



FIRESCOPE

CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Cal EMA Headquarters
3650 Schriever Ave
Mather, CA 95655

July 11, 2012, 10:30 A.M.

Members Present

Mike Dyer – Chairperson, FIRESCOPE BoD, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Kim Zagaris – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA
Brian Cummings – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Ken Pimlott – CAL FIRE
Mark Lorenzen – Ventura County Fire Department
Chuck Knapp – California State Firefighters Association
Tanya Hoover – Office of State Fire Marshal
Jim Wilson – Mariposa County Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Departments
Brian Marshall – Kern County Fire Department
Willie Thompson – (In for Joseph Millar) USDA Forest Service
Mario Rueda – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Richard Webb – Linda Fire Protection District
Bill Metcalf – Fire Districts South
Ralph Domanski – FIRESCOPE, Cal EMA
Lou Paulson – California Professional Firefighters
Sue Husari - National Parks Service, (sub for BLM)
Daryl Osby – Los Angeles County Fire Department
Keith Richter – Orange County Fire Authority
Mark D'Amrogi – City Fire Departments North
Col. Jeffery Smiley – California National Guard
Dave Rocha – Alameda Fire, Counties North
Dale Hutchinson – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA Region VI

Guests Present

Mark Ghilarducci – Secretary, Cal EMA
Mike Dayton – Undersecretary, Cal EMA
Stephen Sellers – Assistant Secretary, Cal EMA
Bob Wyman – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA
Lorenzo Gigliotti – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA
Chad Stokes – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA
Brian Woodbeck – Fire and Rescue, Cal EMA
Jon Kolman – Fire & Rescue HazMat, Cal EMA,
Andy McMurray – CAL FIRE
Bill Holmes – CAL FIRE
Janet Upton – CAL FIRE
Janet Barentson – CAL FIRE
Chuck Butler – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Tracey Hansen – Consumnes Fire
Gene Gantt – California State Firefighters Association
Jim Middleton – Mariposa County Fire

Welcome, Introductions, Logistics

1. Chief Dyer introduces himself and welcomes the Board members and guests to the FIREScope BoD meeting.

Approval of April 11, 2012 Minutes

ACTION ITEM – Motion made to approve the April 11, 2012 FIREScope BoD Meeting Minutes. Chief Knapp seconded. Motion approved.

Cal EMA Secretary's Report

2. Secretary Ghilarducci thanks the Board members for the well-wishes he has received over the past few months in regard to his illness.
3. Secretary Ghilarducci discussed the following:
 - Significant changes have been made in the way CalEMA interacts with its stakeholders, and one objective of his will be streamlining this process in order to make it more efficient.
 - In order to track and assign resources in a more efficient manner, CalEMA is in the process of implementing the WebEOC platform that will replace the Resource Information Management System (RIMS) currently being used.
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under the National Response Framework (NRF), has implemented Emergency Support Functions (ESF) which details the rules and responsibilities for agencies. California is launching a similar initiative called Emergency Functions (EF).
 - Come election time in November, Secretary Ghilarducci stated that if the Governor's tax initiative does not pass, CalEMA might have to take another look at cuts within programs and departments and that with the first round of cuts; approximately twenty-five million dollars had been taken from CDAA and Operations.
 - Secretary Ghilarducci stated that he would like to see California leading the way not only in emergency services, but also within fire and rescue, and that a review might be in order to determine where California is at in regard to achieving its objectives.
4. Chief Dyer stated that with the amount of experience that the Board members have, and together with the information obtained from the workshop that was held in San Leandro, he believes that FIREScope can fully meet Secretary Ghilarducci's mission objectives.

CALFIRE / SFM UPDATE

5. Chief Pimlott stated that based on the budget that was recently passed, there been no real changes to CALFIRE's budget other than what had already been previously discussed, but that there are a number of items contingent upon the November tax initiative, including a ten-million dollar trigger cut should the tax initiative not pass.
6. From an operational perspective, Chief Pimlott stated that CALFIRE is at full staffing on all resources, including aviation assets, and adds that 2012 totals are just short of 2,900 fires, which is approximately 1,200 fires ahead of last year's totals, and ahead of the five year average.
7. Chief Pimlott stated that there was an incident with a Mendocino unit helicopter performing a "hard landing" attributed on mechanical failure, just short of its assigned helibase in Howards Forest. No injuries were reported, but significant structural damage had been done to the craft, and a complete overhaul will need to be performed with no ETA on when it will be back in service.

8. Chief Pimlott stated that the Mill Fire incident located in the Mendocino National Forest has entered into Unified Command, and that it has burned approximately 15,000+ acres and is 35% contained. The Sites Fire incident located near Maxwell has burned approximately 4,200 acres and is 70% contained.
9. Chief Pimlott stated that during the first week of August, he is anticipating the Board of Equalization to start mailing out State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee invoices to homeowners in affected areas. In light of this, an informational flyer and hotline, along with a website (www.firepreventionfee.org) have been created to help answer any questions that may arise from this fee.
10. Chief Hoover stated that in order to have the Office of State Fire Marshal's office pick up any unused fireworks from departments that have collected them, a Fireworks Disposal Form (available on the SFM website) needs to be filled out and submitted to the OSFM office. Chief Hoover added that as part of an agreement with the Department of Toxic Substance and Control (DTSC), her office will be coordinating training classes regarding the safe disposal of fireworks, and has requested that a centralized location within California be agreed upon in order to provide training with the most agencies/departments across the state at one time.
11. Chief Hoover stated that the California All-Incident Reporting Systems has hit a milestone with over two-million reports having been submitted, considering that in the past, there have always been issues with having individuals report incidents. Currently, Florida leads the nation with 2.5 million incidents reported, but Chief Hoover is confident that California will surpass this.
12. Chief Hoover mentioned that State Fire Training has been engaged in discussion concerning the "L" classes for Type III Teams, and it is expected that this position training will need to go through FIRESCOPE, STEAC, and then Stakeholders before being implemented. Also mentioned, for those departments that have instructors, they will need to take an instructor update class and if anyone would like more information concerning this training, more information can be found on the SFM website.
13. Chief Hoover mentioned that the Structural Collapse class has been approved by STEAC, and that the Instructor Approval Process is moving forward as intended.
14. Regarding CICCIS, Chief Hoover stated that over five-hundred reviews have been completed, and she is happy to report that they have been signed off, with letters being sent out to those involved.

EMS Update

15. ***(Chief Hansen gave a brief rundown on 201 and 224 rights, and discussed the various challenges that have been faced since its inception as the EMS Act of 1980).***
16. Chief Hansen stated that a committee, made up of key stakeholders, has been formed to help deal with the significant lawsuits and challenges that EMS has been faced with, and that this committee most recently met in May, and will meet again on July 12. She encourages anyone who would like to have more information concerning these issues, to contact their EMS Officer.
17. Chief Dyer asked the Board members if they had any suggestions as to what FIRESCOPE can do on behalf of the fire service, which would allow them to become more engaged in the EMS process. Chief Hansen stated that in the future, she hopes the EMS Commission and its subcommittee will provide access to their meeting notes and in doing so would help the Board more understand the Commissions general direction on these matters.
18. When asked if the Task Force that was working on this legislation has concluded, Chief Paulson stated that his organization has spent an inordinate amount of time attempting to get all parties involved "on the same page", but that in the end, these groups continued to have differing opinions and it was soon realized that it was futile effort to be a part of this process, and it was decided that his organization would prefer to not be involved with this piece of legislation anymore. He adds that his organization will still continue to be involved with individual member's rights and as a participant in the EMS Commission.

19. Chief Paulson stated that another problem he foresees, and that is happening all over California on a daily basis, are “third service” vendors contacting local municipalities and stating that they can reduce their labor costs by down-staffing local ambulance crews and placing their own employees in these positions. Because of this happening, Chief Paulson stated that legislation is being proposed in the form of a disclosure bill (AB 2389 Contractor Disclosure Requirements) that would require uniforms and badges to clearly identify the actual employer.
20. Chief Dyer asked Chief Hansen if it would be possible to have someone familiar with the “201 & 224 issues” brief the Board members at future meetings. Chief Hansen stated that there are a couple of individuals that she has in mind that are quite familiar with these issues, and would provide the Board with the names of the Cal-Chief’s who have advised the Commission in the past. She added that because of the budget issues a lot of departments are having, and the fact that approving funds for travel can be difficult, she recommended that these meetings be split with one held in the Northern part of the State, and one in the Southern to help offset some of the travel costs.
21. When asked if there are any informational documents concerning 201 & 224 that are available for individuals who may want to familiarize themselves with this, Chief Hansen stated that the Health & Safety Code under 201 & 224 is a good place to start, but that interpretations of these codes can vary widely depending on the individual.
22. Chief Zagaris asked Chief Hansen if they are currently seeking a qualified individual to fill the position that Chief Gilbert held on the EMS commission. Chief Hansen stated that they are actively looking and have submitted a list of names to the Governor’s Office. When asked who the EMS Commission favored, Chief Hansen stated that San Bernardino County Chief Mark Hartwig was their choice.

CFAA Update

23. Chief Wyman stated that the FIRESCOPE Working Group had recently reconvened in order to resolve any unfinished business from previous meetings, and he wanted to convey his appreciation for the individuals involved and their commitment to both the “financial” and “operational” side of the discussions that took place. He also stressed that the “decision makers” need to be more involved with these discussions.
24. Chief Wyman stated that the “12 Hour Free Period” is again being reviewed on whether it should be a 4 hour or 6 hour free period, and added that during previous discussions with the BLM and BIA, they have stated that they would like to see this at zero hours, but either way, the Working Group will need to review this topic more thoroughly.
25. Chief Wyman stated that at a previous CFAA meeting, discussion had taken place concerning the California Equipment Rate, but it was decided that this subject be tabled until a later date when more information most likely becomes available.
26. Chief Dyer asked Chief Wyman if he would be available to brief the Steering Committee concerning each of these items when the committee reconvenes.

Chief Dyer calls break @ 1135. Meeting resumes @ 1148

CWCG Update

27. Chief McMurray stated that there was a CWCG meeting on July 10th, 2012. Topics of discussion included:
 - The 520 & 620 calls for students have gone out.
 - There have been several safety alerts that have come out in regard to communications issues, and because of this, the “federal side” thought it would be best to place another representative on the FIRESCOPE Communications Group to help address these problems. He also adds there has been no new discussion in regard to creating a new communications group within CWCG.

- On the fire prevention side, Phyllis Banducci, who is the current Chairperson for the California Fire Alliance, gave a presentation concerning the possible move of the Fire Alliance to the CWCG Committee. Chief McMurray stated that there is a draft document concerning this transition if anyone is interested in it.
- The Joint IC's presented an issue paper recommending the creation of an Ad Hoc Emerging Technologies Committee to help with integrating data standards along with creating a common operating platform.
- Discussion took place in regard to federal teams and succession and currently, the Ops Group is in the process of creating data sets to coincide with NWCG's report concerning succession.
- Work on the 2012 Direct Protection Area (DPA) continues, and will likely be finished within the next few months.

IAFC Wildland Committee Report

28. *(Sue Husari discusses the different phases of the Cohesive Strategy, and references the document titled "Primary Alternatives and Performance Measures Summary", which is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet).* Ms. Husari adds that if anyone has any additional suggestions or feedback, or would like more information concerning the Cohesive Strategy, they can visit the Cohesive Strategy website at (<http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/>).

Election

29. Chief Dyer stated that with Chief Gilbert leaving his position within the fire service, there is a need to elect a new representative to the County Fire Department North position he held. Chief Zagaris stated that unless there was an urgent need to fill this position, the election for this position could be held at a later date.

ACTION ITEM – Chief Richter moves for the nomination of Chief Daryl Osby as the new FIRESCOPE Vice-Chairperson. Chief Cumming seconded. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPS Team / Taskforce Report

30. *(For the OPS Team/Task Force Report, Chief Rueda references the document titled "FIRESCOPE Operations Team/Task Force Report" that is included within the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet).*
31. Chief Rueda stated that the Ops Team/Task Force met on June 21st & 22nd in San Francisco, and one topic discussed, was the proposed terminology change from "Structure Protection" to "Structure Defense". He stated that there was no opposition to this proposed change.
32. Chief Rueda stated that the Ops Team anticipates the NFPA approving the recommended changes to the NFPA 1500 (Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, and 1561 (Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System, related to Firefighter Emergencies, Emergency Traffic, and Mayday. Based on the likelihood of these changes being approved, the Ops Team directed the Task Force to begin work on updating the ICS-910 (Firefighter Incident Safety & Accountability Guidelines) in order to reflect these changes.
33. Chief Rueda mentioned that the Field Operations Guide (FOG) is undergoing final formatting by Cal EMA staff and should be going out to bid in the near future.
34. Concerning the status of documents currently under development, Chief Rueda states:
- The Safety Specialist Group continues to work on a draft document of the All Hazard Response to Tactical Law Enforcement Incidents.
 - The Task Force has completed a PowerPoint training presentation on the WUI placard. This presentation has been approved by the Ops Team with only slight modifications. This presentation will be posted to the website in the near future.

- The EMS Specialist Group has completed its review of the EMSA Ambulance Strike Team Leader curriculum and at this time, is recommending that FIRESCOPE not create a curriculum nor adopt the EMSA curriculum.

35. Chief Rueda stated that at previous meetings, the Board had requested the creation of a “Technology Vision Statement.” ***(This document is titled “FIRESCOPE Technology Solutions for Fire Service Operations and Response” and is included within the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet).*** This statement also calls for the creation of an Information Technology Specialist Group within FIRESCOPE that specifically researches emerging technologies and operational needs within the Fire Service.

ACTION ITEM – Chief Knapp motions for the creation of a FIRESCOPE Information Technology Specialist Group. Chief Metcalf seconded. None opposed. Motion approved.

Chief Dyer recommended that an informational sheet be created and sent out that will outline the personnel requirements needed in order to be a part of this specialist group. Chief Zagaris stated that Chief’s Butler, Domanski and Rueda could create a document that will outline the above, and could be presented to the Board for later review.

36. Chief Rueda stated that at the San Francisco meeting, discussion took place concerning the use of a standardized template for the “plans of work” that the specialist groups are working on. This would be done to ensure a “standardized look” across all documents that are created.

37. Regarding the 201 & 224 issues, Chief Rueda stated that he will have the Task Force EMS Specialist Group work with the Cal-Chiefs on creating an informational document regarding these issues.

Chief Dyer calls lunch break @ 1218. Chief Dyer resumes meeting @ 1244

38. **Chief Butler gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding proper use of the WUI placard.**

ACTION ITEM – Sue Husari suggested that once the WUI placard documents are made available on the website, the Chairperson send a letter to the NWCG stating the possibility of making this program available nationally.

39. Chief Domanski stated that the initial review of the FOG by the Task Force has been completed and that the Ops Team has reviewed those changes and made minor edits, and that a final review by the Task Force will be conducted by a mid-to-late July timeframe. Chief Domanski stated that the version available for download from the FIRESCOPE website is in an 8.5” x 11.0” Microsoft Word format, but that the “pocket” version people are most familiar with, is in “Apple” format, and when attempting to convert the document from “Word” into “Apple” format, the text will convert correctly, but the graphics will not. Because of this issue, Chief Domanski states that it will take approximately an extra three weeks for the Document Control Technician to clean up, and will most likely have the final version completed toward the end of July.

Chief Domanski also mentioned that he will be contacting the State Printing Office (SPO) in the next few weeks to request a waiver that will allow the FOG to be printed elsewhere. The reason for this is that the SPO doesn’t like printing documents of a “non-standard”, and adds that he foresees no problem in having this waiver approved.

Chief Zagaris stated that he would ultimately like to start moving away from the “printed” version of the FOG and have it be completely electronic, which will allow timelier updates along with easier distribution.

40. Chief Domanski stated that digitizing the documents that make up the FIRESCOPE library has started. The scope of this project includes converting all existing and future FIRESCOPE documents into a digital format, which can then be made available on the Internet. He adds that approximately 15% of this project has been scanned with the remaining to be converted on a continuous basis.

41. Chief Domanski mentioned that the North Ops MACS has concluded and that he was extremely pleased with number of participants and overall how it went.

Old Business

42. Chief Zagaris stated that there continues to be ongoing issues in regard to the privatization of fire departments, and that the procedures and criteria for requesting a 3-Letter designator are available at the following Internet address: (http://www.firescope.org/macs_ids/macs-3-letter.htm).

ACTION ITEM – Chief Zagaris requests that the current policies for private fire departments be reviewed at the October FIRESCOPE BoD Meeting.

43. Chief Zagaris stated that at the next FIRESCOPE BoD meeting, the status of the Blue Ribbon Commission will need to be discussed but to the best of his knowledge, the Governor’s Executive Order is still currently in place and with the departure of Chief Gilbert, there is currently a vacancy as co-chair on the BRC.
44. Chief Dyer requests that the Board members review the “FIRESCOPE BoD Priorities” document (***this document is titled “FIRESCOPE BOD Priorities” and is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet***) and would like to have member input on any of the topics at a future BoD meeting, and adds that this document will also be sent out electronically to Board members.
45. Chief Zagaris stated that on July 9th, two of the engines ordered during the “10/11 year” had been delivered, and that they are still waiting for the remainder. He also stated that before the end of this year, the engine order for “11/12” will be placed.
46. Chief Zagaris stated that in the near future he will have a list regarding Assistant Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs positions that are available.
47. Chief Zagaris stated that only 366 respondents had replied back to the latest Mutual Aid Survey that was sent out (***This document is titled “FIRESCOPE Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid Survey 2012” and is included in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet***), and that this number is down from the 409 that had responded to the survey sent out six months earlier.

Chief Metcalf suggested that with the next Mutual Aid Survey, he would like to see within it, an option that shows the availability/trends of overhead and how it pertains toward assigning supervisory roles to resources. Chief Zagaris stated that he would like to keep the basic parts of the survey as is, but sees no issues with expanding its scope to include Board members suggestions.

New Business

48. Chief Rueda stated that hearings have been initiated in regard to helicopter noise in the San Fernando/Los Angeles area but that ultimately, he thinks public safety craft will be exempt from anything that might come from these hearings.
49. Chief Rueda stated that on the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors website, there is an item that discusses night flying guidelines.
50. Chief Gilbert has left the Alameda County Fire Department, and is working with a private company called Paramedics Plus as a Governmental Affairs Officer. Paramedics Plus is a private contractor to Alameda County and is based out of East Texas.
51. Chief Marshall stated that on July 6th, Kern County received the SAFER grant in the amount of seven-million dollars, and will allow the re-staffing of nine fire stations and open up ladder truck service at their industrial complex fire station.
52. Chief Dyer states that Santa Barbara has completed its career development guide, and has been tied in to their mentorship program.

53. Chief Dyer mentioned that the Santa Barbara aviation program has been turned over to the Sheriff's department and that two pilots on staff have been sworn in.
54. Col. Smiley stated that just recently, a MAFFS-equipped C-130 military aircraft had been lost in South Dakota, with preliminary reports suggesting that the cause of this accident was due to a micro-burst that affected the lead-in aircraft, and that a full investigation is currently underway.
55. Col. Smiley stated that the National Guard will not have any Chinooks available this year due to them being deployed to Afghanistan, but he did state that interstate coordination with Nevada and Oregon has been agreed upon in case the need for these craft arises.
56. Col. Smiley stated that the National Guard Firehawk helicopter is not in service at this time, but that it most likely will be available toward late summer.
57. Chief Dyer thanks the Board members for their attendance at these meetings, and for their input concerning the issues that face FIRESCOPE and the fire service in general, and adds that the next FIRESCOPE BoD meeting will take place on October 10, 2012 at the Burbank Fire Department Training Center.

Meeting adjourned @ 1450