



FIRESCOPE



**CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Burbank Fire Department Training Center
January 13, 2010**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS:

Michael Freeman, Los Angeles Co. FD, Cal EMA Region I, Chair
Bob Roper, Ventura County FD, Vice-Chair
Kim Zagaris, Cal- EMA, OES Fire and Rescue, Executive Coordinator
Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda County FD, County Fire Departments North
Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters' Association
Craig Barnes, US Bureau of Land Management
Jim Wilson, Mariposa County FD, Volunteer Fire Departments
Chuck Knapp, California State Firefighters' Association
Nick Dunn, Kern County FD, County Fire Departments South
Ken Wagner, Roseville FD, City Fire Departments North
Richard Webb, Linda FPD, Fire Districts North
Pat Dennen, San Bernardino Co. FD, Cal EMA Region VI, Fire Districts South
Sue Husari, US National Park Service

GUESTS:

Ken Pimlott, (Representing Director Walters), Cal Fire
Mark Schmitt, (Representing Chief Dyer), Santa Barbara County FD, Operations Team Secretary
Mike Richwine (Representing Acting SFM Hoover) Cal Fire/SFM
Mario Rueda, (Representing Chief Peaks), Los Angeles FD, Operations Team Vice-Chair
Tom Drayer, Cal EMA, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue, FIRESCOPE Program
Dan Drake, Orange Co. Fire Authority, Task Force Vice-Chair
Dave Rocha, Alameda Co. FD, Operations Team
Bob Doyle, Glendale FD
Matt Bettenhausen, Secretary, Cal EMA
Deneen Phillips, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue, FIRESCOPE Program
Chad Stokes, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue
Ish Messer, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue
Ramiro Rodriguez, Cal Fire/SFM, FIRESCOPE Task Force,

WELCOME AND LOGISTICS:

Burbank Fire Department Training Center, Burbank CA

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Chief Freeman

- *Action Item- Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve minutes of the October 9, 2009 meeting minutes.*

California Volunteers Report

Secretary Karen Baker

The California Volunteers Disaster Corps is a state-sponsored initiative design to integrate, strengthen, and unify disaster volunteer programs under one name, one identity, and one brand. It is on schedule to launch in 2010 and today I would like to share with you all a few points and issues regarding the implementation of this new agency.

The purpose of the California Volunteer Disaster Corps is to organize the “world of volunteers” and will provide distinct values to response professionals. Our eventual goals are to type volunteers into 4 specific categories based on capabilities and security levels and I will send out the typing diagram to the Board. The mobilization of volunteers shall be coordinated thru the local EOC as they will not be status or entered into ROSS. This agency will provide no oversight to volunteer firefighters.

- **Action Item-** *At the request of Secretary Baker, the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors will craft a supportive statement on behalf of the concept of organizing and regulating volunteer groups within the State.*

CAL EMA SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Bettenhausen - Cal EMA

Thus far, approximately 16% of the grant funds awarded have been received into the State from the federal government; with about 26 million dollars coming in thru the EMPG grant. 390 million dollars are available for 2010 via the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program; and 420 million dollars is available from the SAFER grants; while we have contributed one million dollars to upgrade our state’s hazardous materials teams.

The urban area security imitative has generated funding and we were able to get the city of Bakersfield recognized as an “Urban Area” and capture the associated grant funding that comes with that.

Within Cal EMA as with all State agencies, the budget has been taking front and center with the Governor’s recent announcement to issue an Executive Order reducing each Agency’s workforce by 5%. In light of the fact that the current furlough program will end as scheduled on 6-30-10

The Governor has also requested that State employees continue their contributions to solving our State budget crisis as we all approach another challenging year. A few of the Governor’s other proposals which are projected to save the State 2.5 billion dollars (1.4 billion dollars to General Fund); and subject to legislative approval are:

- 5% increase in all employees’ monthly pension contribution to CalPERS;
- 5% reduction in all employees’ monthly salary

Both proposals, if approved will take effect July 1, 2010.

CAL EMA SECRETARY REPORT (continued)
Secretary Bettenhausen - Cal EMA

Currently, Cal EMA has assigned 16 of our fleet total of 18 urban rescue trailers.

As you are all aware by now, the Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) came one vote short of what was needed to pass. The Governor will continue to include the ERI in his agenda and is proposing to hold a special session to get it passed. As a recap, the ERI proposes a 4.8% emergency response surcharge on all new or renewed commercial and residential fire or multi-peril insurance premiums in California and this revenue would be directly allocated to local fire agencies, Cal-FIRE and Cal-EMA for the express purpose of funding critical emergency mutual aid response and support the purchasing of equipment and other needed resources.

On November 23, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger nominated State Senator Abel Maldonado (R-San Luis Obispo) to the position of Lieutenant Governor.

The Governor has issued an Executive Order keeping Blue Ribbon Commission in place.

CAL FIRE UPDATE
Chief Pimlott (Representing Director Walters)

Director Walter would like to send his regards. The Department is currently working towards the Director's confirmation which should take place within the next couple of weeks.

We have appointed three more unit chiefs to our department.

We are going out to the bid process to get another large air tanker by mid June.

Due to some conflicts with SPB over our exam process, we are in the process of putting together a new fire captain examination. We would like to get the exam in place before our seasonal firefighter hires.

For those who may not have heard, Cal/OSHA recently adopted a new standard, T8 CCR § 5199, regulating employee exposure to aerosol transmissible diseases (ATDs). These diseases can be spread through the air in the form of small particles or droplets. Influenza, tuberculosis, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) are just a few examples of aerosol transmissible diseases. The standard became effective August 5, 2009; for this reason there is a mandate to upgrade from the N95 mask that our firefighters currently wear to a P100 mask. We are currently working on the possibility of seeking variance while we determine the cost, a funding source and the availability of the newer mask.

The NASF met recently and there was a lot of discussion surrounding fires that come off of Federal land.

We have been working with CDF and San Diego State University on a 4-person staffing study in comparison to 3.0 staffing on wildland engines.

CAL FIRE UPDATE (continued)

As the State considers the possibility of releasing up to 41,000 low-level inmates, we are examining the impacts to our Camp program and looking at solutions to maintain an effective State-wide fire crew response.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE

Chief Richwine (Representing Acting SFM Hoover)

The building standards commission recently approved the residential sprinklers ordinance in California which will affect all new construction.

We have completed the Fire Hazard Zone mapping project.

The State-wide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2010 and they will be hearing the final proposals as they relate to the Fire Officer and Chief Officer Certification programs. Once approved and with the assistance of a grant, we are hoping to have all of the new courses out and ready to go within 2-years.

Combined with the assistance provided by Cal EMA, we have recently completed our Rescue Systems I and Rescue Systems II courses.

And again, with Cal EMA's assistance, we are finishing with our all-hazard courses while we continue our work with the video simulations to support those classes.

CICCS

Chief Richwine (Representing Acting SFM Hoover)

Progress continues on the California 310-1 with the CICCS group meeting on January 19, 2010 to discuss NIMS requirements and certificates.

Finally, due to the Governors Solar Initiative, we posted new guidelines to our website.

CFAA UPDATE

Chief Wagner

The final version of the CFAA document was sent to all the signatory agencies for approval and has been signed.

An item that we are still attempting to address is an appropriate standardized formula for support equipment. What you'll see in the Rate Letter this year will be that the agency can use the same rates that were used last year as we are trying to get a formula in place that may be replicated; and can then be included in the exhibits of the CFAA at the annual update.

Our next meeting will be February 19, 2010. The Forest Service wants to address a couple of items at this meeting regarding the Exhibits with the CFAA as the reimbursement rates for support equipment still needs to be addressed as we have not made any adjustments to them in a couple of years.

EMS UPDATE

Cal Chiefs and California Professional Firefighters have issued a White Paper illustrating the California Fire Service's position on Emergency Medical Services Statutory Roles and Responsibilities primarily dealing with 201 rights and exclusive operating areas. We have received consensus to put together a subcommittee to further study these issues. We have asked for an extension on the EMS guidelines process and will be holding a summit for the stakeholders within the coming months. My hope for 2010 is that we come to resolution on this item.

As a result of AB 511 quality assurance fees for Medi-Cal have increased. We have Chief Pete Lawrence from Oceanside FD representing Cal Chiefs on a subcommittee we've established to study these increases and the impact to the fire service. As of now, we have not taken a position on this issue.

As a reminder, the EMT 2010 project spoke of by Dr. Tharatt a few meetings back is set to go into effect July 1, 2010.

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE REPORT

Chief Gilbert

In the interest of time I have recommended that we form a subgroup to further discuss the items listed in the Blue Ribbon Fire Task Force's "Critical Recommendations" dated 01/18/08; and that by February 1st of this year that that this committee review the document and be prepared to comment if items need to be changed. We hope to bring back a more polished report and I would like the subgroup to make recommendations back to the Board for our next meeting in April.

IAFC WILDLAND COMMITTEE REPORT

Chief Roper

I-Chiefs met last week in Orlando and examined the "Ready, Set, Go!" program. We have identified nine departments within the Nation to beta test the program and its acceptance is moving forward.

In October of this year Congress passed the Flame Act. This act requires that federal fire agencies, with solicitation from their state and local counterparts to construct a cohesive policy as it relates to fire suppression policies; and that this series of policies be completed by October, 2011. This is a fairly quick turnaround of possibly merging federal, state and local fire policies and it remains to be seen how this document, once completed will impact fiscal reimbursement practices down the road.

In a related note, I-Chiefs is considering forming a standing Reimbursement Committee to provide recommendations back on all hazards reimbursement issues.

CWCG UPDATE

Sue Husari

Our meeting was yesterday and CWCG has made the decision to drop federal IMT 2 due to staffing issues and have since sent each team member a letter notifying them what was going on. There was a later conference call regarding moving the people on that team to other teams and we have asked those affected members to reapply.

CWCG UPDATE (continued)

Sue Husari

The CWCG Operations Team has been working on the Standard Operations process and spoke of the State IC meeting that is coming up. They also discussed the plans for the overall IMT meeting that is coming up in Reno.

As mentioned previously, the US Forest Service has stated that they are looking for some changes in both the CFAA and CFMA and we will take care of the concerns involving the CFAA before we begin work on the CFMA; but are looking to have an updated CFMA agreement in place by 2012.

MACS 410-4 REVISION

All

The draft revision of the MACS 410-4, "FIRESCOPE Articles of Organization and Procedures" was discussed and reviewed by the group relative to the effected changes to the BOD voting status of both California Professional Firefighters and California State Firefighters Association.

It was moved and seconded that the board will adopt the document with the changes.

- **Action Item-** *Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve the draft MACS 410-3 as presented.*

FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM/TASK FORCE REPORT

Chief Drake (Representing Chiefs Stone and Pierce)

Field Operations Guide (ICS 420-1)

The 2010 FOG review and revision continues. The Task Force will be completing and forwarding a list of changes to the Operations Team for approval. It is expected that the document will be ready for Board of Director's approval at the April 2010 meeting. The FOG books will have a cover date of July 2010.

Structure Protection Guidelines

The Task Force has completed the Board of Director's assignment and forwarded a draft document to the Operations Team for review, edits and approval. The annual joint Operations Team/Task Force meeting this month in Shell Beach will provide an opportunity for review and discussion. It is expected that the draft document will be ready for Board review and Approval at the April 2010 meeting.

FIRESCOPE 410-3- Red Flag Criteria

At this time, Predictive Services Specialist Group is still working with the National Weather Service to agree on the proposed Red Flag criteria changes. Meetings are currently scheduled to work toward a consensus document. The Operations Team expects to have this document to the Board of Director's for review at the April 2010 meeting.

FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM/TASK FORCE REPORT
Chief Drake (Representing Chiefs Stone and Pierce)

Upcoming Meetings

January, 2010- Operations Team/Task Force- Shell Beach

February, 2010- Task Force- Riverside County

March, 2010- Task Force- Santa Clara County

April, 2010- Operations Team- Conference Call

April, 2010- Task Force- Ventura County

CAL EMA/OES FIRE AND RESCUE UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

The agency and Secretary Bettenhausen continue to work cooperatively with the Fire and Rescue Branch as to our budget issues and we just made an offer to fill the Deputy Chief, Fleet Services position which has been vacant at HQ. The announcement as to who was appointed will be made shortly.

We as a group need to go thru the California Fire and Rescue mutual aid document as it was last updated in 1988.

OLD BUSINESS

All

Chief Dennen- Health and Safety Code 14825

(a) Fire companies in unincorporated towns may be organized by filing a certificate signed by the foreman or presiding officer and by the secretary, with the Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator in the same county, or other county agency as designated by ordinance of the county board of supervisors.

(b) Fire companies in incorporated cities may be organized, subject to any local ordinance established pursuant to Section 14832, by filing a certificate signed by the foreman or presiding officer and by the secretary, with the city council or other agency as designated by ordinance of the city council and with the Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator in the same county as the city.

We do have some work that we need to be done and it has to do with Private Fire companies that are allowed to establish themselves within your fire districts as long as the health and safety codes are met. Assemblyman Jeffries introduced a bill last year which was enacted which said that once they do meet the 14825 requirements, that they may establish legitimacy once they have registered with the Operational Area Coordinator.

So what we have done, is followed the provisions and created a process that will hopefully utilize though OES State-wide, how to track these volunteer fire companies. We have completed the volunteer fire company registry program online and we are waiting for approval. We hope to have this online by June 15th on the FIRESCOPE website, in order that volunteer fire companies may the go on online to their volunteer fire companies' status.

OLD BUSINESS

All

Chief Dennen- Health and Safety Code 14825

- **Action Item-** Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve the volunteer fire company online process as presented and to post it to the FIRESCOPE website; and have Chief Zagaris distribute a letter of direction to the California mutual aid system.

NEW BUSINESS

All

ROUNDTABLE

All

AJOURNMENT

- **Action Item-** Adjournment Motioned and Seconded at 1230 hrs.

NEXT FIRESCOPE BOD CONFERENCE CALL: March 25, 2010 @ 1600 hrs.

NEXT FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING: April 14, 2010 @ Cal EMA HQ, Mather, CA