.S Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
SFM Tonya Hoover, Cal Fire – State Fire Marshal Office
Chuck Knapp, California State Firefighters Association
Chief Bill Metcalf, North County Fire Protection District – Fire Districts South
Director Sue Hasari, National Park Service
Keith Richter, Orange County Fire Authority
Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters Association
Chief Jim Wilson, Mariposa County Fire Department – Volunteer Fire Departments
Chief Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda County Fire Department – County Fire Departments North, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue Region II (PHONE)

Guests Present

Chief Tom Drayer, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue – FIRESCOPE Program
Chief Dale Hutchinson, Cal Fire – Cal EMA Fire & Rescue, Region VI
Chief Pat Dennen, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue
Chief John Tripp, Los Angeles County Fire Department – FIRESCOPE Operations Team
Chief Keith Larkin, Cal Fire – Cal EMA Fire & Rescue Region V
Chief Mark D' Ambrogi, Auburn Fire Department – Cal EMA Fire & Rescue, Region IV
Chief Dave Stone, Los Angeles County Fire Department – FIRESCOPE Task Force
Chief Michael Richwine, Cal Fire – State Fire Marshal's Office
Jon Kolman, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue – HazMat
Lou Stone, California Professional Firefighters Association

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & LOGISTICS

Approval of October 13, 2010 minutes

ACTION ITEM – Mr. Lou Paulson motioned, Director Millar seconded approval of minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

CAL EMA SECRETARY’S REPORT / GOVERNORS BUDGET UPDATE

- (Acting) Secretary Mike Dayton gave a brief run down on his past experiences working with Gary Condit, Gray Davis, and Matthew Bettenhausen.
- (Acting) Secretary Dayton states that in terms of his “management style”, some of the “key” areas he will be reviewing are the programs Cal EMA are supporting at present; how federal resources are given to entities at the local level, and how to enhance operational readiness to those entities; cutting back on the number of executives and moving other staff to “key” outer regions.
- (Acting) Secretary Dayton gave an example of how smaller communities that were hit particularly hard with the SoCal flooding, will not be able to meet the thresholds that FEMA has implemented in regards to receiving individual assistance. He states that through creativity, Cal EMA may be able to leverage housing community funds or community development block grants to help those counties affected who ordinarily wouldn’t be eligible for FEMA assistance.
- (Acting) Secretary Dayton stated that in terms of the budget, Cal EMA has taken a lot of cuts over the years, and mentions that more cuts will likely be forthcoming. An example given was the “Burn JAG” funding that is received out of the DOJ, and how the DOJ will be reviewing processes on how to lower administrative costs when transferring funding from the state level to the local levels.

CAL FIRE UPDATE

- (Acting) Director Pimlott states that CAL FIRE was informed by the Administration that on top of the \$29,000,000 in budgetary savings, there would also be a \$2,400,000 reduction in Information Technology programs. This equates to 20% of the departmental Information Technology program.
- (Acting) Director Pimlott spoke on the reduction in the current year’s budget from last years. This amounted to a \$29,000,000 workforce cap reduction that was originally going to be derived from a 5% reduction in salaries. Instead, a different proposal was submitted that would give the same costs savings but not involve such a “big hit” on salaries. This included:
 - Costs saved with closing fire stations sooner than usual, mostly due to the rather mild fire season that was experienced this year.
 - Cost savings due to the delay of bringing the DC-10 Air Tanker on. This was due to the contract itself being challenged and this ended up delaying the contract from being enacted.
 - The vehicle replacement funding has been reduced in particular; the engine replacement funds that came from the Blue Ribbon Task Force of 2003.
 - Previous years funding had been lost, but was restored with a 2 to 3 million dollar reduction in funding in order to meet the savings needed.
 - A “across the board” 1% salary savings from all departments that will be brought along to the contract counties for a corresponding reduction.

- (Acting) Director Pimlott states that there are two important aspects to the budget year, which starts July 1st. The first being the Emergency Fund to Base shift. This has had an impact on the following:

- Four-Person Staffing.
- ECC staffing that was supported through Executive Order.
- The Wide Area Network (WAN).
- Automatic Vehicle Locating.
- Mobile Data Computing (MDC) technologies.

AVL and MDC were integrated into the ERI, which gives the ability to be “base budgeted”, but this was denied by the Administration. He goes on to say that the greatest loss concerning the above is the “Four Person Staffing”.

The second aspect is “where are the directions to realignment” piece? This is probably the most difficult piece and is causing the most issues. He goes on to state that land use planning at the local level has driven costs to the State where urbanization is overlapping on top of State responsibility area, and that the CAL FIRE’s “mission creed” has moved into more “emergency medical responses” and is doing more of what is considered the local government mission and in doing so, has driven costs up for the State. As the density increases in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), discussion has been brought up concerning what responsibility the local government has in assuming some of the costs with providing fire and emergency services.

- (Acting) Director Pimlott mentioned that the proposal is asking the Board of Forestry to look at its SRA designation criteria. The “budget language” talks of up to \$250,000,000 in costs shifted, but because of the “ambiguity” used in the proposal, guidance will be needed for the Board of Forestry to look at SRA, and to target these areas in the SRA that have a population density in whatever criteria that is exceeding where the State should be, and redefining / re-classing to LRA.

- (Acting) Director Pimlott mentioned that CAL FIRE is working with the Department of Finance to provide direction to the Board. The intent being that the Administration is committed to taking the proposal to local government prior to March, when legislation will need to determine whether they move some, or all of these tax initiatives forward to the June ballot. (Acting) Director Pimlott states that the Governor has been real clear on the timelines regarding this process and if these taxes are approved and levied, then the process will begin for building a new budget. If the tax initiatives fail, the Governor has made it clear that we are “back to the drawing board”. (Acting) Director Pimlott will keep the Board updated as information becomes available.

- Chief Zagaris and Chief Roper spoke at length concerning the issues in regards to how these budgetary problems are going to impact “Blue Ribbon” and ERI issues, and how this is just a “small piece” of a much larger fiscal policy issue.

- (Acting) Director Pimlott states that along with the retirement of Director Del Walters in November, five other “key” Executive positions were also vacated due to individuals retiring. During the last two months, the following Executive positions have had individuals appointed to them:

- Dale Hutchinson – Region Chief, Southern Region
- Bill Holmes – Region Chief, Northern Region
- Stan Craig – Assistant Region Chief, Southern Region
- Doug Wenham – Assistant Region Chief, Northern Region
- Claire Frank - Assistant Deputy Director, Cooperative Fire

STATE FIRE MARSHAL UDATE

- SFM Tanya Hoover relayed her concern regarding fireworks, and that federal and local governments continue to be challenged in regard to the safe disposal of fireworks. She goes on to mention that as of present, the only location that DTSC recognizes as a disposal site for fireworks is in Louisiana, and with that, comes a major cost concern.
- SFM Hoover brought up that there is still quite a bit of focus regarding pipeline safety due to the San Bruno incident. She goes on to reiterate that gas lines are NOT regulated by the SFM Office, and that her office doesn't plan on ever regulating it, but at the Federal level, pipeline safety ties into the federal definition for a hazardous liquid, which IS regulated by the SFM Office and because of this, the SFM Office continues to track multiple federal proposals regarding pipeline safety.

Because of this increased interest in pipeline safety, the SFM Pipeline Group is available for local government to collect information or to find out information regarding pipelines that run through jurisdictions. She continues by saying that Operators do have an obligation to provide training and information to "local fire" for free.

- SFM Hoover states that in regards to the Risk Assessment Group, a SRA review was completed and submitted to the Board of Forestry, who has signed off on it.
- SFM Hoover states that the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan has been completed and presented to the Board of Forestry, who was very complimentary of the work. SFM Hoover goes on to thank CAL FIRE, local agencies and all stakeholders who provided input to the plan. She also mentions that this plan is very different from previous plans in that it incorporates a new framework, uses new databases, and has a new local template that complies with Fire Protection Plans.

Questions were asked on who signs off on these plans. SFM Hoover goes on to say that she is under the impression that the CAL FIRE Unit Chief still needs to sign off on the plan, but that she is in the process of making absolute sure that this is the case. The Fire Plan is on the SFM website, and she recommends that everyone review it as it is a "remarkable piece of work", and will be very helpful for communities.

- SFM Hoover states that in regard to the Fire Zone Safety Recommendations, they are very near completion and that there are a few Counties remaining that they are finishing up working with. This is due to the specialized work that is being done with some of the developers located in these Counties.
- SFM Hoover states that the Forest and Range Assessment Strategy document for California, that is required for all States by 2008 under the Federal Farm Bill, needs to be completed in order to continue receiving Cooperative Forestry Assistance Grants. She further mentions that there is a lot of useful information in this document that would help greatly with Fire planning, Grant preparation and how to articulate needs and risk balance for all involved.
- SFM Hoover states that the Westwood Fire Risk Assessment is still ongoing, and that it is taking place throughout the seventeen Western States, including California. This document is being sponsored by the Council of Western State Foresters and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition.
- SFM Hoover states that within the CARES program, the Fire Statistics and California All-Incident Reporting System is still being worked on by the State Fire Marshal's Office. She also mentions that technical support, content and ease of use are of top priority.
- SFM Hoover states that in regard to the WI Grants, that \$1,150,000 has been received from the Western States Competitive WI Grants, and that this will cover six projects for a total of \$12,500,000 available.

- SFM Hoover commented that the State Responsibility Area Boundaries review was provided to the Board of Forestry, and that this review is considered the “five year revision”. She also states that her office will be in the process of doing another review shortly. Director Millar asked a question on whether the review from the Board of Forestry has been uploaded to the web. SFM Hoover states that it has, along with the changes that have been received from local government and partners.
- Chief Richwine mentioned that the State Training and Education Advisory Committee will be meeting on January 21, 2011. One of the agenda items will be the five year review of Blueprint 20-20. Goal revision and recommendations will be submitted to the State Board of Fire Services at this meeting.
- Chief Richwine states that progress continues to be made on Standards & Curriculum Command 1A & 1B, and it should be rolled out later this spring. He also states that the rewrite of Command 1C and its curriculum is scheduled for a March timeframe.
- Chief Richwine also states that his office has been working with Federal partners in developing a Fire Safety Awareness course for hired vendors, and that it has been completed and is currently being rolled out. Hired vendors will need to have a card from the State Fire Marshal’s office showing proof that this course has been completed. He goes on to mention that this course meets all requirements of the Injury / Illness Prevention Plan, as required by OSHA.
- Chief Richwine mentioned that AB82 is out for comment. This is the cleanup Bill to the Jeffery’s DMV Licensing. He states that his office is currently reviewing this.
- Chief Richwine added that Ms. Alisha Hamilton has retired, and is now working as a retired annuitant for Sacramento State University. He states that a three year contract is in place with SAC State to have them assist in developing Fire Training curriculum.

CFAA AND LOCAL AGREEMENTS UPDATES

- Chief Roper stated that the new rate structure has been approved, and there is a training document that has been dispersed throughout the California Fire Service documenting the changes that have taken place and how it will affect all involved.
- Chief Zagaris spoke of the CWCG meeting that had taken place on January 11, 2010. Corresponding documents concerning this meeting are in the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors packet. Reiterated that at the October meeting, an agreement was reached that the Administrative Rate would have a base of 10%, anyone wishing to have get above 10%, would have to follow the formula. In beta tests with five agencies, using the OMB Circular A-87, the 16.8% Administrative Rate that had been used was very close to actual rates derived.
- Chief Zagaris confirmed that there will be California Cooperative Fire Agreement Rates and Reimbursement Workshops at the following sites:
 - January 20, 2011 (Location: Cal EMA HQ)
 - January 31, 2011 (Location: Burbank FD Training Center)
 - February 1, 2011 (Location: Irvine Orange County Fire Authority)

Along with the above, there are six additional locations that workshops tentatively scheduled for:

- Redding
- Santa Rosa

- Bay Area
 - Fresno
 - San Bernardino
 - San Diego
- Chief Zagaris spoke at length concerning the how the Base Rates will work. This information was included in the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors packet and is called “Agreement for Local Government Fire and Emergency Assistance to the State of California and Federal Fire Agencies”.
 - He also mentioned that not everyone is going to be happy with the new Base Rate of 16.8%, but that the new rate had to be “defendable, transparent and be able to sustain any audits”, but that there could still be minor changes to the exhibits concerning training.
 - Concerning last year’s budget and Fire Service issues with the Blue Ribbon Commission and the Governor’s staff, the reimbursement program that Cal EMA has used for the last twelve to fourteen years, is very old and internal beta testing on a new system will be commencing soon. (Acting) Secretary (Acting) Secretary SecretaryMike Dayton, Assistant (Acting) Secretary SecretarySteve Sellers and Cal EMA’s Information Technology department are currently involved with this project. Chief Zagaris gave an example on an ideal situation / outcome that this program can hopefully attain.
 - Director Millar added that as part of the local agreements package with the CFAA, the “shutdown” date of December 31, 2010 for all agreements has been extended. The current recommendation was to “roll over” the current packages, with the AOP’s and Agreements still being valid, into the next calendar year with a target date of April 1, 2011 for completion. Standardization being the key to this process.
 - Chief Roper stated that he would like to have the members of the Board of Directors, “push” to have their people come to the CFAA workshops that Chief Zagaris mentioned previously.
 - Under the CFAA, the process that was used to review this document traditionally had three representatives from FIRESCOPE (North, South & Volunteer Departments) to ensure that all aspects were covered. This brought about the problem of “loss of continuity” between meetings due to having multiple individuals with varying interests being “outside” of the CFAA normal process. Chief Roper asked the Board members for input on whether the CFAA negotiating team is viable as it is, or whether changes need to be made in order to maintain continuity between meetings and representatives? Chief Zagaris added that there is a desire to keep the existing group together, but that changes may need to be made. Chief Roper set the April FIRESCOPE meeting as to when a decision will be made.
 - Director Husari made a statement that a presentation of NWCG “would be really helpful” in regards to going over the major changes that are happening throughout NWCG. Director Millar agreed with this considering that California has become a “focal point” in this issue.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT (EMAC) UPDATE

- Chief Zagaris mentioned that Louisiana has paid the State of California in the last week, and that Cal EMA will be sending out checks shortly to entities who responded to Louisiana. He goes on to say that the time it takes for reimbursement is entirely too long, and that he is recommending a small sub-committee be assembled that can make recommendations back to the Agencies, and ultimately back to the Legislature. He states that since California sends out the most in regards to resources, reimbursement should be made in a timelier manner. (Acting) Secretary SecretaryDayton added that based on his dealings with NEMA, even though California was one of the last entities to join EMAC, it’s very hard to convince the State Legislature to renew membership unless a more streamlined reimbursement process can be implemented.

- Chief Roper asks the Board of Directors that by February 1st, if any Board member would like to, or if they know of anyone within their agency that is “well versed” in disaster declarations, reimbursements or operations, and would like to serve on a sub-committee, forward your names to Chief Zagaris. The purpose of this sub-committee would be to review the current EMAC, develop recommendations, then submit them to the Secretary, who could then present the “pro / cons” concerning the “re-up” to EMAC in 2012.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

- (Acting) Director Pimlott mentioned that Senators Kehoe and Nava had co-sponsored the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, and that Senator Kehoe in particular, has been a very big supporter of public safety and the concerns and issues that surround it. Before moving on to her next position, she wanted one last opportunity to hear from the public safety sector (Fire and Police) concerning the Mutual Aid issues. Senator Kehoe was sympathetic to the challenges that public safety faces, and sought / encouraged new ideas that were brought before her. Issues discussed were:
 - The Mutual Aid system
 - VLF Issues in regards to Law Enforcement
 - Budgetary issues in regards to public safety

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ERI) UPDATE

- Mr. Paulson mentioned that he has had direct discussion with the Governor and briefed him on the fact that there is a “real danger” of losing the State Mutual Aid system. Another item discussed was the passing of Proposition 25 during the November election. Proposition 25 allows the passing of a budget on a majority vote. Mr. Paulson goes on to mention that if there is money to be found in the budget that can be reallocated “our way”, an attempt will be made to allocate it to the ERI.

EMS UPDATE

- Chief Gilbert spoke of the “big issue” concerning EMS, is the “1797-201 issue”. This is statutory language which allows Fire Departments to do ambulance transport if they were performing this function prior to 1980, and is a sub-committee of the EMS Commission. For the 201 issue, this basically eliminates this section, but then moves that authority to the 224, which is a different section of that statute. What this allows is the “grandfathering authority”, for both private and public ambulances to be in one section. Also stated, is that once the deadline has been met, and the definition of the threshold has been determined, this item will need to be “put to bed”. The deadline is in 2013 to determine who are going to be “201 Jurisdictions”. Chief Gilbert goes on to say that if there is a dispute in regards to whether a city / district falls under “201 authority”, there will be an appeal process in place to be determined by the EMS Commission. What this ultimately allows is a formal appeal process that goes outside of the “local” EMS and to the EMS Commission so that a stakeholder group can make a determination which will be binding. This doesn’t prevent someone from going to court; it just provides an alternative option. A recommendation was made to the EMSA, and a letter was received that they are going to put together a regulatory taskforce that will establish guidelines for this statutory language.
- Mr. Paulson commented that his group is in the process of formalizing their legislative packet and one of the items that they will be talking to Administration about is the placement of the EMS Authority, and whether it should “stand alone” or fall under other agencies. The question has also been raised on whether the EMS Director has to be a Doctor or whether they can have the Medical Director on staff be a person who is not a physician. Chief Gilbert agreed and will be writing a letter in support of having a “broader definition” of what the Director “can be”, and being a physician shouldn’t be a

mandate, because a lot of good individuals with “broad stakeholder experience” can administrate this diverse group.

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE UPDATE

- Chief Gilbert met with the outgoing Governor, and gave them their “top priorities”; the Mutual Aid system, the Wildland Urban Interface Standards of Coverage. The outgoing Governor did put in his briefing and recommendation, that the new Governor continue to use this task force as a mechanism to address all risk / fire issues at the legislative / statutory level where labor and management can partner together. Mr. Paulson mentioned that he will be meeting with the Administration soon and that one of the topics of discussion will be the BRC.
- Chief Dennen spoke concerning the reduction of personnel and apparatus of available to the Mutual Aid system statewide. The results of an online survey (Master Mutual Aid survey) was mentioned (and included in the FIREScope BOD packet), and out of the 366 replies to the survey, some very important points were brought about:
 - 50% of those responding, suffered some form of staffing reduction
 - 63% of respondents had a budget reduction from between 5% - 20%
 - 19% of respondents has a budget reduction of over 20%
 - 15% of departments reduced the number of engine companies
 - 98% of respondents said that they can still support the Mutual Aid system within their operational area
 - 20% of respondents cannot respond out outside of their operational area
 - 19% of respondents cannot deploy statewide at all

Chief Dennen went on to add that this information was also brought up at the Legislative Hearing that was attended by multiple Board members, and it allowed them to give “statistical data” instead of assumptions concerning the cuts within the BRC. And those events that happen to CAL FIRE, and are made aware by the survey data, are going to have a huge impact on the Mutual Aid system statewide and that these percentages are only going to be made worse as time goes by.

- Chief Zagaris brought up a point that our ability to mobilize is only exceeded by our ability to effectively manage those resources. He goes on to say that by July, the MMA survey will be “sent out” again to determine up to date statistics and any changes that have come about since this last survey.
- (Acting) Director Pimlott mentions that in regards to the issue with “4 person staffing”, the Administration has recognized a study that was done by San Diego State University in regards to the validity that it was more efficient to have “4 person staffing”, but had concerns that the results haven’t been “proven”, but only been studied in theory. Examples were asked for were this type of staffing had been implemented.
- Chief Dennen mentioned that another point that stood out on the survey results was not only did these cuts have an effect on closing / shutting down engine companies, but the staffing levels within the administration departments have also suffered. There are less Chief Officers, fire prevention personnel, administrative support and strike team leaders overall.

In regards to the response of a strike team, the delay may not be because of “engines”, but because a particular region cannot let their Chief Officers out of their cities. He also stated that ultimately, as positions are vacated by retirement, these positions are not being filled and if they are, they are mostly filled “from within” in order to save on salary costs.

- Chief Freeman mentioned that if the survey was asked to be completed in July, the results could be based on the agencies “adopted budget”, but consideration should be made to have the survey in a

May / June timeframe, and have the survey predicated on what is the best estimate of the “anticipated budget”. This would also allow plenty of time for results to be analyzed and released at the October FIRESCOPE BOD meeting. Mr. Paulson suggests that the survey be done after the “first Tuesday in June”, depending on how the vote goes and if the Governor gets a special election. He also suggested that the BOD look at a few colleges in regards to taking on this project and getting a “stratified sample” of the data. Chief Freeman agreed with this and asked for Board members to submit names of colleges that might be interested in doing this.

- Chief Dennen asked the Board if the Governor has given any indication on whether he was going to support the BRC in the future, and if the survey that will be done, is an extension of the “Task Force” or of FIRESCOPE? Chief Zagaris answered that Executive Orders are in place until they are rescinded by the Governor, or are replaced with a new order.

IAFC WILDLAND COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chief Roper spoke about the continuation of the development of Phase II of the National Cohesive Strategy Process and that they are still waiting for the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) to approve the Phase I document so that it can be officially published. OMB is regulated by a specific time frame to review and clear a document. Based on this, the document should be completed by March 1, 2011.
- Chief Roper gave a brief definition concerning the different phases of the Cohesive Strategy. Phase I recognizes that there is a problem with Wildland fires, and that it needs to be addressed through “Fuels, Response and building fire active communities”. Phase II is the development of a model using different scientific models. User variables input into this model can include fuels, specific situation variables concerning the environment, population, response capabilities...) Once done, the model will provide alternatives on “what to do” and how to set specific priorities depending on the overall situation.
- Chief Roper states that under the different phases, the country will be divided up into three geographical regions based on the National Association of State Forester regions:
 - North-East
 - South-East
 - Seventeen Western States

Within the “Seventeen Western States” region, of which California is a part of, we will have two sub-regions set up (the North GACC and the South GACC). Chief Roper proposed that California only have one Region, with the reasoning that California as a whole has the same issues, building codes, aid systems and multiple other components, and with this being the case, it only makes sense to have California as one Region. Chief Roper goes on to state that in either case, Region oversight groups would be created to represent the various agencies involved. Mr. Knapp and Chief Hutchinson recommended one Region. Chief Roper thanked the Board members for their input, and goes on to mention that there will be a meeting in Phoenix in the first week of February, where this will be discussed with more information forthcoming as to who will be representing the sub-regional groups. Chief Freeman asked whether there were any other entities within the Fire Service that may have a “differing view”, and who may try to influence a different decision? Chief Roper answered that at this time, all involved are going in the “same direction”.

OLD BUSINESS – The “Election of the FIRESCOPE BOD Chair and Vice-Chair” agenda item would normally be categorized as an “OLD BUSINESS” item, but because Chief Sheldon Gilbert was nominated for a position, and could not attend the meeting but instead called in, they moved this specific item up in the agenda.

- Chief Zagaris gave a quick overview concerning the process of nominating a person for a position on the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. He also gives thanks to Chief P. Michael Freeman for the many years he has spent as the Chairperson on the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. Chief Freeman states that it was his pleasure to have served in this position, and he would like to thank the members of the Board, and their staff for their participation.

***ACTION ITEM** – Chief Freeman announces position of FIRESCOPE Chairman is available for nominations.*

- *Chief Michael Dyer nominates Chief Bob Roper as Chairman. Seconded by Chief Nick Dunn.*
- *No other nominations. None opposed.*
- *Chief P. Michael Freeman steps down as Chairman and announces Chief Bob Roper as the new Chairman of the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.*

***ACTION ITEM** – Chief Roper announces position of FIRESCOPE Vice-Chairman is available for nominations.*

- *Chief Nick Dunn nominates Chief Mike Dyer as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Chuck Knapp.*
- *Chief Sheldon Gilbert nominates himself for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Chief Bob Roper.*
- *No other nominations. None opposed.*
- *Chief P. Michael Freeman calls a vote:*
 - *4 votes for Chief Gilbert*
 - *10 votes for Chief Dyer*

Chief Roper announces Chief Michael Dyer as the new Vice-Chairman of the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

CWCG UPDATE

- Chief Zagaris mentioned that the CWCG Board met on January 11th, and a main topic of discussion at this meeting pertained to who was going to replace Chief Zagaris' position as the Chair of the group. Typically, the process is handled through the "Order of the Charter of the Agencies", but it is felt that this hasn't worked well in previous years. Chief Zagaris goes on to mention that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife member should be the upcoming Chairperson; but that the current U.S. Fish & Wildlife representative, Doug Wagner, is retiring soon and doesn't want to be considered for the position. (Acting) Director Ken Pimlott if CAL FIRE was scheduled to become Chairman, but that other duties have prevented him from assuming this role. Because of the issues involved with having a new Chairman, the Board decided that they would deviate from the Charter used in previous years, and have the U.S. Forest Service member, Willie Thompson, become the 2011 CWCG Chairman, with the CAL FIRE Board member becoming the Vice-Chairman and then assuming the role of Chairman in 2012.
- Chief Zagaris also mentioned that the CFAA Agreement and CFMA Agreement were discussed at the CWCG Board meeting. In regards to the CFMA Agreement, the Board recognized a need to have this agreement "up and running" before the 2012 deadline.
- Chief Zagaris mentioned that the California Inter-Agency Wildfire Safety Officers Conference will be held April 12-14 in San Diego, and that the CWCG Board will meet on the Monday before the conference.
- Chief Zagaris states that the California Inter-Agency Incident Finance Advisory Committee is in the process of putting together "at least" five upcoming training sessions on the different agreements that are used within the State of California. The dates and locations for these sessions will be announced shortly.

- Chief Zagaris stated that the California Fire Lines were discussed at the CWCG Board meeting. A proposal has brought up to bring California Fire Lines under the CWCG “umbrella” and have them report directly to the Board of Directors. Currently, they report to the agency Administrators. This proposal didn’t meet with the approval of the individuals working the Fire Lines, and they wanted to continue reporting to the agency Administrators. With this in mind, it was agreed to leave the current system as is.
- Chief Zagaris mentioned that the Training Operations Group are working on updating the Incident Management Team Guidance document, and will be sent to the IC’s for their input before it is made final.
- Chief Zagaris mentioned that the California Wildfire Group is looking at bringing in a Prevention Committee. Placement of this committee is being discussed, but Chief Zagaris thinks that doing so, will improve the charter “as a whole”.
- Chief Zagaris mentioned that there will not be a “full on” team meeting for the Incident Management teams this year due to budgetary issues. The U.S. Forest Service requested approval of this to Washington D.C, but have yet to receive a response. Due to the timing, it is probably too late to schedule multi-day meetings, but there will be a one day meeting that will be hosted at Cal EMA Headquarters. The date for this meeting has a tentative date of March 30th.
- Chief Zagaris mentioned that there will be a meeting between the State and Federal Incident Management teams, along with the CWCG Board, to be held on April 19 and 20th in Ione.
- Chief Zagaris states that the CWCG Board reviewed the team selection for current IC’s, and will have a letter forthcoming documenting the various topics discussed. On February 23rd and 24th at McClellan AFB, there will be discussion concerning any additional members that will need to be selected for the Type I and Type II teams.
- For the 2012 selection process, the meeting will most likely be moved from McClellan A.F.B to Cal EMA Headquarters.
- Chief Zagaris stated that there are multiple items that the CWCG Board is working on in regards to the topics that came about from last year’s Joint State & Federal IC workshop. Important topics discussed are listed below:
 - The California Dispatch Improvement project
 - The IDIP Optimization project
 - Cal EMA’s & CAL FIRE’s involvement with Federal partners
- Paul Bannister mentioned that if the IDIP project is successful and yields results, he is optimistic that there may be funding that will come out of it to help prepare future findings.
- Chief Zagaris stated that the CWCG Board is currently working through the DPA Boundary Updates. A June timeframe has been predicted to have the maps and boundaries adjusted and finalized for publishing.
- Chief Zagaris mentioned that the ENMAC meeting was being updated. He also noted that there are a “lot of things going on” at the National level and in particular, what is happening with the IMT succession document. Director Husari was asked by Chief Zagaris to comment on this issue.
- Director Husari mentioned that the NWCG have asked her to become Chairperson for this group. She was asked and put together recommended alternatives that are used to reconfigure teams involved

with incident management. Her team has put together seven potential alternatives (organizational models) and has proposed that instead of picking just one alternative, stakeholder engagement be solicited for input. Her team has also proposed that a workshop created to help with these choices.

- Chief Zagaris mentioned that the Gulf Oil Spill has aroused much interest at the National Level in regards to speeding up involvement with “all-risk issues”. In response to this, an “all-risk” business practice has been developed, along with additional positions (with appropriate mnemonics) that will be entered into ROSS. Chief Zagaris goes on to say that FEMA just gave \$4,000,000 to Alabama to be used to implement ROSS, yet States that have “fully embraced” ROSS (examples given were California & Colorado) continue to use additional funding to do “all-risk” assessments.

BREAK FOR LUNCH – 12:42pm

MEDAL OF VALOR COMMITTEE

- Lou Stone spoke regarding his recent appointment to the Governors Public Safety Medal of Valor Committee, and that recently he was given a list of current nominees that have been recommended for the Medal of Valor, and was disheartened that out of the forty nominees, there is not one firefighter nominated in the State of California for the year 2009. He gave the members of the Board a packet explaining the nomination process, and mentioned multiple examples of events that individuals were nominated for.

- Lou Stone stressed that in order to nominate a firefighter for the Medal of Valor; the nomination has to come from a Fire Chief and no one else. The deadline for nominating someone is mid-May, and the Attorney General’s website has all the information, including forms that need to be filled out in order to nominate an individual for this medal.

Chief Drayer asked if there is an award such as a unit citation that is equivalent to the Medal of Valor and can be given to a group of individuals. Lou Stone stated that if the event for which a group is to be nominated falls under the “scope of their duties” and is within the “individuals training boundaries”, then a Medal of Valor would be inappropriate as an award.

FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM REPORT / TASK FORCE REPORT

- Chief Rueda mentioned that there were no meetings since the last FIRESCOPE BOD meeting, but that there were three conference calls that took place.
- Chief Rueda mentioned that there was discussion regarding the “Plan of Work”, and to make sure that it was consistent with the advice that the Board had brought up, as well as making sure that the Ops Teams were still “on track”.
- Chief Rueda discussed the progress the Task Force had made concerning the Wildland Urban Interface Guidelines, and how the Board will proceed in regards to the FOG.
- Chief Rueda mentioned that the Task Force is working on “FIRESCOPE Evacuation Protective Action” and “FIRESCOPE Response in regards to Fire & Law Enforcement Tactical Operations” guidelines at this time. More information will be forthcoming at future meetings.
- Chief Rueda states that an assignment has been received from the Board concerning Response Guidance documents in regards to Marijuana related incidents. He goes on to mention that a number of documents have been found in regards to marijuana farms and the illegal activity in respect to structures. An El Dorado County document was found that dealt with individuals growing marijuana in a “forest interface setting”, and that these documents have been given to the Task Force for them to review and to

provide further guidance. Chief Stone mentioned that the Task Force is in the process of collecting this data, and it will be presented at the January meeting.

- A meeting has been scheduled in Shell Beach, and a review is in process concerning the Jesusita Fire. The recommendations of the report have only just been made public to involved agencies. Work will commence on the recommendations once all involved agencies have received the report.
- The Task Force is working on adopting the NIMS Standard for Engines. This hasn't been reviewed by the Ops Teams, but will be put before the Board.
- The Task Force has had a number of discussions regarding the 40th Anniversary of FIRESCOPE Recognition. These ideas will be presented at the next Task Force / Ops Team meeting, and those recommendations will be presented at the next FIRESCOPE BOD meeting.
- Chief Stone mentioned that the Field Ops Guide is being worked on and will hopefully be completed soon so that the Board can approve it when it reconvenes in April.
- There were multiple retirements, but also new members have been brought aboard; one from Santa Barbara County, and one from the Bureau of Land Management. Chief Stone goes on to mention that there are still a few vacancies to be filled, but that this is being worked on at this time.
- (Acting) Director Pimlott discussed the fact that CAL FIRE has used the "Serious Accident Review" process to review the Jesusita burn-over. (Within the FIRESCOPE BOD meeting packet, is a cover letter and agenda minutes from the Board of Review). It was decided on to involve all allied agencies as part of the process and last August, the findings of the review team presented this information to all agencies involved in the incident. The Review Board also presented a series of working recommendations to the Director of CAL FIRE, all of which were based on the original accident review report that was prepared.

It was decided on that once the Director had approved the working recommendations, the issues that affected CAL FIRE would be worked on internally, and those that involved other affected agencies, would be given a thirty day time frame in order to address these issues internally among themselves. Once completed, the report would then be brought up among the Fire Service "as a whole". (Acting) Director Pimlott concludes by saying that the review will include much more detailed information for the Board to review. He was asked what information will be included in this report. (Acting) Director Pimlott stated that not all of the attachments will be used, but that the main "summary portion" of the document will be.

Chief Hutchinson mentioned that he was requested to present this information to the Operations Group at "end of January" meeting but due to scheduling conflicts, Chief Hutchinson instead asked Lead Investigator, Kevin Gaines, to present this information in his place. Chief Drayer asked if there was an "electronic copy" of this information instead of just a "hard copy" and (Acting) Director Pimlott replied that there was, and that it was forwarded to Chief Zagaris for review.

Chief Zagaris mentioned that with the looming deadline of January 17th, these issues really needs to be moved forward in regards to finding a resolution, so that the "lessons learned" can be taken into account for the next fire season. (Acting) Director Pimlott concurred with Chief Zagaris concerning the looming deadline, and went on to mention that the Board of Review has reviewed the working recommendations that Chief Hutchinson's group had come up with, and were attempting to identify which ones would be considered "key issues", and which ones weren't.

Chief Roper states that the Ops Team and Task Force will “build” onto this report, but will not have to “reinvent the wheel” in doing so. Once completed, this report will be an agenda item at the April FIRESCOPE BOD meeting and if it is approved, it will then be disseminated to the California Fire Service for further review (action items, language revision, other recommendations...).

(Acting) Director Pimlott stated that one of the challenges that CAL FIRE has been implementing within the last few years, is that the Board of Reviews has been backlogged. The backlog has recently been cleared, and the Serious Accident Review timeframes have been met, but it is when the process has reached the “Executive” level that the backlog mostly occurs. He further adds that this isn’t about placing blame, but that ultimately, it’s finishing the process in a timely manner, and getting that information out to all agencies within the Fire Service.

Chief Freeman concluded this agenda item stating that the process CAL FIRE has implemented is a very good, and thanks all involved with making forward progress in regards to this area of interest.

FIRESCOPE MEMBER AGENCIES

- Chief Roper stated that within the next year, there will be a lot of retirements taking place, and that the Fire Service, particularly the FIRESCOPE BOD’s, will look completely different than what it looks now. He asked for Board members to discuss any major personnel changes, or any major actions that are expected to take place within their respective agencies:
 - Director Millar states that as of January 31st, Ralph Domanski out of South Ops will have served his “last day”. He further states that logistics for a retirement party are ongoing.
 - Chief Richter added that as vacancies occur, these positions are sometimes “frozen” due to budgetary constraints, and because of this, there are fewer Firefighters added to the system to help with surge capacity. He goes on to say that there are approximately seventy vacancies within his agency that are not going to be filled because of the fact that it costs more money to fill them.
 - (Acting) Director Pimlott states CAL FIRE has four Unit Chief positions that are open due primarily to retirements and promotions, and that they are expecting several more positions to open up by the end of the fiscal year. He also states that CAL FIRE is at a “30% to 40%” vacancy rate among Assistant Chiefs, both among Division and Deputy ranks, and that these vacancies are primarily due to “pay inversion issues”. He concludes by stating that this issue will have a definite impact on the IC, and the Deputy IC levels.
 - Chief Freeman states that this budget crisis has created major problems within his agency and that it is expected within the next two fiscal years, that they are able to maintain staffing. He mentions that because of cuts to “non-emergency support staff”, which is about eighty vacancies, they can continue to hire emergency personnel and that this very morning, a class graduated, and that there is another class that is going to start in February.
 - Director Husari states that as positions within her agency become vacant, she highly doubts that any of them will be filled, and that her agency is in a “holding pattern” waiting to see if there will be another “continuing resolution” across the board on all programs. Also mentioned is that the Park Service is anticipating a 15% to 20% cut under “any scenario”, and that the budget crisis needs to be solved some other way, other than through attrition. Ultimately, she feels that a significant percentage of the National Park Service workforce will be lost over the next few years. She concludes with stating that she will be retiring at the end of the calendar year.

- Paul Bannister stated that the “Fuels Management” piece of the budget has been hit particularly hard with the budget crisis. He goes on to state that his agency has done quite a bit of hiring within the last few years, but now there is a real concern that there might not be enough money to keep these people. Budget cuts within multiple programs have taken their toll all throughout the agency, and that they are doing their best with what they have, and anticipate in the future.
- Chief Roper states that at the April FIREScope BOD meeting, he would like to add an agenda item that will discuss the Federal IMT Team Plans to include the Forest Service, and the Type II teams that they have. Chief Roper asks Director Husari what type of planning her agency is implementing, and if there is an issue, is it due to retirements? Or is it also due to “Certification / Qualification” issues.

CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE REPORT

- Chief Zagaris mentions that since the last FIREScope BOD meeting, Assistant Chief Dan Tinnel has retired and that his position is vacant. He also mentions that Chief Pat O’Bannon retired last year, but that as of February 1st, he will return as the Region III Assistant Chief.
- Chief Zagaris states that there are a couple of positions that need to be filled and have had the freeze lifted from them.
- Chief Zagaris states that there is a \$3,000,000 General Fund purchase order that is in the process of being approved that will cover replacement engines.
- Chief Zagaris spoke of a conversation that he had with then (Acting) Secretary Secretary Bettenhausen concerning expanding the engine fleet to meet Blue Ribbon recommendations. With his recommendations, he states that he could expand the fleet approximately twenty-five to thirty engines, and still maintain the replacement cycle with what needs to get replaced. He also states that to make up for the approximately \$1,000,000 shortage each year for buying replacement engines, funding is moved from different accounts to make up for this deficit.
- Chief Zagaris states that he is in the process of replacing three Command Communication Units. To make this happen, the use of a Federal contract will be used in place of going through General Services. Listed below are where the Command Communication Units will be sent:
 - Kern County
 - Region III
 - Region V
- Chief Zagaris concluded by stating that the agency is going to have a 20% reduction in General Funding, and like other agencies that have been affected by cuts, Cal EMA will have to make do with what they are given.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Roper recognized Chief P. Michael Freeman for the many years he has spent within the Fire Community, and for his time as Chairman of the FIREScope Board of Directors. Chief Freeman is presented with a certificate and speaks briefly on his time with the Fire Service, and gives thanks to all.
- Chief Zagaris stated that he will send out a letter concerning Chief Ken Wagner’s vacant FIREScope Board member position.
- Chief Roper spoke of his concerns regarding the future of FIREScope, within the next two weeks, he would like to contact the members of the Board and attempt to develop a “draft agenda” and

propose “multi-day” FIRESCOPE BOD meetings, to include the CWCG members. As of now, the next FIRESCOPE meeting is to be held on April 13th, and from some of the Federal agencies that attend, he has been told that this isn’t a good week for them to attend. Chief Roper suggested that the agenda first be created in order to determine the commitment that would be needed to discuss all topics and to have a productive meeting. An outside facilitator could then be brought in to complete the process. Based on the facilitator’s decision, dates would then be determined to coincide with the agenda and the Board members availability.

ROUNDTABLE

- Chief Zagaris states that the next Joint Ops Team Task Force meeting will be held in Shell Beach on January 25 – 28.
- Chief Rueda stated that his region has “browned out” 22 of 151 Fire Companies within the City, and what this has done is eliminated overtime. He goes on to state that everything else within his region seems to be “normal”, and that the mild fire season helped with creating that.
- Chief Dyer states that his region is looking at a 15% “across the board” reduction in its overall budget. This equates to a reduction of approximately \$7,000,000. He also stated that the latest retirement figures have come in, and the assumption rate in Santa Barbara County had gone down, but employer contribution has gone up. As of now, they are looking at a reduction of two engines out of seventeen. He concludes by stating that the property tax in Santa Barbara is “stagnant”, but they get “a little money” with Proposition 72.
- Director Millar states that starting on January 24th – 28th; the Government Accountability Office will review the Station Fire Response for the Forest Service. He also goes on to state that the restrictions regarding “Single Engine, Night Flying Capability” have been lifted by the Washington office. This allows night flights to be used in Santa Barbara County, Ventura County and Kern County National Forests.
- Chief Webb mentioned that the vacancies that have happened, have limited his departments “search capabilities”.
- Chief Wilson states that Mariposa County Fire Department is finally moving forward on the AFG Fire Stations, and that they will hopefully start “breaking ground” on the new Fire Stations within the next couple of months.
- Chief Hutchinson mentions that there have been a few changes within Region VI. The South Ops Region Operations Chief retired at the end of December and they are in the process of establishing a new hiring list for that classification, and that it will be released shortly. He goes on to mention that in Late Winter / Early Spring, there will be another vacancy, but they have been able to delegate those duties to other Deputy Chiefs. He goes on to mention that his region is working collectively on getting the South Ops relocation project moving forward and that he feels optimistic in that regard. He concludes by saying thank you to all of the individuals that took part in helping out Region VI when the flooding took place.
- Chief Tripp stated that his region has been impacted by the “brown-outs” that have been happening. He also mentioned that work has begun on the Mud Flow / Debris Flow preparation, due to the intense storms that happened late last year.
- Chief Dennen spoke that in regard to the flooding that took place, there were a lot of issues with Mission Tasking / Mission Order requests for non-fire type assets. His analysis on this process has

shown that there are several conflicting documents / policies that has been found, and that he has taken upon himself to resolve these conflicts.

- Chief Larkin stated that his region will have approximately seven Fire Chiefs retiring or relocating. Five Chiefs have already retired or moved on, and that two are “on the block”. These vacancies will take place by the end of June.
- Chief Metcalf states that the same “economic” situations that are happening in other regions are happening to his as well. He goes on to mention that not only is his department not hiring, but they are not placing anyone either and because of this, the “surge capacity” is getting “pretty thin”.

He also mentions that one of the departments in San Diego County, the first that he has heard of, is in the third year of a five year Safer Grant for Firefighters, has been letting positions go. The department was successful in their negotiations with FEMA to call them “good”, and there was no requirement to have them paid back.

- Mr. Paulson mentioned that his region has taken a position on the Governor’s budget, and that his region is in support of the elimination of Redevelopment Agencies. He states that his region sees it not only as an opportunity to infuse cash back into the Cities and Counties, but more importantly, to put cash into the Districts who need it the most.

- Chief Dunn mentions that he concurs with the Safer Grant issue. Last year, his region received \$9,100,000 for Firefighters but now, his region is having an issue concerning quite a few individuals retiring, and without having those jobs available, he will not have access to those funds. He concludes by stating that this will be a huge issue to his budget, because those funds were figured in to his budget.

- Chief Freeman thanks Chief Roper for making “his job” much easier, and that the Board members recognize his efforts by making a “wise choice” in electing Chief Roper as Chairman. He concludes by thanking everyone for the outstanding job that they have done.

- (Acting) Director Pimlott informed the Board that the retirement party for Del Walters will take place on January 29th, 2011 @ 1800 at the DoubleTree Hotel located at 2001 Pointe West Way Sacramento, CA 95815. Phone number is 916-929-8855

- Chief Zagaris states that the next FIREScope BOD meeting will take place at the Cal EMA Headquarters on April 13, 2011. On March 25, the agenda will be set and if there is any change in dates, the Board members will be notified.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 1415