

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

Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2001
Sacramento, California

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Dallas Jones, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- P. Michael Freeman, Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Chair
- Russell D. Richards III, Fire Warden, Stanislaus County, Vice Chair
- Kim Zagaris, Acting Chief, OES Fire and Rescue Branch
- Chip Prather, Chief, Orange County Fire Authority
- Bob Roper, Chief Ventura County Fire Department
- Hank Weston, Chief, Grass Valley Fire Department
- John Tennant, State Fire Marshal, CDF
- Dennis Smith, Chief, Sacramento Fire Department
- Douglas Sporleder, Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department
- Daniel G. Clark, Chief, Kern County Fire Department
- William R. Bamattre, Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department
- Ed Wehking, Fire Management Officer, Bureau of Land Management

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- John Scherrei, Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
- Ray Quintanar, USDA Forest Service-Fire and Aviation Management
- Roger K. Purdie, Chief, Vista Fire Department
- Glen Newman, Deputy Director, California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
- Stewart Gary, Chief, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department
- Tom Nichols, National Park Service
- Brian Hatch, California Professional Firefighters
- John Jansen, California State Firefighter's Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Patrick Cooney, Deputy Chief, OES
Steve Vittum, Deputy Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire (for Chief Sherrei)
Pat O'Bannon, Asst. Director, USFS (for Ray Quintanar)
Tim Turner, CDF, OES Region V Regional Coordinator
Bob Martines, CDF, OES Region VI Regional Coordinator
Andy Anderson, Quincy Fire Department, North Operations Team

OTHERS PRESENT: Continued

Hal Chase, CNT, Task Force
Anthony Marrone, LAC, Task Force
Jon Olney, KRN, Task Force Chair
Cary Eckard, KRN, Joint Ops Team Chair
Bill Plough, CDF, Task Force
George Motschall, USFS, Task Force
Dan Drake, ORC
Mike LaPlant, VNC, Task Force
Greg West, LFD.
Dan Tinnel, OES
Jim Marquis, OES
Gary Glotfelty, OES
Paul Beckstrom, OES
Manuel Alarco, SJS
Robbie Cassou, Deputy Chief, QUI

OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS:

Meeting called to order by Chair P. Michael Freeman at 0930.

Jean Colyer, OES staff person from OCC Riverside was welcomed, she will be taking the BOD minutes. Logistics and lunch plans were discussed. Self-introductions were made.

Directors Report: Dallas Jones

Director Jones welcomed OES Deputy Director Mark Ghilarducci. Mark formerly worked at OES in the Urban Search and Rescue Program. He left OES to work for FEMA as a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO). He worked as the FCO on the Cerro Grande Fire in Los Alamos in 2000, and worked with the state during his tenure at FEMA. He is in charge of Operations and Training.

Mark is looking forward to working with the FIREScope Board of Directors, and the California fire service. He will be involved in the issues that concern emergency services at all levels in California. His experience at FEMA will benefit the interaction between OES and the various federal agencies we work with.

Director Jones announced that Chief Mike Dougherty has retired. He wanted to spend more time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He has moved to Arkansas. Kim Zagaris has been appointed as Acting Chief. Kim has been with the OES as an Assistant Chief for over 15 years.

Kim is quickly becoming acquainted with the Fire Chief duties. Chief Dougherty left the Branch in great financial shape and Chief Zagaris feels he could not ask for a better foundation to start with.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued): DALLAS JONES

Director Jones discussed the energy crisis facing California. Our involvement began with the observation of energy pricing. As we move into summer OES is more involved than expected. The advent of blackouts has drawn OES into forefront of this issue. OES will use the California Law Enforcement Teletype System (CLETS) to put out notices to local government regarding blackouts. We are in the process of scheduling meetings with Pacific Gas and Electric in the north, Edison in the central part of the state, and San Diego Gas and Electric in the southern part of state. These meetings will involve Law Enforcement, Fire, and other local government personnel. The meetings will address the issue of releasing information about specific locations and time of the blackouts. We have received agreements from all three companies that they are willing to release information on grid addresses, blocks, and blackout schedules (specific times) to public safety officials.

This information will then be released via CLETS or EDIS. At this time it is not clear if this information will be made public. It is felt that this information may be considered as "law enforcement sensitive" material. The Independent System Operator (ISO) predicts that we may experience as many as 30 days of blackouts during the remainder of the year.

Another area of concern is the potential for regional grid failures, which may make it necessary for rolling blackouts. We will be meeting with representatives from FEMA later this month on energy related issues. The ISO, State Energy Commission, and utility suppliers will attend this meeting. Dallas encourages attendance at these meetings to receive the latest information on the energy crisis.

- Catastrophic disaster planning

We have engaged the federal government and asked them to address the needs of California. Very little has been done to deal with the possibility of 200,000, or more, people needing emergency assistance, i.e. food, shelter, etc. This type of planning would be valuable in the event of a massive earthquake or tsunamis, and to increase our general ability to recover from disasters of any type or size. More of this type of in-depth planning effort needs to be done in California.

- Budget Update

The Governor, and the Legislature, have approved an aggressive funding program for OES fire and rescue apparatus and equipment. The largest project is building eighteen (18) Heavy Rescue Vehicles (Type I). They will be distributed statewide in support of the USAR program. We have approval to obtain twelve (12) "All-Risk" Water Tenders (Type 1), and 100,000 feet of five (5) inch hose. The hose will replace our 50 year old six (6) inch aluminum pipe. The hose is much more compatible with fire service water delivery systems, and would be an asset in the event of an earthquake, or a water system failure. The hose also has the advantage of being used at any type of fire.

At this time, these one-time projects have been held up by the Legislature due to the energy crisis. The State budget surplus is being spent on energy. The intent of the Department of Finance, with the Governor's approval, is to replace these funds by selling bonds. If the May Budget Revision does not show replacement of this funding, we will reapply immediately for reinstatement in the next budget cycle. OES views this funding as critical.

The purchase of new OES Engines, Type I, all equipped with USAR Type 3 equipment, will support our Urban Search and Rescue needs throughout the state. We have received 10 engines, and have 17 on order, and another 7 to be delivered in the next fiscal year. The average age of our 110 engine fleet is decreasing rapidly. The Fire Engine Replacement Program will not be affected by the energy related budget crisis.

- OES Headquarters Building Update. The dedication ceremonies are planned for tomorrow, May 9th.

The building will be dedicated to retired Senator William "Bill" Campbell, a strong supporter of OES, the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, and the California fire service. The building is expected to be ready in June or July. We have had some problems with Pac Bell antennae sighting, and other construction delays. OES Administration will move in first, probably in June or mid July. The Emergency Operations functions, including the State Warning Center will move in some time later.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2001 MINUTES:

**Motion to approve the January 10, 2001 minutes. Moved by Bob Roper.
Seconded by Dan Clark. The minutes stand approved as read.**

FIRESCOPE 30TH YEAR CELEBRATION:

Chair Freeman: Thanked all of the people that worked to make the 30th Celebration Program a success.

- 30th Celebration update – Jon Olney:

The Task Force, as directed by the Board of Directors, worked on the 30th Celebration during the last 13 months. Packets /Portfolios with the 30th logo, FIRESCOPE Journals, coffee mugs, lapel pins, ink pen and decals will be given to everyone attending the Banquet tonight. The FIRESCOPE 30th Year Celebration Planning Group included both active and retired members.

Mike LaPlant presented the FIRESCOPE 101 Program. His team created the power-point presentation intended to be used by the California Fire Service. This program addresses the thirty-year history of FIRESCOPE, the implementation of the FIRESCOPE program in California, and the sharing of our experience nationally, and internationally.

"FIREScope 101: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE" is about 30 minutes long, and is intended to be used by the fire service to give an overview of the ICS FIREScope concept and program. This includes how FIREScope was created after the 1970 fire season and how we have progressed to where we are today. The original partner agencies are the United State Forest Service (USF), Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF), Office of Emergency Services (OES), Los Angeles County (LAC), Los Angeles City (LFD), Santa Barbara County (SBC), and Ventura County (VNC) fire departments. FIREScope has become a national model for intergovernmental cooperation. The ICS 101 PowerPoint program will be used to inform those new to fire service on the importance of FIREScope. Many of the issues outlined in the program are addressed in the Futuring Document presented to the BOD.

TASK FORCE REPORT – Jon Olney

The 30th Year Celebration Banquet begins at 1800 in the Main Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel. The Task Force recommends that any Funds remaining after the celebration should be used first to host a picnic in southern California. This would be for anyone, but especially those retirees that could not attend the celebration tonight. Following the picnic, any remaining funds would go to a statewide charitable organization, preferable a burn center. Jon will give a final accounting of the books at next Board of Directors meeting.

Motion:

To have a southern California picnic for retirees whom where unable to attend the event in Sacramento using a portion of the remaining funds. Any monies left would be donated to a charity or burn center.

Moved by Chip Prather. Seconded by Steve Vittum.

Vote was unanimous, Recommendation approved.

State Fire Marshals Report: John Tennent

The California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Committee has meet 3 times. The final product is nearly finished, but it will not be released until all users are comfortable. The target date for release is July 2001, and it will be viewed as a work in progress. There is no firm implementation date.

- **Pat Cooney:**

Based on the comments from the November 2, 2000 meeting the program still needs some fine tuning, but will continue to move forward. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th. Pat plans to be at every OES Fire and Rescue Region meeting in each of the six regions. He will give his CICCS PowerPoint presentation at each meeting.

Action: Chair Freeman would like a CICCIS progress report at next Board of Directors meeting.

SAFETY SECTION PROPOSAL: Chair Freeman

Correspondence has been received from Chief Mike Brown, President of International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Mary McCormick, of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, and Harold Chuffer, General President of International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) requesting that the FIREScope Board of Directors review the way ICS structures the Safety Officer position (in the Command Staff). Chief Freeman had the Joint Operations Team (JOT) review these requests to see if the Safety Officer function should be moved into the General Staff as a Section Chief level position. Also, he asked the JOT to review guidelines for the Command and General Staff positions. Are changes or modifications needed?

- **Response: Joint Operations Team (JOT) - Cary Eckard and Andy Anderson**

The Joint Operations Teams addressed this question at their January meeting in Pismo Beach. The team created a discussion paper on the Safety Officer position written primarily by Bob Neamy. The JOT added comments and edited it for the Board of Directors to review. The primary question was: should the Safety Officer be moved from Command Staff to the General Staff? The JOT recommendation is that the Safety Officer as it is currently established works very well. The confusion may be from a lack of understanding of the basic ICS concepts and applications, the importance of the relationship between the Safety Officer and the Incident Commander, and the ability to add Assistant Safety Officers on any incident, as provided in ICS.

- **Incident Management System (IMS) Consortium -**The recommendation from IMS to move safety officer does not improve the FIREScope model. Our view is that this position must be directly connected to the Incident Commander. This would be lost if position is moved to the General Staff level. The Safety Officer position is at the Command Staff level because it's importance.

Recommendation: The Board of Directors not change the basic ICS structure. The Joint Ops team has directed the Task Force to create a working group to further study this issue.

Chief Freeman attended the March 10, 2001 IMS Consortium meeting in Virginia. The Safety Officer issue was discussed at that meeting. Chief Freeman explained to the consortium that this was simply a recommendation. Several members of the consortium suggested that FIREScope (and ICS) was a closed system that belongs only to California. The IMS Consortium seemed to realize that they might need to do some introspection on establishing a decision making process that includes FIREScope and the ICS system. Their next meeting is July 21, 2001. Chief Freeman requested the IMS Consortium send a representative to the next FIREScope Joint Operations Meeting in January 2002.

ACTION ITEM:

Chief Freeman will submit a synopsis of the FIREScope Minutes to inform IMS Members, and others of the actions taken today.

Discussion:

In order to promote ICS nationally it may be necessary to give up some ownership or interest in order to accomplish our goal of becoming a national model.

Chief Freeman:

No need to give up responsibility to maintain something that works well for us.

Chief Bamattre:

Step up more, to make it the national leadership model. We must be vigilant to make our presence know.

Director Jones:

Regarding the national acceptance of ICS: In most states the equivalent OES operations are run by the state National Guard or forest firefighting agency and are not as fully integrated as we are in California. FEMA has adopted ICS as an "All Risk" incident management system. They are using it in all areas. The National Fire Academy adopted FIREScope ICS in 1986 as the ONLY incident management system used in their training, publications, and operations. When Fire Chiefs contact OES or FEMA, and say we need a national emergency incident system, there must some type of standard response. We feel that ICS is the answer.

Chief Freeman:

The Terrorism committee has been refining ICS to fit their needs. I question why we keeping both IMS and ICS? This could be confusing and or troubling. Is it possible to develop an issue paper to be discussed at the next BOD?

Discussion continued.

Motion: To accept the recommendation of the Joint Operations Team: leave the Safety Officer position as currently structured as a part of Command Staff. Moved by Daniel Clark. Second by Hank Weston.
Motion Passed Unanimously

ACTION ITEM:

Cary Eckard (JOT) to direct the Task Force to create a working group to develop a White Paper on the ICS Safety Officer position.

Futuring Committee: Bob Roper

Funding proposal from OES on three (3) key items (Strategic Initiatives) on creating a common voice for California Fire Service. One recommendation is to find ways to unite

diverse fire service groups, some of which are represented by members of this Board. We need to Market FIREScope, and related products, such as the ICS, throughout the nation. Within California's fire service, there are large and small departments, with diverse funding levels, prohibiting some departments from purchasing new apparatus and equipment. A database is needed that does not require the highest and latest technology to retrieve, receive and process information. We can maintain and improve technology by adapting to new technology and communication. A thorough review of the Strategic Plan is necessary to provide direction.

Motion: the FIREScope Futuring Document (Draft) be accepted by the Board of Directors and sent to the Task Force for development . Moved by Douglas Sporleder. Second by Dennis Smith. Accepted Unanimously: Passed

Cooperative Agreement for Local Government Fire Suppression Assistance (Five Party Agreement). Chiefs Zagaris and Westin:

Meeting held on May 1, 2001. The Agreement was sent out for review and comment by the five parties. Some items were held over until January 1, 2002.

The three items proposed in the new agreement (effective retroactively to March 1) are:

- Minimum of three (3) and a maximum of four (4) personnel on all strike teams.
- The Strike Team Leader (Trainee) automatically part of the strike team.
- Water Tender reimbursements are based upon the same horsepower rating as Engines.

These are action items on the June 1, 2001 agenda. After review, a copy will be sent to all parties involved in the agreement. One item pending is the FEMA 16 hour rate. Questions remain on how this rate was established.

Items that are scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2002 are:

- Two hour time to rehab equipment (engines and water tenders) on return to home quarters,
- This will be a 5-year agreement (2002 – 2007), rates reviewed, and updated, annually. Amendments can be made as needed by the committee.

Operations Team update: Chiefs Anderson and Eckard

The Joint Operations Teams will meet on July 12 – 13, 2001 at Bucks Lake.

- Eckard: Task Force Workgroup – MAC Orientations in North and South. This is an opportunity for Deputy Chiefs (Duty Chief) to get involved in MACS for preparation for Mode 4 Operations. This is an exercise in establishing a priority system to assign resources to incident during a MAC Mode 3 and 4. The dates for these exercise are May 30, 2001 at the OCC/Riverside Workshop, and June 6, 2001 in Redding. Other issues JOT is working on are the NFPA 1500, the Swiftwater OSD, and the National ICS 209. The Beta test to automate the ICS

209 is under way.

Task Force Report: Jon Olney

The major accomplishment for the Task Force is the **30th Anniversary Field Operations Guide (FOG)** with 30th Year logo on cover, and a special dedication to Rachael Parks. The Task Force is working on the Strategic Plan document, and a safety working group to review the issues identified by the Joint Operations Team. We are looking for a few good members to assist, asking for volunteers from Los Angeles City, Santa Clara County, etc. for work on the recommend changes.

FOG's are selling in large numbers, hundreds have been sold outside the United States, but we need to expand the FIREScope influence. The Urban Search and Rescue Specialists group is soliciting members. The ICS 209 incident Intelligence Status Summary has already adopted by NWCG. The Task Force has adopted the new form and electronic reporting system supported by NICC, with real time information managed by NICC at no cost to us. California specific functions to meet our needs it will be Beta tested, with an implementation date of June 1, 2001. OES IT Branch is cooperating as we requested.

ICS 220 – Air Ops Summary Worksheet. The form did not meet current and future needs of aviation management. The form has been revised and is being edited.

ICS-230–Vendor/Contractor Evaluation. The form has been changed to better address our customer's needs. This form is for agency's that do not have a national contract.

New member -Tim Fike- Nevada County Fire Department: Tim was appointed by Chief Weston to represent Volunteer fire departments on the Task Force.

2001 MACS Exercise. To be conducted in Redding on June 6th. We need to send personnel that have not had experience with the MAC system. Looking to add ICS Forms on the FIREScope web page in Acrobat format, at the rate of 1 document or 1 form a month. The Task Force is requesting that IT personnel in Riverside be given direction to make this a priority.

Fire and Rescue Branch Report: Kim Zagaris, Acting Chief

Assistant and Deputy Chiefs positions will be re-advertised. The Deputy Chief's positions are in FIREScope (Riverside – OCC), Administration and Special Operations (US&R) in Sacramento. The OCC Deputy Chief is a critical position, both for the FIREScope program, and our southern cooperators. Chief Martines has been asked for recommendations to have a retiree fill the position temporarily. A temporary reorganization will remain to cover the vacancy in Region IV. Region II will be divided in

thirds, with AC Marquis covering Region IV. Our Reimbursement Clerk Rick Helton, left our agency. He has been replaced by Lori Lopez. Her position, Dispatcher/Clerk, was filled by Tim Tribble. Five new Engines have been assigned to Region IV. Upgrades and engine swaps involved South Placer, Elk Grove, Woodbridge, Sacramento Metro, San Joaquin County, Folsom, and Sacramento. Five new engines are being delivered today. They are going to: San Luis Obispo City (OES 271), Arroyo Grande (OES 272), San Luis Obispo County (OES 273), Morro Bay (OES 274), Atascadero (OES 275). We have been dealing with the water tender issue (see Directors Report). The Budget Change Proposal (BCP) money for replacing OES base station radios in the next 12 months is in place, replacement will start this fall.

Change out of Low – High Band Radio System from what is currently listed in Appendix A of the FOG, might create problems with the 200 new Kenwood Radios in the fleet.

Discussion: CDF and Forest Service Issues

Tim Turner: The nomex helmet shrouds have been upgraded by adding a double layer of nomex. These will be made by Fire Camp personnel. Personnel burned at the Pechanga Fire (San Diego County) were a result of non-standard backpacks purchased by individual firefighters. CDF has a new Region Chief, Candace Gregory at the Fresno Region office. Other issues being addressed by CDF are Fire Shelter recalls and Sudden Oak Death Syndrome. This is a serious safety issue, trees look healthy (alive) but are dead, and can fall during fire suppression operations. We are trying to get this information out to the California Fire Service via the CDF web.

Pat Cooney:

We intend to increase the use of the FIREScope Webpage to distribute safety information in much greater numbers. The Webpage is currently utilized.

USFS Pat O'Bannon

The issue of ¼ turn quick coupling hose – the matching thread adaptors are on hold until this study is completed. Nationally, San Dimas equipment development center has taken on the task and field study, will test on some engines within California. The program is on hold nationally.

USFS – California Region 5

The Forest Service is adding an considerably number of crews, about nine, 20 person crews & seventeen, 10 person crews throughout the state. The nine, 20-person crews are targeted for hotshot status, depending on the number we hire this year. National hire is going slow, and there will be another round in the coming weeks. The numbers (of new personnel) are up from last year. Changed some helicopters to type two from three. National fire plan is a three-year process expects completion by 2003. Loss of experienced senior personnel through retirement has been a challenge to staffing needs. Sue Husari accepted Deputy position; she will continue to focus on fuels until her position as Regional Fuels Manager is filled.

New Business

Chief Freeman requested that a letter of appreciation be presented by the Board of Directors to Mike Dougherty.

Regional Coordinators Report-

Region I - Freeman

Meeting held on June 13 at Camp. Some activity involving prescribed fire, burned about 20 acres in La Crescents May 7, in a very critical area. We continue to invite operational area departments so they can get exposure to prescribe burns. We are expecting delivery of two Fire Hawks helicopters with thousand-gallon foam and water capacity in June. Type 1 Heli-tankers will be on station in Los Angeles County sometime in August. Super Scoopers will be available for mutual aid from LA County.

Region II -Marquis for Driscoll

Meeting planned for May 30 in St Helena, at CDF Headquarters. An operational area dispatch workshop is scheduled for June. A large scale mobilization drill will be planned also. Fuel moistures are a problem in Region II.

Region II-Marquist - Cont.

Working on our Mutual Aid Planning, Santa Cruz County is hosting Cal Rural, Wildland exercise Statewide, ECC Chiefs Meeting in Riverside. Training of dispatchers at local, operational and regional areas to get everyone on the same page. CWCG Internal guidance document, working on a desk reference to put in dispatch center throughout the state.

Region III - Turner (for Chief Jones)

Meeting scheduled in May, fuel moisture down 40 to 50% right now, this will be a problem area this summer. Meeting May 11, at North Ops. Severe drought problem in Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt and parts of the Sierra.

Region IV- Weston

Meeting was held on April 20th. One caution is the lack of participation from volunteer departments on strike team assignments. This may affect our ability to fight some fires. Region 4 and parts of Region 3 need more volunteers to support the system.

Region V- Turner

No spring meeting planned, had a meeting in November.

Region VI- Martines

Meeting on June 4. Will received one new OES Engine (La Mesa) in Region VI.

Zagaris –

California National Guard? Military wants to be more involved with in fire suppression, and want to know how they can help. The problem involves their ability to get ready; it takes them five to 10 days to gear up for a mission. Looking for a solution, or a way to get around that hang up.

Motion: Move to adjourn made by Dan Clark, Seconded by All. Meeting adjourned at 1410.

Future Meetings:

July 11, 2001, Sacramento

October 10, 2001, Sacramento

January 9, 2002, TBD Southern California

April 10, 2002, TBD

Edited by NRH, November 9, 2001, 1300