



**FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 14, 2009
Burbank Fire Department Training Center**

MEMBERS:

P. Michael Freeman, Chair, Los Angeles Co. FD
Bob Roper, Vice Chair, Ventura County Fire Department
Kim Zagaris, Cal- EMA Fire and Rescue
Chuck Knapp, California State Firefighter's Association
Lew Stone, California Professional Firefighter's Association
Bill Kaage, National Park Service
Dennis Thompson, Kern County FD- Counties South
Douglas Barry, Los Angeles FD
Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda Co. FD- Counties North
Kate Dargan, State Fire Marshal
Ruben Grivalva, Cal Fire
Craig Barnes, Bureau of Land Management
Tom Franklin, Santa Barbara Co. FD
Chip Prather, Orange County Fire Authority
Pat Dennen, San Bernardino Co. FD, Fire Districts- South
Ken Wagner- Roseville FD- Fire Departments North
Richard Webb-Linda FPD- Fire Districts North

GUESTS:

Dan Drake, Orange Co. Fire Authority
Bill Bamattre, Cal- EMA Homeland Security
Steve Sellers, Cal- EMA
Willie Thompson, USFS- Fire and Aviation
Dennis Downs, Pasadena FD
Candace Gregory, CALFIRE, OES Region V
Bob Green, CALFIRE, OES Region VI
Tom Drayer, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE
Deneen Phillips, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE
Brian Woodbeck, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue
Pat O'Bannon, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue- FIRESCOPE
Bob Wyman, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue
Dave Pierce, Orange County Fire Authority- FIRESCOPE Ops Team, Chair
Mario Rueda, Los Angeles FD, FIRESCOPE Ops Team, Vice Chair
Kevin Nida, CSFA- President, California State Firefighter's Association
Tim Barnes, Los Angeles FD
Mikel Martin, Cal Fire
Del Walters, Cal Fire



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GUESTS:

Mark Schmidt, Santa Barbara Co. FD, FIRESCOPE Ops Team, Secretary
Ralph Domanski, USFS
Greg Rokowski, Burbank County Fire
Bill Metcalf, North County FPD
Janet Upton, Cal Fire
John Hawkins, Cal Fire
Aaron Read, Cal Fire
Rick Swan, Cal Fire
Bob Doyle, Glendale FD
Laura Blaul, Orange County Fire Authority
Kris Concepcion, Orange County Fire Authority
Jeff Bowman, San Diego FD- Retiree
Mike Esparza, California State Firefighter's Association
Mike Williams, California State Firefighter's Association
Tracy Pansini, Burbank FD
Joe Kerr, Orange Co. Fire Authority
Bill Nash, Ventura Co. FD
Ron Oatman, Ventura County Fire Department
Mike Milkovich, Ventura County Fire Department
Sarah McCaffy, USFS
Frank Walbert, Burbank Fire
Lou Paulson, CPF
Carroll Wills, CPF
Caesar Partida, Cal Fire

WELCOME AND LOGISTICS:

Burbank Fire Department Training Center

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Chief Roper

***Action Item-** Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve minutes of the October 8th, 2008 meeting minutes.*



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IAFC

Chief Bob Roper

At the October meeting we discussed the “Leave Early or Stay Defend” program. We are not endorsing this program but we do want to examine the concept and flush it out further. We want to discuss the pros and cons and complete a concept review. Orange County has since hosted a meeting after our last Board meeting in which FIRESCOPE was invited to. At that meeting we inquired as to what programs other departments are using. We plan to meet with the Cal Chief’s Fire Prevention Officers group as they are meeting March 16-17th in Buellton. At that meeting we will have discussions with their wildland committee on this topic with the goal of receiving grant funds to support a stake- holders meeting with law enforcement and fire service in garner additional ideas and address concerns. We will be setting a date for that meeting.

The NWCG WUI Working Team had a meeting in November and during that meeting decided to develop a small committee to examine and report on the issue; which will be released soon. Ventura County and Orange County will be putting together a visual report on the topic. More will be forthcoming very soon regarding this.

On March 22-24 in Reno, NV the IFC Wildland committee will be meeting. It will be a summit to provide background and origin of their program. At each of the FIRESCOPE BOD meetings we will have an update of the committee’s actions.

Ventura County has been doing public orientation for the last 18- months, just to get public feedback on the “Leave Early or Stay and Defend” issue. We may or may not move forward on this; but this is an individual decision by Ventura County and not by the FIRESCOPE Board but we still need to develop the implementation plans in order that we may deal with all the different stakeholder groups.

Orange County is in the same position as they have a number of focus groups that are moving in that direction.

CAL EMA METRIC PROGRAM

Chief Bill Bamattre (Ret)

Cal Metric Program is a resource inventory and situational awareness program which was established as a pilot program with 26 CAL EMA Operational Areas. Towards the end of January and beginning of February we sent out informational bulletins in the hopes that we receive feedback from everyone in our efforts to continuing development of this program.



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CAL EMA SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Matt Bettenhausen

This is a great time for me to start off as the Cal EMA secretary here in 2009 and thank you for the work that you all do. It is truly a privilege for me to have the fire service leaders in the nation all here in this room. My biggest hope is that you don't see any gaps in the service that we provide to you as we are going thru this merger. What I would like to hear from you is how we can better provide an improved service in the months ahead. I'm please to announce as my Under-Secretary Frank McCarton. We have a great opportunity to try to share the Best Practices that we have developed here in California with Washington, DC.

I'm the Co-Chair of the National Homeland Security Consortium which is an unique, one-of-a-kind group of key state and local organizations, elected officials, the private sector and others with roles and responsibilities for homeland security prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities. We have some good opportunities to make our voices heard and I look forward to hearing from you and lead Cal EMA into a position to serve you better.

I would like to thank you for participating in Golden Guardian 2008 we had more then 5.5 million people participating in the drill portion. It was great to get that kind of earthquake awareness out there for everyone to see. Awareness will lead to more preparedness at home. As we learned from that exercise, a 7.8 earthquake here in the Los Angeles County area, local government is going to be overwhelmed. The more we can do to get the residents of California more prepared to help them realize the fact that first and foremost they are first responders themselves. They are the first ones on the scene whether it is at home, at school or at work. The better prepared they are the better we will be. If there are things that you feel that we can bring up that we can add to the after- action please let us know.

I don't have any good new from Sacramento as far as the budget situation it is going to impact us all. As we look at these issues we don't know where these cuts are going to lie. As far as budget cuts and revenues, it is going to be a challenging 2 years. If you have been following the economic forecasts there is no clear consensus on when this is going to end. My sense is that we have not hit the bottom yet. The Governor is going to do his State of the state speech at 10am and he has already has released his new budget for 2009-2010. In the last year this is the 7th budget that he has proposed. Those included some of the initiatives that were in the ballot in November and it his 4th attempt to get budget reform since the time he was elected governor in 2003. No one is more frustrated by the situation then the Governor with a 42 billion budget deficit and counting; some hard decisions are going to have to be made.



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CAL EMA SECRETARY REPORT (continued)

Secretary Matt Bettenhausen

I was meeting with the outgoing Homeland Security intelligence team doing an intelligence meeting regarding some of the potential threats identified. We are still receiving on occasion international threats to harm us. Bin Laden, himself has recently resurfaced with a timely video released today that referred to the situation with Israel and Gaza, so we know that it was recently made. We don't think that this video indicated that there are any threats planned for the Homeland. As some as you may know, we have also been receiving a rise in domestic terrorism incidents and threats. These range from white supremacist groups to animal right activists; and almost all of our nation's governors have received powdered or threatening letters in the last 3 or 4 months.

Finally, FEMA is currently reviewing Stafford Act for possible reform and so, I would like to invite your comments in order that we may forward those comments to them. When we provide Intra-state mutual aid I feel that we need to provide a 100% reimbursement to the agencies that are deploying resources. That provides the incentive for these agencies to respond. We still have a problem administratively with it, as we feel that those reimbursement funds should be direct reimbursement to the sending state rather than the current practice of channeling the reimbursement through the victimized state. Because of this, California is still awaiting reimbursement due to the Hurricanes that impacted Louisiana. I think that would be a big victory for us all if we can change the process to allow for direct reimbursement. This will be one of the items of discussion as they go through the regulatory review. In the past, FEMA has been all over the board and no one has really addressed that particular issue since 1998. I'm looking forward to working with all of you and hearing any of your thoughts or suggestions.

CAL FIRE UPDATE

Chief Ken McLean

Chief Becky Robinson retired this past December. We now have a new Southern Assistant Regional Chief, Mikel Martin who was previously the MMU Unit Chief. His effective date was January 1, 2009. We also have a new Director of Communications, Janet Upton and Chief Andy McMurray has been appointed in the Assistant Deputy Director Position.

In terms of the State budget impacts, we have already undergone a 6.3 million dollar reduction which we spread among the those Units and Contract Counties which saw in an increase in funding and staffing after the 2003 fires season, San Bernardino; San Diego, Riverside, Orange County and Los Angeles County.



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CAL FIRE UPDATE (continued)

Chief Ken McLean

Now we are looking at employee furloughs and a 9.23% reduction. We don't know what the current budget deficits will have on our Contract Counties as we still have a lot of unanswered questions. Cal Fire has not been exempted from the employee furloughs like the CHP and State hospitals have; so, implementation of the Governor's directive is going to be difficult at best and because of that, we have put together our appeal to DPA for an exemption. Up into now the budget has not had an impact on us we still preposition resources when there is a high fire risk; we staff according to risk and not according to budget. We recently had a wind event in southern California and we staffed up liked we normally would.

In the Governors budget is the Emergency Response Initiative that would fully fund our 4.0 staffing levels that we have been recently receiving under the Governor's executive order annually. It would also provide funding for Cal EMA and the National Guard; and for the second year it would start the replacement of 11 helicopters. Additionally, there are a number of issues and upgrades to our wide area network (WAN) and deals with some information structure issues that are emergency response related. As it was mentioned earlier, the state of the State address from the Governor may be highlighting some of the fire suppression successes that we've had this past year.

One issue that needs to be brought to your attention is the DWR is part of the resources agency and as such, we work with them closely. As we've been talking a lot about the drought situation lately the following formation was provided by DWR as it pertains to the current status of the State's water supply:

- As of January 9th we are about 75- 80% of the average participation statewide
- January, February and March will bring a significant amount of rain but it is currently being forecasted that the months following will not be wet months this year. As a result we will see the average precipitation figures fall dramatically
- Water storage in California reservoirs are exceptionally low
- Lake Oroville is the principle storage site for the State water project and is currently at 28% of capacity; and at 44% of the average store for this time of year
- Folsom Lake is at 22%
- Shasta Lake is at 30%
- San Luis Reservoir is at 27% of capacity



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CAL FIRE UPDATE (continued)

Chief Ken McLean

- The Sierra's total participation produces about 60% of the States total water supply. The snow packet is about 1/3 of the states water supply on its own
- DWR initial surveys show that the snow content is at about 76% of normal for year to date statewide. This time last year it was at 60% of normal

State wide 21 agencies have implemented some form of mandatory water rationing. Water delivery allocation is below normal and DWR has announced its initial allocation of 15% of water delivery to the State water project for contractors in 2009. That is the second lowest in history. What this means for us is, continued drought, less water, longer fire seasons and the need for more staffing?

I was asked yesterday to look at the cost of fighting fires and the projections are still the same as they have been over the last couple of years. Hopefully we will not see a siege of dry lightning strikes like we did last year in Northern California.

CAL FIRE continues on working with the legislature on legislative bills that they are introducing. One of theses is Assembly Bill 54, authored by Jefferies which is calling for CAL FIRE to be moved under Cal EMA. There is also a Bill moving forward that Senator Kehoe has authored, that will affect local government in terms of their fiscal accountability for emergency response up to and including their role in land use planning decisions.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE

Chief Kate Dargan

An update on residential sprinklers is ahead in coming year. Since we've last met, we've had the book up for adoption as it applies to residential sprinklers as part of the Model Code that will be published in 2009; it is currently triggered as an automatic. If anyone is going through an adoption of the IRC prior to January 1, 2011 residential sprinklers will be a mandatory part of that adoption.

What that means for California is since we currently don't adopt the IRC; should we and if so, what will the impacts be in 2011? To get prepared for that we are working in cooperation with our stakeholders to call right now for this phase to be implemented while working the 2-year plan to try and work through some of the issues that would arise with the State-wide adoption of residential sprinklers. We also plan to publish a guideline for the consideration of adoption of residential sprinklers later this spring as the group is very focused on this.



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STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE (continued)

Chief Kate Dargan

As we head into the 2009 Model Code adoption process and as we ramp up later this year with an extension into 2010 one of the goals that we have set for ourselves, in conjunction with Cal Chiefs and the FPOs is to produce a combined document incorporating Title 19 and the Fire Code into one document. We have received permission from the International Code Council to publish Title 19 as an appendix to the California Fire Code.

The third item is just the interface issues that we are continually trying to work on. One of the Bills that we hope will be most effective this year is Senate Bill 1595, the amended Public Resources Code. This Bill will amend the Government Safety Code and the Public Safety Code relative to 100 ft of defensible space. The language now read up to 100 ft of defensible space. The insurance companies can not require more then 100 ft of defensible space unless they present a set of finding of why more then 100 ft. is required. Those findings are then approved by a fire expert as designated by the Chief of Cal Fire; so, we are going through an internal discussion of how to best address that.

We also published the WUI product handbook on the SFM/Cal Fire website

All the Blue Ribbon recommendations are still high priority for us.

EMS UPDATE

Dr. Stephen Tharatt

This is my Second six months as Director of CA EMS. We are continuing to build upon the successful public safety concepts which are already in place; as we recognize the challenges for us all that lie ahead. We, thus far have received broad support of the CD-MOM document that we just released. The CD-MOM will bring private EMS and health providers closer in line with government agencies.

EMT AB29 implementation is the background check process which will go into effect as of January 1, 2010. This will consist of an ID component and education validation. Our goal is to make this value added at the end. State fees associated with this program will include an initial registration fee of \$76.00 and a recertification fee of \$25.00.

Additionally we are instituting a fee increase for paramedic's recertification from \$125.00 to \$199.00. This will be the first increase in these fees since the inception of the licensing program.



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CALSIEC UPDATE

Chief John Penido

CALSIEC was born five years ago and during those five years the nationwide effort has been fueled by the various disasters that have been taking place. In December of 2008, they adopted language within the Charter that will increase the membership from 19 members to 46. The group will continue to meet 2-4 times a year and I'm looking for a representative from this group (BOD); one from the North and one from the South. Please note that the FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group is very much involved.

Effective 2010 we will be narrow banded and will be renaming and reprogramming our current channel lineups.

Action Item- Chief Barry volunteered and was appointed to CALSIEC as the FIRESCOPE BOD representative

FIRESCOPE BOD VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVE

Chief Kim Zagaris

We were on a conference call on Monday the 12th to review each of the applications and after a comprehensive thorough evaluation of each respective candidate; one name has been submitted to Secretary Bettenhausen for appointment. Once Secretary Bettenhausen ratifies the Board's recommendation, then letters will go out to all that applied. We are hopeful the successful candidate will have the opportunity to attend the April, 2009 meeting in Sacramento.

CFAA UPDATE

Chief Ken Wagner

Everyone is continuing to work on the document and the U.S. Forest Service has requested to make some minor changes to the document. We are anticipating that the document will soon be prepared for signature by those agencies who are party to it. It should be noted that Chief Zagaris' staff has been doing a great job processing reimbursement invoices while under the extension.

FIRELINE PARAMEDIC PROJECT

Captain Craig VanderZwaag, Santa Barbara County FD

The Fireline Paramedic proposal is a project that the FIRESCOPE EMS Specialist group, under the direction and guidance of the FIRESCOPE Task Force has been working on for the last 14 months.



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FIRELINE PARAMEDIC (FEMP) PROJECT (continued)

Captain Craig VanderZwaag, Santa Barbara County FD

The following outline is taken from the Fireline Paramedic presentation to the Board by Captain VanderZwaag:

Safety on the Fire-line

- • Addressed at every level of incident management
- • BLS level of care is the current standard
- • Distance, terrain, and access preclude the normal delivery of ALS level care

Deployment

- • This position is specific to the Fireline environment and is not related to any other ALS care.
- • Emphasis on delivery of ALS care when traditional medical evacuation routes may be delayed or unavailable.

Fireline EMT-P

- Process used to create Position Description
- What types of injuries?
- What is reasonable to carry in the Fireline environment?
- 36lb bags divided between 2 people will increase safety and accountability.
- How we addressed the various EMS regulatory and local agency requirements and interests?
- We can set up formal policy.

Issues Resolved

- Different protocols for different paramedics
- Regulations and required Continuous Quality Improvement
- Narcotic tracking/administration
- Mechanism for Restock
- Weight Distribution Fireline EMT-P
- FEMP Position description released widely for interested party comment
- EMSAAC- Local EMS Agency Directors
- EMDAC- Local EMS Agency Medical Directors
- State of CA EMS Authority



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- CAL CHIEFS' EMS Section

FIRESCOPE FIRELINE PARAMEDIC (FEMP) PROJECT (continued)

Captain Craig VanderZwaag

Accomplishments over the last 14 months

- Established a consistent standard and expectations for Fireline paramedics across the state
- Involved local, state and federal agencies to gain consensus
- Ensured the needs of appropriate regulatory agencies are met, while allowing for flexibility in deployment.
- Established a position description which defines the position
- Ensured integration into established resources ordering procedures, so FEMT-P can be requested through normal channels
- Evaluated the effectiveness of the position and reviewed associated recommendations

Action Item- The Fireline Paramedic Program was motioned and approved by the Board to move forward to the CICCIS Task Force for evaluation, approval and implementation

FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM REPORT

Chief Mario Rueda

Meetings held since last BOD meeting: Conference Call —January 2009 with Task Force

The primary focus of this conference call was an update on the process of the 410-1, the FEMP and nominations for the OES Region 2 representatives to the FIRESCOPE Ops Team. In addition, there was on-going discussion on the subject of selection of a representative for NWCG Training Working Team (TWT) to be discussed further at this meeting.

NWCG Representative to the TWT

There is some confusion as to the selection and timing for the representative to the NWCG TWT. The Ops Team and Task Force both desire final direction from the Board for representation on the NWCG TWT. The two nominees discussed were, Division Chief Rod Megli, Ventura County Fire Department and Chief Kevin Olson, CAL FIRE.

Action Item- The Board approved Chief Ron Megli, Ventura County FD to be the NWCG TWT representative. The Ops Team will notify Chief Megli of his appointment to this position.



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FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM REPORT (continued)

Chief Mario Rueda

OES Region 2 Representative to the FIRESCOPE Operations Team

With the retirement of Chief Brian Kelly, the Region 2 membership position has been vacant. The following name is being submitted by the FIRESCOPE Operations Team for consideration:

Deputy Chief David Rocha, Alameda County Fire Department

***Action Item-** The motion was made and approved by the Board that Chief David Rocha, Alameda County FD will move from the FIRESCOPE Task Force up to the Ops Team.*

Upcoming Meetings:

January	Shell Beach – with Task Force
May	Sacramento/Conference Call
June	TBD- w/Task Force
November	Conference Call

FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE REPORT

Chief Dave Stone

Reflective Vest Issue

The Safety Specialist Group successfully argued the Reflective Vest mandate by the US Department of Transportation and obtained a variance for the fire service whenever members are providing fire suppression duties.

The Safety Specialist Group developed informational material regarding the Reflective Vest issue that has been posted on the FIRESCOPE Web Site.

Field Operations Guide (ICS 420-1)

The Task Force initiated and completed a focused review of the 2007 Field Operations Guide (FOG), corrected typographical and formatting errors.

22,500 FIRESCOPE Field Operations Guides (ICS-420-1) have been distributed worldwide. Bids are out for the reprint of the 2007 edition.



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FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE REPORT (continued)

Chief Dave Stone

The Task Force developed a timeline to revise the Field Operations Guide. The revision process will begin in spring, 2009, with the goal of going to print in January, 2010. Field distribution is anticipated to be mid- spring, 2010.

Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)

As directed by the Board, the Task Force began implementing facility technology improvements to the Southern CA MAC Center and identifying technology deficits for the Northern CA MAC Center.

The Task Force has formed a Working Group to review the After Action Reports from the 2007 and 2008 MACS Activations and finalize the 410-1 revisions for review by the BOD in April, 2009. It is hoped that the changes may be completed in time to be included in the 2009 MACS Orientations and Exercises.

ICS

All levels of the FIRESCOPE Decision Process organize an effort to petition the NFPA in opposition to the implementation of a local government Incident Management System which contrasted and conflicted with the current practices outlined within FIRESCOPE ICS.

The Task Force assisted with the revision of the FIRESCOPE Organizational Chart, which is found on the FIRESCOPE Website.

Chiefs Hollingsworth and West continue to participate in the DHS/FEMA Incident Management Working Group (NIMWG). The Group is now co-chaired by George Maier, FDNY and Bob Neamy, LAFD (retired). The group has concentrated on the development and modification of ICS forms, Incident Command Teams credentialing, and MACS. Their last meeting was conducted January 6-8, 2009 in San Diego.

Membership

The Task Force has drafted letters to re-activate the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Specialist Group and the G.I.S. Specialist Group. The Liaisons to these Groups will be selected at the next Task Force meeting.



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FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE REPORT (continued)

Chief Dave Stone

FIRESCOPE Projects

- Developed a comprehensive FIRESCOPE program orientation package.
- The FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group developed a new version of the ICS-205 and ICS 217A. These forms have been posted to the website in Word and Excel.
- The Task Force approved the EMS Specialist Group's draft Fireline Paramedic project, including a Position Description, CICCS training curriculum, and Position Task Book.
- The Task Force reviewed the Haz Mat Specialist Group's Hazardous Material Specialized Equipment List and updated terminology to ensure that the list is in compliance with existing standards.
- The High Rise Working Group continues their project to review the High Rise Operational System Description and position descriptions.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 20-21	Shell Beach
February 18-19	San Diego
March 17-18	Paso Robles
April 22-23	Camarillo

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE REPORT

Chief Sheldon Gilbert

We are discussing the framework model and will be examining the "Leave Early or Stay and Defend" concept at our next meeting TBA in February, 2009.

CWCG UPDATE

Chief Dennis Thompson

We recently met in Bakersfield; at their January 27-29, 2009 meeting in Boise they will be looking at developing additional CWCG sub-committees and the Charters for those committees. It has been stressed by CWCG Executive Board however, to note that there is no attempt by or interest for CWCG to re-invent the FIRESCOPE program.



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CWCG UPDATE (continued)

Chief Dennis Thompson

The 2009 CA MOB guide is planned to be finalized at the March 25-27th meeting at McClellan; there will be a Cost Management presentation in April; the Federal Incident Management Workshop is planned for Reno, NV in February; efforts are underway to finalize the CALMAC after- action report and post it to website; and CWCG desires to post inter- agency events on the website as well.

Chief Bill Kaage- CWCG has requested that Chief Zagaris work with them to develop a group to work with the various federal incident management teams. It is defiantly well worth the time, if you can attend any continuing education courses being offered.

PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION UPDATE

Chief Bob Roper

State Assemblyman Pedro Nava contacted both Santa Barbra County and Ventura County regarding this particular issue. We don't know where the legislation is going currently.

The Chief would like to see the development of a standardized reporting system via the FIRESCOPE website for Type 1 or Type 2 Incident Management Teams who may be facing operational issues involving the use of private fire protection resources during the upcoming 2009 fire season.

FEDERAL/STATE AND LOCAL BUDGETS

Open Discussion

Cal EMA- 9.23% is the percentage of employee payroll reduction expected as a result of the Governor's Furlough Program. It is unknown how or if it will affect our Contract Counties and we are very unsure of what will take place as we face an uncertain economy in the future. We are currently having a most difficult time with recruitment and retention issues impacting our ability to hire Assistant and Deputy Chiefs. We have asked the Governor's Office for an exemption and if the Emergency Response Initiative passes then the money is there.

USFS- The federal Budget is the same as last year; and it is our travel budget, which has a direct impact on our agency's training programs that is being affected the most.

BLM- We are currently working on a budget threshold that was established 3- years ago. We currently have 50 vacancies and are instituting a hiring freeze.



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FEDERAL/STATE AND LOCAL BUDGETS (continued)

General Discussion

CAL FIRE- We are already over 350 million in reimbursements for this fiscal year. No word of anyone going unpaid. We are giving priority to small businesses, then to local government. We have added 13 positions to expedite processing and expect to have all invoices completed and to the State Controllers Officer for fiscal distribution by February, 2009.

Chief Zagaris/Secretary Bettenhausen- FEMA is open to establishing a new rate for reimbursement. There will be a change but no details as of yet.

Of Cal EMA's total inventory, 5 engines have yet to be replaced. We go to contract soon to get 20 additional engines. Of those, two will be assigned to OES Region VI; one to Region II; and one to Region IV. Our goal is to eventually provide OES Region IV a total of 20 engines.

We are currently working through vendor issues and the OES/OHS merger which resulted in the formation of Cal EMA.

The National Guard is taking delivery of five new fire apparatus.

CA EMA will be offering two ROSS local government Dispatcher classes at Mather in February and April, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

All

FIRESCOPE Chair Chief Freeman sent a letter regarding California's ROSS concerns to the USFS' Tom Harbour as directed by this Board. The "Who Pays" issue as outlined in the letter will be addressed. It is felt that the letter drafted and sent by the Board had a tremendous impact and we are now beginning to see the positive effects of that. Week long tours are being planned for Southern California Command Centers in order to evaluate current ROSS practices; and ROSS Version 2.10 should be out in mid-spring, 2009.

Chief Grivalva - Citrix has been implemented and ROSS performance has increased dramatically in productivity. The many California dispatch suggestions have had a positive effect and initiated many changes.



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CLOSEST RESOURCE POLICY (OES SPECIAL OPERATIONS BULLETIN #1)

All

There was a meeting last week to discuss issues associated with the deployment of resources during the fire siege of 2008. The meeting went well. Chief Dennen sent correspondence suggesting a careful review of the current policy is in order with thought given to the concept of allowing only the Regions to exchange up to five Strike Teams of Engines and limit the Operational Areas to what was permitted previously. The Board viewed his supporting documentation and a decision to render any decision will be tabled until the April meeting.

Action Item- The Executive Coordinator will dispatch the current policy to each OES Regional Coordinators for review; who will then seek feedback from their respective Operational Area Coordinators and bring comment back to the April, 2009 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

All

Chief Roper- We will have a February 3, 2009 meeting to discuss Australia's "Leave Early or Stay and Defend" program. The purpose will be is to focus on this single topic only and weigh out the pros and cons of this program and it's applicability to the California wildfire environment. The meeting is to be held at the Burbank training facility @ 9:30 hours. This meeting will be limited to fire agencies and invited guests only.

ROUNDTABLE

All

AJOURNMENT

Action Item- Adjournment Motioned and Seconded at 1500 hrs.

NEXT FIRESCOPE BOD CONFERENCE CALL:

March 26, 2009 @ 1600 hrs.

NEXT FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING:

April 8, 2009 Cal EMA HQ, Mather, CA