

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT

FIRE CHIEF
William F. Maxfield

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March 20, 1989

TO: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
FIREScope BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: MEETING OF MARCH 15, 1989

As your new Chairman, I am pleased to enclose the minutes of the above-subject meeting. Thank you for your support and the confidence you have demonstrated in recommending my Chairmanship of this Committee.

Our past endeavors have been a tremendous benefit to the California Fire Service; but there remain a number of significant issues which will require our cooperative efforts in the future. I look forward to working with all of you.

Attached to these minutes are membership rosters of the NFPA 1500 Committee, the 1561 Sub-Committee and Sub-Committee on Communicable Diseases. In addition to submitting Public Comments, I urge you to address your concerns to these committee members, since they will vote on the total Standard.

Thank you again for a very productive meeting. Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 14, 1989, at OES Sacramento Headquarters, and will convene at 0930 hours.

Sincerely,

William F. Maxfield
(du)

WILLIAM F. MAXFIELD, Chief
Chairman, OES Fire and Rescue Service Advisory
Committee/FIREScope Board of Directors

attachments

Rec'd 3/24/89

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING OF MARCH 15, 1989 - OES SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Don Manning, Acting Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department
William Maxfield, 2nd Vice Chairman - Chief, Contra Costa CCFD
Loren Pettis, Chief - Montclair Fire Department
Larry Holms, Chief - Orange County Fire Department
Randy Coggan, Chief - Ventura County Fire Protection District
Michael Freeman, Chief - Los Angeles County Fire Department
Gary Costamagna, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department
Jim Brannon, Chief - Linda Fire Protection District
Ken Brown, Chief - Rio Linda-Elverta Fire District
Gary Tokle for James McMullen - State Fire Marshal
Ken Clark, Asst. Regional Forester, A&FM - U.S.F.S.
Dick Day, Deputy Director - Calif. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection
Bill Wirth, Act'g Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division

SPECIAL ADVISORS PRESENT

Harry Steimer - California State Firemen's Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Pat Kidder - U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Mgmt.
Chris Cameron - National Park Service
James McMullen - State Fire Marshal

SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT

Brian Hatch - California Professional Fire Fighters

OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Imboden - CDF - Mutual Aid Region II
Don Banghart - CDF - Mutual Aid Region III
Mike Dacy - Mutual Aid Region IV
Jim Dykes - CDF - Mutual Aid Region VI
Bob Neamy - Los Angeles City Fire Department
R.G. Barrows - Retired Chief, OES Fire and Rescue Division
Stan Lake - CDF - Chairman, Operations Team North
Bill Medigovich - OES Director
John Passerello - OES Asst. Director
Blair Springer - Senator Campbell's Office
Kim Zagaris - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Will Brock - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Rich Aronson - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Mike Scherr - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Dianne Wirth - OES Fire and Rescue Division

OPENING REMARKS

Chief Manning opened the meeting, welcoming members and guests.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Chief Manning told OES Director Bill Medigovich he has contacted members of this Committee and expresses their unanimous recommendation of Chief Bill Maxfield for Chairman, replacing retired Chief John Englund. Mr. Medigovich was pleased to accept the recommendation, and welcomed Chief Maxfield as the new Chairman of this Committee.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Chief Gary Costamagna, City of Sacramento Fire Department; and Chief Michael Freeman, Los Angeles County Fire Department were introduced and welcomed as new members of this Committee.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF HOLMS, SECONDED BY CHIEF COGGAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 1988 MEETING.

OPERATIONAL AREA, REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE COORDINATOR POSITIONS - ELECTION PREREQUISITE

Chief Wirth referred to a letter received by Region III Coordinator Don Banghart, regarding possible election of the Modoc County Sheriff as Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator. He is extremely concerned that a non-fire entity be appointed as Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator. This would jeopardize the integrity of the fire and rescue mutual aid system, and "open the door" to other counties wishing to do the same.

Chief Banghart stated that since receiving the letter, the Sheriff was formally elected Area Coordinator. Chief Wirth cited the provisions contained in OES Operations Bulletin 24, and proposed an amendment to the bulletin which establishes a prerequisite which requires Area Coordinators to be... "Fire Chief or Chief Fire Officer with legal authority for fire suppression activities within the Operational Area."

Extensive discussion ensued with agreement that Modoc County is a unique situation in that nearly all the fire chiefs are volunteer. They elected the Sheriff because he has the best dispatch capability in the county. However, the committee further agreed that steps should be taken to avoid this type situation in the future; and that the fire chiefs of Modoc County should be met with on a one-on-one basis for the purpose of explaining the intent of Operations Bulletin 24.

There was also consensus that the dispatch center for an Operational Area could be a non-fire entity, but the position of Area Coordinator must be held by a member of the fire service.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF COGGAN, SECONDED BY CHIEF DAY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO AMEND OPERATIONS BULLETIN #24 AS FOLLOWS:

ITEM NO. 2: FIRST SENTENCE -- REMOVE ALL LANGUAGE BETWEEN "...MUTUAL AID SYSTEM" AND, "THE FOLLOWING PREREQUISITE SHALL APPLY:"

ITEM NO. 4: ADD THE STATEMENT THAT, "DURING A VACANT PERIOD, THE REGIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE COORDINATOR WILL APPOINT, ON AN INTERIM BASIS, AN ACTING OPERATIONAL AREA FIRE AND RESCUE COORDINATOR UNTIL THE FORMAL ELECTION PROCESS IS COMPLETED."

Will Brock will work with Chief Banghart to contact the fire chiefs in Modoc County.

REIMBURSEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Chief Maxfield reported that none of the members had open calendars until the end of March. A meeting will be scheduled at that time.

Chief Wirth suggested small fire departments be represented on the Sub-Committee. Chief Ken Brown volunteered.

FIRE AND RESCUE DIVISION APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT NEEDS - SUB-COMMITTEE

Chief Dacy reported he will contact members in the near future to schedule a meeting.

OPERATIONS TEAMS REPORT

Operations Team North:

Stan Lake, Chairman of Operations Team North, stated that Chief Armstrong, Fresno City, is the new representative for Mutual Aid Region V.

Operations Team South/Task Force:

Mike Scherr reported the FIREScope Decision Process is being updated and will be presented to this Committee for review and approval.

A representative from the State Fire Marshal's Office has been appointed to Operations Team South as a voting member.

FIRESCOPE Video

Discussion ensued regarding the FIRESCOPE training video and the best possible method for requesting and distributing grant funds. Chief Manning suggested ICS be incorporated into the video so it could be used as a selling mechanism for FIRESCOPE and ICS. If so, Chief Manning expressed the willingness of the Los Angeles City Fire Department to produce the video.

Mr. Passerello suggested an inter-agency agreement might be the best means of distributing funds for the video. He will research the matter and report at the next meeting.

Chief Manning will work with both Operations Teams and the Task Force to ensure the quality of the finished product.

FIRESCOPE Budget - 1988/89

The budget remains the same as last year, but with a 5% travel reduction. Ken Clark mentioned that OES people working with USFS during emergency operations are covered under the USFS Fire Emergency Payroll Account. OES is to pay their salaries, then bill USFS. He cited this as an example to allow for some "extra" money in the FIRESCOPE budget.

Chief Holms asked if the Orthophoto Mapping position has been taken out of the FIRESCOPE Program. Chief Wirth stated the position of Programmer/Mapper will be filled after July 1, 1989, at OES Headquarters. Chief Holms feels the mapping position and mapping program are critical to the FIRESCOPE Program and should not be placed on a "part-time" basis. The position of Orthophoto Mapping Coordinator should be restored, and dedicated to serving the needs of those counties whose emergency response capability is dependent upon accurate map response books. Since OES has been without a mapping coordinator, both Orange and Ventura County's response books have become nearly obsolete.

Mike Scherr voiced the opinion of Operations Team South that the position should be full time, dedicated to the mapping program. Stan Lake agreed on behalf of Operations Team North, and stated that several agencies he works with in Northern California are expressing their concerns for the need of a common mapping system.

Mr. Medigovich was not aware of the extent of the mapping needs of the fire service, and requested more input on what is required and what technology is available from other agencies (i.e., DWR, etc.).

NFPA 1561

Chief Manning introduced Battalion Chief Bob Neamy, who is a member of the NFPA 1500 Committee. He has been involved in the 1561 process since its inception. Chief Neamy stated the intent of 1561 as being a generic standard, not modeled after any existing ICS system. He provided an overview and summary of 1561 meetings to date.

At a January 3, 1989 meeting in Redlands, 1561 was examined line by line. The Task Force sent a letter to Chief Neamy addressing their concerns and those of the Task Force. These concerns were addressed at the next meeting in Boston on January 25-26, 1989, where all were incorporated into the standard. The next meeting is March 29-30 in Georgia, where the full committee will vote on the standard. After that, it is open to public comment.

Chief Neamy suggests that further concerns be written as public comments, which by law, must be acknowledged and answered. A review of public comments received will be held in October in Seattle. When 1500 is passed, 1561 will become a part of it, and will be mandated within California. Chief Neamy feels that as written, 1561 will not affect California.

Extensive discussion ensued with Chief Coggan expressing serious concerns and frustrations with NFPA having the authority to set the standard for a national incident command system.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF COGGAN, SECONDED BY CHIEF HOLMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THIS COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY; AND THIS SYSTEM SHOULD BE THE ICS DEVELOPED IN CALIFORNIA BY THE FIREScope PROGRAM.

Gary Tokle, Office of State Fire Marshal, suggested concerns be submitted to the members of the NFPA 1500 Committees since they will be voting on the standard. A list of members and their addresses is attached to these minutes.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chief Maxfield introduced Blair Springer, Senator Campbell's office.

Senate Bill 27

The bill has 27 co-authors. The next hearing, with Toxics and Public Safety Management Committee, is scheduled for April 17. Mr. Springer has met with Mr. Medigovich and Chief McMullen to discuss amendments to the bill. Senator Campbell's Office is fully committed to making any changes to the bill as long as they are acceptable to this Committee.

Chief Maxfield recommended OES manage the system rather than three agencies (OES/CDF/USFS). Mr. Springer replied that all three agencies were included in the original bill because of what he felt was a lack of commitment on the part of OES in exhibiting leadership in support of the FIREScope Program. His intent was not to imply that OES was not capable of managing the program.

The three agencies agree, and will meet to determine which single agency will manage the Program.

Blair Springer reports that Senator Campbell has established a Fire Service Caucus of 18 senators and 30 assemblymembers. The first meeting date has not yet been set.

Senate Bill 28

Will be heard on March 28 in Senate Governmental Organization Committee, 0930, Room 319. No changes are anticipated; the bill had total support when it went through the Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 359

The bill was introduced as formal recognition by the Legislature for the need to have an urban search and heavy rescue capability. It does not address what type of equipment, etc.; but that the fire service should have the leadership role in urban search and heavy duty rescue activities.

If the issues and concerns addressed in the bill are being addressed by OES, the bill will probably be withdrawn.

Senate Bill 377

Bill was introduced as a result of the SBFS Symposium II in 1987 regarding development of a Master Plan on public fire safety. It is the only bill which utilized Proposition 99 monies for fire safety and burn prevention education.

The Prop-99 Coalition agreed that 5% of the unallocated funds (approximately \$8.5 million) can be used for fire safety and burn prevention programs. They approached Senator Campbell to write legislation. He agreed provided the fire service be involved. Are now awaiting recommendations for changes to the bill. No hearing date has been set as yet.

STATE AGENCY ICS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

John Passerello reported the process of ICS training in State agencies is going well. He referred to a memo from Vance Raye, Vice Chair of the Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Council, wherein "The Governor encourages the adoption and use of this system statewide by all state agencies assigned to manage field emergency incidents..." The memo was distributed to Agency Secretaries, Members of GEOEC, Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Parks and Recreation. Twelve State agencies are becoming familiar with and incorporating ICS into their SOP documents.

Mike Scherr is working with Cal-Trans and DWR in the preparation of ICS training materials for State agencies.

S.A.F.E. ACT

Chief Wirth reports the regulations were approved and mailed in January 1989, along with Applications to Purchase vehicles. To date, 69 completed applications have been received in Fire and Rescue Division.

April 7, 1989 is the closing date for submitting applications. At that time, potential buyers will be contacted.

OLD BUSINESS

White Fire Frequencies

A letter was sent to California Fire Chiefs on January 20, 1989, reaffirming the provisions outlined in OES Operations Bulletin 28 covering the use of White Fire Frequencies.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Maxfield reported that Dick Ernest was appointed Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection effective this date.

Chief Holms expressed personal concern of the importance of selecting the best possible individual to fill the vacant Chief position in the OES Fire and Rescue Division. This position is vital to the efforts of the Mutual Aid System, and this Committee should have some input and influence in the selection process.

Mr. Passerello agreed, and requested members of this Committee encourage potential candidates to apply for the position. The exam is open -- not limited to State employees.

Chief Coggan thanked Chief Manning for providing interim guidance to this Committee since Chief Englund's retirement.

Chief Day mentioned the issue of a new Second Vice-Chairman since Chief Maxfield is now Chairman. This item will be on the next meeting's agenda.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 1989, at OES Sacramento Headquarters, 0930 hours.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1410 hours.