

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

Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2002
USFS Logistics Center
Ontario, California

MEMBERS PRESENT

P. Michael Freeman, Chair, Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Kim Zagaris, Chief, OES Fire and Rescue Branch
Russell W. Richards III, Vice-Chair, Fire Warden, Stanislaus County
William R. Bamattre, Chief, Los Angeles Fire Department
Chip Prather, Chief Orange County Fire Authority
Dennis Smith, Chief, Sacramento Fire Department
John Tennant, CDF, State Fire Marshal
Hank Weston, Chief, Grass Valley Fire Department
Glen Newman, Acting Chief Deputy Director, CDF

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stewart Gary, Chief, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department
Brian Hatch, California Professional Firefighters
Steve Turner, California State Firefighters' Association
Ed Wehking, Bureau of Land Management
Tom Nichols, National Park Service
Ray Quintanar, USDA Forest Service - Fire and Aviation Management
John Scherrei, Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Dallas Jones, Director, Office of Emergency Services
Bob Roper, Chief, Ventura County Fire Department
Daniel G. Clark, Chief, Kern County Fire Department

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Ghilarducci, Deputy Director, OES
George Motschall, USFS (Representing Ray Quintanar)
Jon Olney, (Representing Daniel G. Clark) FIRESCOPE Task Force Chair
Ben Lopes, Acting Chief, Santa Clara Co. Fire (Representing vacant position)
Darrell Ralston, Assistant Chief VNC (Representing Bob Roper)
Jim Wright, Chief, Fire Protection, CDF
Dave Driscoll, CDF, Region II
Jeff Jones, CDF, OES Region III
Fred Batchelor, CDF, OES Region VI

OTHERS PRESENT (continued)

Ralph Domanski, USFS

Bill Plough, CDF

Neil Honeycutt, OES

Jean Colyer, OES

Dan Drake, ORC

Gary Glotfelty, OES

Les Matarazzi, BLM (Representing Ed Wehking, NPS)

Dave Carlson, Fire Chief, Riverside, President California Fire Chiefs Assoc.

Mike Warren, Chief, City of Corona, California Fire Chief Assoc.

Gary Lockhart, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Fire Department

Chair, P. Michael Freeman called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

**Motion made to accept the minutes November 14, as read made by
Dennis Smith, and second Chip Prather**

OES DIRECTORS' REPORT - Mark Ghilarducci

Director Jones had to return to Sacramento. Deputy Director Mark Ghilarducci gave the Directors' Report. The Governor has signed FY2002-2003 budget and public safety was a focal point in his State of the State Report. The OES programs, including the fire and rescue programs, and mutual aid system sustained no cuts. The Governor supports our programs.

OES will devise a plan to re-instate the heavy rescue (apparatus) program: they were delayed until all budget issues have been resolved. OES maintains communication with the Department of Finance, and the Governor's Office, to reinstate various programs in the current year. Details will be worked out within the next few weeks. OES is working with several legislative committees to support our needs in the field relating to terrorism, public safety, training, and equipment, and how best to formulate legislation to support all our needs in the field. Most of the discussion is around the recommendation made by SSCOT, to the Governors' Office. The legislative committees are reviewing their recommendations.

The Federal Grants from the Department of Justice, where different counties submitted their vulnerability and assessment needs, should be announced soon. There will be approximately \$14 million dollars awarded from these grants to the State. A majority of this funding will go to local government for the purchase of equipment to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The Federal Government has very specific criteria for the type of equipment that can be obtained. We are looking for loosening of these

standards in light of the September 11, 2001 Incident. All units of OES have moved into the new Headquarters. All are welcome to visit.

Freeman- Regarding the WMD equipment grant, is there any information on the second and third year funding?

Ghilarducci - They are going to combine the funding to move it forward rapidly. Following the initial grant, there will be two \$7 million dollar payments that will be combined. All assessment information was due to the DOJ by November 15, 2001. Some payments may be received within the next month. A notification will be made when the money is received. The distribution will be made through the counties.

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIRE
SUPPRESSION ASSISTANCE (5 PARTY) – Kim Zagaris**

The committee met on January 4th, and will meet again in February. We have a number of issues to discuss, and need to revise the language in the agreement. We will mail an addendum to the agreement to the fire service while the new agreement is being reworked.

Hank Weston – There are four issues pending: 1) Salaried employees reimbursement, 2) Rotation of crews, need detailed language to specify how the to reimburse departments, 3) Providing sleeping accommodations, and 4) the issue of Retroactivity. This involves contract changes while personnel are on a fire assignment, generally a June – July issue. Our goal is to get these issues resolved before next fire season. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2002. CDF has been able to work out the payment issues from the Leonard and the Ponderosa Fires.

Jim Wright – At the time of the meeting we had received some replies from the letter (salaried employee overtime issue) regarding the invoices being audited. After talking with the 5 Party group, we are certain that the issues can be worked out following the salary survey information that was submitted to OES. This information had to be certified that the salaries submitted were in fact the true salaries. Almost all of the outstanding invoices have been processed. We have the obligation to audit invoices we receive from fire agencies, and we will continue to do that.

Glen Newman – The main issue is some personnel, who are exempt from overtime, are submitting invoices (computed at overtime rate) when they go to a wildland fire. These salaries are negotiated by the Fire Chief and the City Manager: resulting in a requirement for CDF (and others) to pay a salary in which they had no input in the process. This gives the impression that they are profiting from their response to fires. As a State organization, we must monitor our costs,

And if we believe they are excessive, we may not be able to use the personnel from these agencies under those circumstances. We have no control over the side agreements but it affects assistance by hire and the mutual aid system.

Zagaris: We have processed several invoices where some personnel were being paid at different rates. A person may have been on a CDF overhead team as an exempt employee, working under a negotiated rate with CDF. Then, the same employee responds under the 5 Party Agreement, in an overhead assignment (as a strike team leader or a division/group supervisor) and is paid at a higher rate (submitted by his agency).

The CDF gets the invoice and discovers that the same person is being paid at two different rates. This alerted CDF to the problem. The 5 Party Agreement will review the salary survey the next time they are mailed out. OES will adjust the way we calculate rates for some personnel, and will monitor the salary survey, and the invoices, as they are received.

Hank Weston: Copies of the contracts were sent to me, following the meeting. The language regarding rotation of crews will have to be clarified. Rotation of crews must have forest agency approval. The current requirement is seven days.

Kim Zagaris: If a fire department would like to rotate every 3 days, it will be at there expense.

Glen Newman: Some other issues may have to be addressed if they are a part of a department MOU.

Kim Zagaris: Re: crew rotation it is best if the Strike Team Leader remains at the incident.

Hank Weston: There is a box for salary or exempt that must be checked.

Kim Zagaris: Time and half for who has to fill, it is intended the cover the salary for the fill behind and then the actual overtime, not the straight time. Intent was to reimbursement.

Glen Newman: In most smaller agencies the staff officers are Chief Officers. Chief Officers should be only be used as strike team leaders. Will try to loosen the wording in the Strike Team Leader Handbook to allow other ranks to go on these assignments

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE REPORT- CICCIS – John Tennant

The program will be implemented May 1st. This will be the beginning of the historical recognition period. In February we will mail out a program description to all fire departments in the state (CD ROM and binders). The orientation sessions will begin this week, and eight orientation sessions are scheduled (one in each of the regions and two trade shows). The actual dates and times will be announced as soon as they are set. Representatives from OES and State Fire Service Training, Pat Cooney and Art Coda, will meet to schedule those dates after they contact the Regional Coordinators.

Recruitment for Advisory Board Member Vacancies – Kim Zagaris. (Roger Purdie & Douglas Sporleder)

Director Dallas Jones will be advertising for these openings by sending a recruitment letter within the next two weeks. It will take approximately 30 days for this process. When this is completed we will bring the names to the board.

FIRESCOPE FOG ELECTRONIC VERSION (ICS 420-1) – Kim Zagaris

The electronic version of the ICS 420-1 has been sent to National Fire Academy. Due to some graphic compatibility issues, the process took longer than expected. There have been additional requests for the electronic version. I made it clear to the OCC staff that is a one-time request only for the National Fire Academy. Any new requests will have to come back to the Board. NFA also requested ICS forms and they will be sent after they have been cleaned up (conversion from MAC to Word). Once a Deputy Chief is assigned to the OCC we will be able to resolve many of the issues regarding document control.

STATEWIDE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESOURCE FUNDING & US&R- Bill Bamattre

This is an initiative that has been on going, we met with the Cal Metro Chief's about putting together an initiative that would have statewide application in enhancing the capabilities of HAZ MAT as well as US&R. What we wanted to do is package a proposal it in such a way that it would get legislature and the Governor's approval. Each Metro Chief was asked for their input regarding what to include in the initiative. The California Seismic Safety Commission was working on a similar initiative, with additional requests for radio communications and other equipment. With the two having similar goals, we combined them. They have also proposed including the communications package and to provide funding for six new OES fire facility-training centers. They moved the OES fire training facility to an existing bond. The component still moving forward will provide response equipment for weapons of mass destruction incidents, personal protection equipment for all fire service first responders statewide, and funding to purchase seventy-five medium rescue companies (apparatus and equipment only). The estimated cost is \$700,000 per company. That would cover all six OES regions, based on two units per one million population. A similar request for

hazardous material apparatus equipment has also been proposed. Also proposed are Technical Decontamination Units, for areas with a population exceeding 200,000, at a cost around \$170,000 each.

STATEWIDE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESOURCE FUNDING & US&R- Bill Bamattre

A training package was included in the proposal. The next step is to move it forward to obtain approval from the state.

We want the legislature to sponsor it; we might have a great deal of support many members are willing to carry it. Time is an issue, as a response to the September 11. I would like to thank all the Metro Chiefs who have been working on this with us.

2002 OLYMPICS- Salt Lake City – Kim Zagaris

OES Fire and Rescue is working with FEMA to deploy six US&R teams to the Olympics during the six weeks in February. LA City is one of six qualified US&R WMD teams in the country. They will deploy, via ground travel, on or about the 1st of February. These teams have about 70 personnel, with additional fire personnel to assist in driving. All three FEMA IST teams will be deployed. Of the 109 IST personnel, 46 are from California. Monday (January 14th) FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh assigned sixteen personnel to assist in the reimbursement process for the FEMA teams that responded to WTC and Pentagon on 9 -11. I hope the same personnel are used to provide reimbursement for the Olympics. Some sponsoring chief's may be able to make a VIP visit, but we will need coordination of the credentialing. FEMA was scheduled to have an after-action meeting but it was canceled due to the 9-11 incident. FEMA will reschedule a meeting in April. US&R Teams will be gone 7 to 10 days, longer if travel is by ground. Los Angeles, Phoenix and Nebraska will be driving to Salt Lake to insure that they have their equipment when the games begin.

OPERATION TEAM REPORTS - none

TASK FORCE REPORT

The \$1,008.81 remaining after the FIREScope 30 Year Celebration was donated to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. Some of the people who worked very hard on the 30th Celebration: IC Neil Honeycutt (OES), Bill Plough (CDF) worked diligently on the contributions, Keith Metcalfe (CDF), Sandy Wells (VNC) designed the journals for the 30th, Steve Martin (LAC) and Tony Marrone (LAC) worked hard to make the 30th barbeque at Camp 2 a success, and Jean Colyer (OES). We are moving ahead on the Multi-Casualty Branch revisions, the Mission and Vision statements, and the FIREScope Strategic Plan. We are discussing the process to submit articles for publication. I have a question: How should we credit the author? (See below) The Task Force has completed the Fire Line EMT and would like to forward it to NWCG. We have a number of

vacancies, and coupled with a high absenteeism rate from a few agencies, creating problems in getting our work accomplished.

Regarding the HAZ mat specialist group. The actual membership is 4 members.

Marketing issue: We would like direction from the Board on the possibility of submitting articles for publication to inform others about what FIREScope is all about. We want to dispel the image of being isolated. Our goal is to explain FIREScope, ICS, MACS, and other aspects of FIREScope. Our question is should the credit show the author, the Board, or both?

Freeman: The work of the author should be recognized, and this would help with getting others to participate. A designated person from the Board will review articles; it is not practical to wait for a Board meeting to get approval.

Motion: Made by Hank Weston to have author's name on the articles and that the approval will be by chair or designee, when an article is written for an Official publication. Bill Bamattre seconded the motion.

Motion passed

**Motion made by Chip Prather, seconded by Hank Weston to send the Fire line EMT position description to NWCG
Motion passed.**

We need your support to have members of your organization to attend Task Force meetings. We need to have the vacancies filled for the northern California positions; this is based on the standard that the Task Force should reflect the Board.

OES FIRE & RESCUE BRANCH REPORT– KIM ZAGARIS

Mike McGroarty the new Deputy Chief for Special Operations just returned from a trip to India. I will fill the other Deputy Chief positions, then work to fill the Assistant Chief positions. Fire Branch has moved into the new headquarters at Mather, with CDF headquarters dispatch personnel joining OES by the end of the month. We hope to have all functions in place by late March, ready to respond before fire season.

FIRE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM REPORT (Update) – KIM ZAGARIS

Last two engines will be delivered soon. Weststate is delivering them. The final bids for the Water Tenders will in soon. We received two protests from vendors.

They will have a chance to bid. Bids should be in by the 18th of January. One Communications Unit, Com. Stat 6 housed in LAC is up for replaced; will only be able to replace one. When we get additional, money will want to replace the Com. Stat 5 housed at central regional communication.

FIRESCOPE REPRESENTATIVE TO NWCG TRAINING – KIM ZAGARIS

Cary Eckard will report the Operations Teams on recommendations for this position. The Operations Teams will submit names to Cary Eckard. Geoff Wilford, Kern County, attended the December meeting. Stewart Gary may also have a name to submit a name for recommendation.

Question: How often does the NWCG meet? They meet about every four months. Until we can complete this discussion at the April meeting I would like to have Geoff Wilford continue to attend the NWCG meetings. Agreed.

Appointment of the FIRESCOPE Representative for NWCG position will be added to the April Board of Directors Agenda.

OES REGIONAL COORDINATORS REPORT

P. Michael Freeman: Region I.

We are working on web page for Region 1, and updating our regional equipment resource list. No meeting has been scheduled for the up coming fire season to this date.

Dave Driscoll: Region II

We had a lot of rain, 150 –200% of normal rainfall, Santa Rosa 25 inches normal about 131/2 has had Normal fire season, no flooding, Region meeting on January 30. Marin County Fire Chief Stan Rowen has retired. Ken Mancusko has been appointed in his place. CDF/SFM Arson Bomb Unit teaching staff bomb awareness. We had a major fire at UC Santa Cruz, one HAZMAT team mobilized.

Jeff Jones: Region III

Are having many staff changes, from our Operations Section in the command center, Steve Peterson moving to Lassen Modoc for a Unit Chief position. He will be replaced by Ken McCain comes from Tehama–Glen Unit. Alex Stovall will be going to the Siskiyou Ranger Unit. I will retire and will be working on the transition to the next person. The California Critical Incident Management Course is coming through the (NASF) National Association of State Forester, February 24 through March 1, 2002 in Redding. Five teams will go through the training, from the Western State Region of NASF, two from CDF, and one from Montana, Washington, and Oregon. The training will be at Redding the Northern California training center at the CDF\USFS Headquarters off Airport Road. In

addition, will be having the CDF Air Attack Work Shop March 12, 13, & 14, 2002, in Sacramento.

Hank Weston: Region IV

Due to an issue that occurred on a recent incident, would recommend that the reissuing the Strike Team Behavior letter is need by Chief Zagaris. To restate our policy for OES strike teams protecting structures. The letter would address appropriate behavior for strike team members, and the way law enforcement deals with fire personnel.

At the Darby Fire some law enforcement personnel restrained fire personnel for over an hour while they were removing their equipment from a private residence, after the fire blew past the structure. The situation was tense, but was resolved when the homeowner returned. OES is fully aware of this incident.

Zagaris: We had an issue involving CDC where a Prison Engine was assigned to structure protection. CDC wanted the inmates to be in custody while not on duty, and wanted them in orange nomex (prison issue), they were in yellow nomex.

Weston: CDF will not have a preseason meeting with their Teams. Have found these are prefect opportunities to present these types of issues. This subject should be on the agenda for the preseason team meetings, for both CDF and USFS.

Freeman: Maybe a recap document with a list of the good bad and the ugly. This can be presented to the regional coordinators. Since the cost is prohibitive to have everyone in a meeting. All issues should be presented in a letter to all Fire Chiefs.

Zagaris: In Yosemite fire personnel gained entry to a private residence and made themselves at home. This behavior is not representative of the fire service.

Fred Bachelor for Tim Turner Region V

Steve Sunderland will be the Regional County Operational Coordinator.

Fred Bachelor : Region VI

A couple of wind events, with some rain, only one fire in December, it has been quite since then. Some controversy associated with that fire, resulting from the firefighters not putting a structure fire out while the parameter was burning.

FOREST AGENCIES UPDATE

Glen Newman: CDF – Lost 5.9 personnel years in administrative function not in fire protection. Budget reduced by 50 million in E-Fund. Department of Finance

told us that we could come back on a quarterly basis and ask for a deficiency appropriation. May be a better system since we are normally passed the 50 million budget.

It is not a budget reduction but we must reduce our budget by 20 million dollars and were giving a 20 million dollar worth reimbursement. This via reduction in SRA through and reimbursement in medical aids and house fires, and fire through contracting to local government. We are not budgeted based on the number of acres but for equipment. Unsure how to get 20 million dollars from local government for doing something they already are doing.

In response to these budget items the Director, Andrea Tuttle is in the process of forming two committees. An executive committee for the South, they will look at the budget. The second group will look at the SRA, because the definition SRA comes from the State Board of Forestry. This is not governed by CDF, they decide what is SRA. And you can't reduce acreage unless the criteria is changed for SRA. We are suggesting that the committee be a combination of CDF, OES, Cal Chief, and Fire District Association to get a broad group to take a look at it and help us. It affects all of us, and what we do as a fire service; we are looking at public policy. This must be accomplished by July 1, 2002. If it is not settled, after July 1, we will have a 20 million dollar budget redirection.

Glen retired as of December 31, 2001, back as an annuitant through the selection process until the position is filled. George Osborn has retired from the Unit Chief of Amador-El Dorado, and Rich Green is his replacement. Del Albright from Tuolumne-Calaveras has not chosen his replacement yet. We are well over 50% of our Chiefs are at or over retirement age.

Many of our Forester positions are funded out of FRIF (Forest Resource Improvement Fund), due to an injunction on timber harvesting; we do not have a way to fund these positions. Because our management plan on the Jackson State is current. If you cannot sell trees then you cannot get money to pay for positions. Trying to get loans, not sure when the injunction will be lifted. Even then that will take a while because must go to the process of bidding the trees out. That is an additional 11 million dollar hole in the budget. We have been enjoined from the VMP program, we are being sued by an environmental group, because we did not adequately address the affect to a landowner property, applying chemicals after a burn to keep the brush from returning.

We can still burn under the original Chaparral Management Plan, after some changes we can still can burn.

Attended the NASF committee meeting, in College Station, Texas. They voted to recommend to the NWCG that they not proceed with the ¼ turn hose coupling issue. This will be their recommendation to the NWCG. The committee did not have a representative from the West on the fire equipment working team; they

have added a position based on the lack of representation from the west. We will be looking for a permanent representative for the Fire Equipment Working Team since Glen has retired.

Looking forward to the move to the new OES Headquarters, this will assist with coordination of information to the Governor's Office.

We will have twelve of the S2 T's at the start of the season and 13 S2T's new ones, eventually we will have twenty-three, 97% in service last year with a higher reliability. CDF had a disastrous year with a mid-air accident in Yukea which killed two pilots is still under investigation, but it appears be simply that they didn't see each other. Another incident occurred where the pilot landed a plane without landing gear in San Luis, and a new S2T was damaged in San Diego when a pilot skimmed some trees and tore off landing gear and the door.

CDF is in the process of leased purchasing a King Air Aircraft; it is a line scan unit infrared aircraft, it also acts as an all weather aircraft. Budget will be an issue as to whether we will be able to keep the lease in the light of our budget situation. It can since temperature differences, can see through fire, chemical releases, leaks in underground pipelines, sudden oak death detection. There is nothing like it in California that can serve through out the state.

George Motschall: USFS.

The Forest Service is trying to operate at MEL Level; all resources are still available for this coming fire season. USFS has a 3-year goal, our goal this year is to get to 95% of our total MEL. This will equate to more engines and more crews available. We are also working with some budge issues as well. Team meetings are the first week in May, any one wanting to be there are welcome. The first part of July our Operations Office at Mather is moving to McClellan. Our Apprenticeship Academy will be based there; this will be the National Academy for federal agencies at that facility. Should be up and totally running by the first part of July 2002, that will make meeting rooms an training rooms available.

Les Marzaratti: BLM

We have committed law enforcement to some key dams and parks protection sites. Working very hard with personnel on the employee retention issue, offering incentives like college, not limiting to biological sciences. Unable to compete with salaries hoping that the incentives will assist in retaining some of our seasonal firefighters. Budget in the Interior side is at 80%, which is 10 year high for our budget. We have staffed our equipment fully, but whether we will be able to retain our staff is an issue.

Our Helicopter in San Bernardino County, 544 Apple Valley is going to be repelled qualified, will be having a repel show again this year. Have completed the hiring of two ex National Weather Service Meteorologist, one at NOPS and

one in SOPS, they are now BLM employees. Weather service no longer has any Weather Service Personnel.

Dave Carlson - California Fire Chiefs.

Key issue for CAL Chief and one of our goals is to speaking with one voice. Membership is up about 20%, which adds up to about 450 members. Another one of our goals was to develop a web site to increase communications throughout the fire community. Develop better relationships with Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association. Have averted some serious issues and was able to help with some legislation they were seeking, by providing them with some knowledge to assist with legislation. The conferences have been very successful; the next conference will be in Ontario in October 2002. The Strategic Planning Workshop in Dixon on January 23-24, 2002. Technology needs to be addressed to assist in our goals. The vision process on the EMS, and does it still needs to be supported. Questions for the Dixon meeting please contact your representative to bring those issues to the meeting. I am the first two-year president, will be in until our next conference in October 2002. The incoming president will be Bill McCammon, Chief in Alameda County Fire.

OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Next Board of Directors meeting will be April 10, 2002 at the OES Headquarters, Mather.

Motion to adjourn made by Glen Newman; second by Dennis Smith.
Time 1:30pm.