



FIRESCOPE



**CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
California Emergency Management Agency Headquarters
May 27, 2010**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS:

Bob Roper, Ventura County FD, Vice-Chair
Kim Zagaris, Cal- EMA, OES Fire and Rescue, Executive Coordinator
Paul Bannister, US Bureau of Land Management
Jim Wilson, Mariposa County FD, Volunteer Fire Departments
Chuck Knapp, California State Firefighters' Association
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
Ken Pimlott, (Representing Director Walters)
CAL FIRE Steven Sellers, (Representing Matt Bettenhausen), Assistant Secretary, Cal EMA,
Mark Schmitt, (Representing Chief Dyer), Santa Barbara County FD, Operations Team Secretary
John Tripp, (Representing Chief Freeman), Los Angeles County FD
Tonya Hoover, CAL FIRE/State Fire Marshal's Office
Mario Rueda, (Representing Chief Peaks), Los Angeles FD, Operations Team Vice-Chair
Dave Rocha, (Representing Sheldon Gilbert), Alameda County FD, Operations Team

Regional Coordinators

Keith Larkin, Cal EMA Region Fire, Cal Fire

GUESTS:

Tom Maruyama, Director of Statewide Operations, Cal EMA
Scott Vail, CICC Taskforce
Tom Drayer, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue, FIRESCOPE Program
Monica Severson, CEM, Mission Advocate, Homeland Security Information Network Program
Chad Stokes, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue
Auburn Diede, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue
Dean Cromwell

WELCOME AND LOGISTICS:

California Emergency Management Agency Headquarters, Mather CA

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Chief Bob Roper

- Announced departure of Ed Hollenshead from the Board due to retirement.
 - Announced departure of Pat Dennen from the Board due to retirement; and that he will be going to work with Cal EMA Fire and Rescue as the new Operations Chief.
- *Action Item- Chuck Knapp Motioned, Chief Wagner Seconded to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2010 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*

CAL EMA SECRETARY REPORT

Steven Sellers - Cal EMA

Discussion took place relative to the upcoming fire season and those outstanding issues surrounding preparation. The Governor has issued an Executive Order for this fire season which will enhance the process used to expedite the use of resources throughout the state. Public safety is the number one priority for the Governor. Also, Cal EMA is conscious of the reimbursement issue. We are making good progress on the process for improvements that will assist us in making our payments out to local government in as timely manner as possible.

Fire Chief Kim Zagaris has been keeping Cal EMA executives aware of the California Fire Assistance Agreement status. We appreciate Chief Zagaris' work and we thank him.

There is new staffing and we want to make sure we do all we need to do in order to get any hollow positions filled. We are happy to be getting retired San Bernardino County Fire Chief Pat Dennen on board with Cal EMA. As everybody knows there are going to be changes to come within Cal EMA due to the forthcoming election. We will be having transitions with the people involved and we hope to lay a good foundation for the new team; specifically for the fire service to make sure that any issues we face stay top priority.

FEMA is going to be doing detailed planning with Mutual Aid cooperators at the Federal level for operational planning, especially with the southern earthquakes of 7.9 magnitude series or larger. In the past, we have moved away from detailed planning but with events such as Katrina, we need to go back.

Tom Maruyama - Cal EMA

Thank you on behalf of the Secretary and the Undersecretary.

Winter Storm Update - Currently, for past winter storms, the State's disaster funds are intact but they don't have a budget, so when the funds become depleted then they will be no more money. Currently, as far as the recovery fund, that fund is depleted and there is no money to pay for recovery efforts. After meeting with Sandy Coachman with FEMA, they have received more money on the category A and B, so they are comfortable is saying that they do have the money for the "Floods of Southern California" disaster to reimburse response costs. There was a hiccup due to a Federal Court Officer leaving; however, a new person came in so they are moving forward again. Also, there are issues with some cities with the furloughs so there are project worksheets not getting done; however, as of this week it looks like they are making progress and it hopes to be within the next six weeks to being finished.

CAL EMA SECRETARY REPORT (continued)

Tom Maruyama - Cal EMA

Imperial County Earthquake Update – There is a JFO in Pasadena and there is an AFO that has been opened and established in El Centro. The communications capability has now been established, there are people there and more coming to help the impacted area. There are significant aftershocks, but we are working through that. There is about 100 million dollars in public infrastructure damage in the area.

On the FMAG side, there was a conversation with Ed Henry from FEMA, there may be a change in the approval process of FMAG's at the federal level. The move for the ultimate approval has been handed down to Regional Administrator Nancy Ward in Region 9.

It's been told that California has never had an FMAG get turned down, thanks to Chief Zagaris and staff for gathering all information and reaching back to all in the field to get the proper information to send a complete packet in to FEMA at the regional level so that it does not get kicked back.

Steven Sellers - Cal EMA

FEMA is going for the regionalization effort; we will see a lot more redirected activities coming out of headquarters. Region 9 is moving to Sacramento, they are searching for a location right now.

Tom Maruyama - Cal EMA

Attended a catastrophic planning for air operations, a state air operations and a federal air operations had been drafted. After a discussion it was agreed that there would be one air operations group, not two, the information that was presented was actual incidents that showed that it didn't work splitting them up. It was also brought up that they wanted to meet every 6 months. CAL FIRE came out a lot as far as being able to work with them. The information from this meeting it that when there are large fires from the San Diego or Palm Dale area, it has a significant impact on their operations at their centers because they can't get personnel in there, so there is a plan to work with the FAA, the warning center and the SOC. That way if it's a state or local disaster it doesn't have to go all the way up to the Federal level before they start doing things, we'll be able to keep them in service.

Finally, on the topic of Fusion Centers, the SCAP is trying to reach out to have more participation either specifically on a Task Force or to become a TLO to which a number of us are from our former lives and carried over. I want to give you a point as to why it's so important. Prior to coming here, I was on the Task Force in Alameda County; there was great representation across the board but they have come back to us say that the SCAP is lacking in presentation from Fire and EMS. There is a hand out in your packet regarding this. Fire service is more than welcome to attend these meetings. The other thing that is important to me is of course, safety; and they talk about the drug cartels, etc.

CAL FIRE UPDATE

Chief Ken Pimlott (Representing Director Walters)

Chief Walters is meeting with the Governor's office today to talk budget issues. For CAL FIRE it is all budgets, all the time. Yesterday CAL FIRE resource agencies completed budget subcommittee work, where things are moving now is a proposed shift in some of the E-Fund expenditures.

CAL FIRE UPDATE (continued)

Chief Pimlott (Representing Director Walters)

Predominantly through the Executive Order addressed are: 4-person staffing, the contract of the Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) and long-term split funding in the aviation program. The proposal was to move some of these permanent things into the base budget. Real problems are that the Senate is not letting departments get full cost recovery with local agreements.

More legislative issues are that they want to look at all agreements that are over 5 million dollars. We have about eleven agreements now. This will end up on the conference committee because the assembly chose not to address this issue there.

The proposal on the table now about the Senate is to take 2 million dollars from Fire Protection program budget and give it to Resource Management so that foresters can do defensive space inspections.

The Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) has a lot of people and organizations involved such as Cal Chiefs and CPF. What's proposed right now for CAL FIRE in the event of a 76 million dollar backfill is that it will be offset by 76 million dollars in revenue by ERI. If the ERI is unsuccessful then we will have to look into others way to offset the 76 million dollar backfill and there has been numerous discussions with the Governor's office who is confident that the ERI is still alive and well.

The State Board of Personnel has impacted CAL FIRE on the hiring process for entry level firefighters. There are issues with the exam process and an audit just took place, with the exam process for their hiring. We are almost done with firefighter hiring for this fire season. Hopefully things will get worked out within a year so that we don't have to go through this with SPB next year. We are staffing differently this year, more on an operational need. The peak in our staffing will be between June 15 to July 1 and by then we should be fully staffed.

Also, we have been fortunate in the fact that the weather has helped us to be able to ease into staffing this year. Weather is definitely different this year from last year. We are 1 to 2 months late in fire activity. Rainfall depending in which part of the state is 100% or more. Moisture is well above the normal.

Aircraft contracts are progressing normally for this year.

As far as the status of the air tanker; the 3 year contract for DC10 expired last fall. Evergreen has the 747 approved. It was used on 1 or 2 operations and it has gone out to bid for the second time. The first time there were some lawsuits by Evergreen due to the fact that they thought there were some discrepancies in the process. We re-did it to fix the discrepancies, as we felt the way it should be. With the second bid we felt there was some incorrect information from both vendors. The third bid just went out yesterday. One interesting thing with all of this is that Evergreen and the 747 are now actively involved with the oil spill in the gulf.

Another thing to be mentioned regarding the budget is the state is facing the 5, 5, and 5 come July 1st. That is a 5% workforce reduction, whether it be salary saving or position elimination etc.; a 5% salary reduction; and a 5% redirection of employee retirement contributions. The Chief is in the Governor's office today to discuss these very issues.

CAL FIRE UPDATE (continued)

Chief Pimlott (Representing Director Walters)

Last year as far as vehicle purchases go, we lost our entire 17 million dollar vehicle replacement budget, so we are really only proposing 2 fire engine replacements this fiscal year; and that is based on the fact that we lost 2 engines that were destroyed. We hope to get that money back this year.

There is an upcoming education opportunity provided by NES, Office of State Fire Marshal and CalChiefs on June 2nd and 3rd, all the information is on the CalChiefs and or Fire Marshal's website, it is a discussion on wildfire ember exposure and research. We are still on target for the publication of codes for July 1st.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE

Chief Tonya Hoover

STEAC is expected to meet on July 16th; there is no agenda at this time but it should be on the website early.

State Board of Fire Service is to meet on July 22nd for the Fire Investigator Certification. There will also be an informational section for Cares and Interns which helps departments to meet their informational needs.

Mobile home parks are not regulated by the State Fire Marshal, they are by the Housing Community Environment, so there will be a section regarding the water supply for mobile home parks, there is always a concern about the water supply for these communities.

The Office of the State Fire Marshall will be out of the EMT service as of July 1st. Detailed information regarding this is on the website or contact the State Fire Training. State fire training continues to move forward so thank you for your continuing support of all of the members sitting on it.

Chief Roper: Any questions?

No reply at this time.

Chief Roper asked Chief Zagaris if there is anything he would like to add with regards to ERI.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ERI) UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

CPF sent out an e-mail yesterday looking for information on impact for funding of the Mutual Aid system. We need to talk a little further and get some more information before sending out an e-mail. Our meeting at the Governor's Office was about the real item which is what the impact is, I clearly pointed out that we down a couple of engines from last year and I think we are going to be down some more this year because there are more reductions and less availability of resources. Last week in Region VI's meeting, it was discussed that Hemet Fire Department had one station shut down and in the process of looking to shut down another one. We need to watch what the State does in the next coming week and or months to come.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ERI) (continue)

Chief Zagaris

Regarding the Mutual Aid system we are going to define some more numbers and set an agenda in place.

Chief Roper: Do you think the numbers are going to be different or somewhat similar?

Chief Zagaris: I think they are going to be significantly different. Using Region II as an example; they usually put 35 strike teams on the road; last year they were only able to put 25 during two peak periods. Region VI, San Diego County has cut back 2 to 4 strike teams. We will need to get with the Region Coordinator's to get more accurate information.

Tom Maruyama: On the law enforcement side of the house, they are looking at a 4.5 million dollar hit in the budget overall; they are going to lay 41 deputies off.

Chief Roper: Will Chief Gilbert get the survey out soon?

Chief Zagaris: I think we will have to move quickly to get something in place. We will need to send it out State-wide to get feedback.

Chief Roper: We still have a lot of challenges in front of us. We are going to have a fire season no matter what the economy or stock market brings.

CFAA UPDATE

Chief Ken Wagner

Last time we were together, I was confident we were going to come to an agreement but since then my confidence has evaporated. We cannot get a new revised rate letter out until there is an agreement.

Chief Roper: It's Federal, State, and local, and we all end up having to work together, one can't do it alone. I used to think that Los Angeles could handle anything and then a few years ago they were out of resources. We need to look at the relationship issues and how we can communicate. Are we paying for exactly what we get or are we paying too much. City Manager's can close stations, but if every agency closes one station, what will that do to our total capability? In California, we have never seen a Northern fire season at the same time we had a Southern fire season, but can you imagine if that happened. So, we have been looking at how to deal with the CFAA, how to deal with local agreements, we've been working with CALFIRE. Can we come up with one agreement? We are getting more and more dialog, and we are trying to get everyone on the same page. Operational people need to be able to order resources when needed. I would like to talk to Ed Hollenshead because the finger always seems to get pointed at the Forest Service.

Chief Ed Hollenshead: I think the question is "Do we support the CFAA?" Yes we do, support the CFAA but we cannot do it alone. The thing is that we have to do within the law. We need to have fair rates and reimburse local government, no more/no less, that's what we are attempting to do. There is a lot of finger pointing but the bottom line is that not cooperating is not an option. In fact it is so important to us that Randy More has agreed to meet with us tonight to have a discussion.

CFAA UPDATE (continued)

Chief Ken Wagner

We are anxious to reach an agreement although the scrutiny has not been let up on us since the OGI bill audit in September of 2008, more of you remember that.

Chief Roper: I can remember how FIRESCOPE evolved; they came into existence from the fires in the 1970's. They created standards, and the process brought them together. The group agreed to disagree. A lot of people are not picking up the phone because they don't know who to call, there isn't that dialog. I need to stress that it's all about relationships.

Chief Roper: Open the floor for any questions. I will be talking to Chief Freeman regarding the FIRESCOPE meeting.

10:40 – 10 minute break.

FIRESCOPE Board of Directors Meeting Back in Session

Chief Roper: Next on the agenda is the EMS update, we are going to skip that because Chief Gilbert is not in attendance.

BRC UPDATE

Chief Kim Zagaris

Since the first part of the year nothing has really changed. Some of the Task Force and Ops team reports will report out on some of the ongoing stuff involving aviation.

HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK

Chief Ken Wagner

We have a guest with us today, Monica Severson with Homeland Security. There are flyers in your packet on a new system. Monica will be giving a presentation on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) program.

Monica Severson: I am a Mission Advocate for Homeland Security. They built up this very robust system four years ago. This is not a cookie cutter program, we build customized to the way your community is. We have over 600 communities interested in it right now on our Legacy Platform and we are migrating to a new one called Nextgen.

This is a web based program, so anybody who had internet can access this program. There is only one sign-in, and then you can get access to several different community interests. This is a free tool, there is on-line training. We are really trying to reach out to state and local cooperators.

You can get situational awareness right now to get on the federal community of interests to find out what's going on, on a national level for these large scale events such as the floods and oil spills and you get real time analysis. You can type in key words and it will bring up what you are looking for.

HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK (continued)

Chief Ken Wagner

One of the key things for the new upgrade is that there is this thing call targeted sharing. HISN is a secure environment, “facebook” like, but secure. It doesn’t have to be just state, it can be national too, whatever you want, it’s customized. You can pull in different websites in this program. You can use a webcam for training or presentations for real time; and download documents right from the program.

There is a 24 hour help desk but for HSIN access or specific questions please contact Monica Severson at (530) 264-6908 or mseverson@anakam.com.

CICCS REPORT

Chief Scott Vail

In February, there was a State Board of Fire Services meeting and they gave us the go ahead to proceed in approving the graph on-line and publish date of July 1st for the position guide. The position guide has had significant contributions from statewide committee’s agencies, etc. The CICCS Task Force validated the proposed guides last year with five workshops and we’re going to have seven workshops total for sure; and get the eighth one for Region III up pretty soon.

We will get the final draft on-line by next week. There is a list of where all the workshops are in the handout.

We’ve added a lot more information and details. We added a section on how to transfer qualifications for people. We made it clearer of the responsibilities of the CICCS committee. One thing we have done is that if there are 2 or less agencies within an Op area you need to partner up with another Op area so that we get a wider diversity of viewpoints.

One issue that may be controversial is that we are proposing a change of the number of positions at the agency level for review from every 200 and 100 position down to 5 or 6, and that would be your type 4-5 IC’s, your engine bosses and firefighter I and firefighter II.

The reason we are proposing this is because this is what the majority of the fire department really have; and they may not have the expertise in house to evaluate those other 100 and 200 level positions. By moving the majority of the positions up to the 300 level committee we will have a lot more expertise to review those packages and if there a future liability issue, there will be more eyes who have review and approved the individual in question's quals, thereby reducing any one agency’s vulnerability. We think this will do a lot for the agencies because it will provide a second level review process.

There are a couple positions that will require wildland experience in order to get that to that position approved. We are also working on a method of an individual being able to maintain currency through exercise and simulation.

Finally, we will have some type of a physical fitness program; and the NWCG has limited who can issue NWCG certificates as the instructors have to be from a sponsor agency.

CICCS REPORT (continued)

Chief Scott Vail

Chief Zagaris: We need to work together to get this thing done; we need to get people trained; we need to come together for the Wellness Fitness Program.

Chief Richter: What does the Fire Chief do as far as the Wellness Fitness Program? There is a significant cost especially for the small agencies. Wellness is different than performance; don't see how this is going to work.

Chief Zagaris: It may not work for everybody but we need to try to get it to work. If we make it too restrictive people may not show up. We need to try to balance it out and obviously we don't have an answer right now; but we need to work on it.

Chief Roper: We need to go back to some old notes because there was an alternative to the Wellness Fitness Program and there are more agencies that don't have the program, than do.

IAFC WILDLAND COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chief Roper

There will be a meeting tomorrow morning; it is starting at 8:30, all the Board of Directors are invited to join.

What is about is, in October of 2009, Congress passed the Flame Act which provides an E-Fund for the federal fire agencies.

Part of that requirement is that Congress requires a cohesive strategy that is yet to be built but will address the wildland fire problem across the country. It was fashioned after the 2009 QFR Report so the architects of the plan created two tracts of the project; one is a science research project which began in February and from that there has been some break outs, because the one thing that we can't do is come up with a cohesive strategy that doesn't work for everyone. What works in the Pacific Northwest may not work in the Southeast.

In such a short time period there is no way to get a complete policy established, the report is due back to Congress in October of 2010, so there have been regional meetings established to start this dialog. For California it is tomorrow's meeting. The first review of the draft report will be heard at the Wildfire Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) meeting, July 21 & 22 in Reno; it is a public meeting.

Chief Zagaris: If you have any input for this meeting, now is the time for it.

Chief Roper: One final note: Vicki Christensen, who was the State Forester for the state of Arizona, just became one of the two Deputy Directors for the Forest Service working under Chief Tom Harbour.

CWCG UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

There are several items and issues to deal with. As pointed out at the April meeting CWCG met the first time with the Agency Administrators to get some direction. Some of the issues are out there on how to resolve issues on the local state and federal level. CWCG is going to have to tackle this long list of items on or two at a time to get something done. We are also solidifying several of the workgroups, trying to put the Charters together and work through the representation of those Charters, making sure they clearly represent the makeup of the CWCG board.

Some of the bigger items are trying to put in place some guidelines on Incident Management Teams. CWCG is taking on the oversight for the Type I and Type II teams and we are getting some push back.

The IC's are having concerns of what they are being held accountable for. We put in place a standardized process to do that evaluation; we just need to make sure people know how to fill it out. It's going to be hard for the teams to bring in more federal employees with the timeline of the process to get qualified to that level.

The California Fire Alliance had its own Charter when it was originally established and the direction right now is to bring that new Charter for Fire Alliance into place or come into CWCG.

Going from 5 Type I teams down to 4 is probably one of the more painful things the Board has had to do, but clearly if we're going to have quality vs. quantity then that needed to get done.

Also, the "Ready, Set, Go" project was distributed at the same time Fire Alliance rolled out with "Take Responsibility", so that's on the table.

We are working out some controversy with our friends in Nevada. I think staff did an excellent job dotting I's and crossing T's during the conference in Reno and CWCG has provided them some additional new direction. We have traditionally met in Reno the last number of years but due to costs and other issues we are going to try to get the meeting moved back to Sacramento.

Chief Sue Hasari: The Ops team has put together a recommendation how to best facilitate the Incident Management Team meetings and that's coming to us right now because the Park Service is not going to be able to contract in the future for a variety of reasons; we are hoping that someone else will pick up that piece of the work and that will be influenced by, as Chief Zagaris said, location and size of the meeting; because of the difficulty of contracts. This is the next most important piece of work.

Chief Hollenshead: CWCG was almost gone, but with Chief Zagaris' leadership it has really been revitalized.

Chief Zagaris: It really comes down to "we" and it's having working relationships that is really getting us there.

Lunch Break

FMAG UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

Since last summer we have been working back a forth quite a bit with CALFIRE and other agencies on a number of different items, and one of those is a streamlined submission process for FMAGs. I previously sent out an announcement to you and so you all should know that we did an adjustment in the ABC form in how it needs to be filled out in order that that we can review it and get it sent in for federal review and approval. There is a change in it, so it's better to get familiar with it now so that you know not to submit the old form. The new form is up on the website, and as we advised, you are no longer going to be required to send in the ICS 209 at the time of submission. The ICS 209's will continue to be submitted at the normal time of 0700 and 1900 per the MOB guide. Hopefully it will make your lives and those in the ECC's a little bit easier. We will still need the map and the weather along with the form. It needs to be timely, factual, and accurate. The process is, once we review it, we get on the phone to Executive, then we pick up the phone and transmit it to FEMA, FEMA gets on the phone to the federal principal advisor who generally supports our recommendation. The Federal wildland side of the house gets the same information and they are going to determine that we are not embellishing what's going on with the incident and ensure what we are telling FEMA is accurate. Thus far, we have an undefeated record. Since it has been a slow year so far, the FMAG threshold has been re-adjusted to 2.2 million per incident. Until we can identify that we spent on fire suppression, 6.5 million dollars, each one of the incidents have to reach that 2.2 million dollar threshold. Not all FMAG's are moved forward. The Jones fire in Redding, for example, took out 300 structures and lost one volunteer firefighter in that incident but never received an FMAG. I've seen FMAG's approved for less than 100 homes.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE STRUCTURE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

Chief Roper

FEMA tracks through CALFIRE. In 2009, 10 FMAG's were moved forward and 6 FMAG's were not, out of 16 we received. Late FMAG's are usually not approved. Cal EMA Fire and Rescue staff is always available to assist if you need us.

This item was discussed at the last FIRESCOPE Board of Directors meeting in January, was given to the Ops team to address; and at that time it was directed with a sense of urgency based on the information that we had at the time. That information was that NWCG was looking at adopting a similar program and if we were able to provide them information as to what our position was NWCG would consider it. It's my understanding that NWCG went ahead and adopted a program without our input that was later published in the IRPG; but they are still considering others, so our input this time will still be valued and considered for amendment to the IRPG next year.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE STRUCTURE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

Chief Rueda

We had a meeting in Mammoth last June and defined for the Task Force what we wanted the document to look like. We reviewed the available curriculum that was being taught from both contractors and State Fire Training. We found that there were not only differences in training but there were also differences in tactics. We then asked the Taskforce to put their heads together and come up with the best practices of all the models.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE STRUCTURE PROTECTION GUIDELINES (continued)

Chief Rueda

They did that and brought it back to us, and that is the document that is before you. As the final version was reviewed, issues that kept coming up were the differences in terminology such as “Hold and Engage” and differences in tactical philosophy such as “Fire Front Following”; and “Temporary Refuge Area” or “TRA” AND “Safety Zone” versus “TRA OR Safety Zone”. A TRA is not a Safety Zone but is a place where firefighters can retreat to when the fire front or their escape routes are compromised. So we are now asking the Board for direction based on our recommendation that we use the terminology, “TRA OR Safety Zone”.

Chief Drayer: Whatever we decide to use, we have an obligation to our firefighters that we are consistent across the board in our instruction and in our application.

Chief Roper: Make this a two-part question with the first being: Hold & Engage, and the second being: Temporary Refuge Area.

Chief Roper: Let me propose that if the group is ok with it, that we will get the doctoral principles and propose that they become an appendix to this document. We will then send them out to the FIREScope Board of Directors for final review, hopefully by the end of this week for concurrence. To be fair to everybody, we should read it and consider it in whole and we will deal with this as a Board action over e-mail; but we won't wait 3 months to do it. So that will be one item; now we'll go back to the position paper....The next discussion will be, “Hold and Engage” vs. “Fire Front following”. I would like to discuss this topic first.

- *Action Item-Motioned placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve the use of, “Fire Front Following” terminology instead of, “Hold and Engage”.*

Chief Roper: Let's move to the Temporary Refuge Area. The question is with the dialog, is it an “AND” or an “OR”? We have heard the position of Chief Rueda and the Ops Team. Is there anybody else that wants to add anything?

Chief Pimlott: From CALFIRE's prospective, I think the work that was done on this is huge. The concern that we have is that we are training everybody from day one basic firefighting is to identify Fire Safety Zones. By not making it “AND” people are going to have a difficult time determining when they are in and out of the firefight between the wildland and the structure as they move along; or whether or not they should be identifying a Safety Zone or not and I think that we should be concerned that in key areas we are not going to have a Safety Zone identified when there should be.

Chief Tripp: One thing about these TRA's, is that for the last 15-20 years we have been calling those Safety Zones and we've been teaching that to a whole new generation of firefighters that it's a Safety Zone; and when we look at our recent fatalities, we've given everybody an impression that if you get to the fire engine you're going to be ok; and you don't have to be agile to getting somewhere else. Most environments that have a full canopy need a plan to have a TRA but you have to have another plan if the fire behavior is so extreme that you have to get out of there, to a school or something. I think that currently send the message, that we are always going to be there and we need start back with a firefighter's life being priority. I think today we really need to consider the “AND” and “OR” and I am for “AND”.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE STRUCTURE PROTECTION GUIDELINES (continued)

Chief Rueda

Chief Dennen: I agree with Chief Tripp, that if you change it to “OR” then you change the meaning of the LCES; simple as that, and I don’t think we want to send that message.

Chief Rueda: Safety Zones don’t even apply to structure fires. We’ve been teaching Safety Zones all this time but that’s not really what it is; it’s a TRA.

Chief Roper: Are you saying that NWCG is already on board with making modifications?

Chief Drayer: Yes, that is correct, with their next print.

Chief Roper: Is there dialog among the Taskforce/Ops Team, the importance of having the TRA and a Safety Zone defined as two separate things?

Chief Rueda: I think that’s one notion of a Safety Zone; there are others that go with that. I think the concern was that in many areas, if somebody’s trained to find a Safety Zone and they can’t identify one; and after the fact people make decisions about deployment and they compared to not just survivable without a Safety Zone, they get compared to the guidelines for open areas without combustibles. I think that becomes really problematic for our “skippers” and our Strike Team Leaders.

Chief Roper: Any other comments from the group on the “AND” vs. “OR”? Normally in the FIREScope decision making process we ask for the Ops Team and the Taskforce to follow the consensus building process; it’s been rare that we get to a point of such a difference in opinion that we have to go to the Board but that’s the point of this meeting to get everybody’s opinion. We have heard both sides.

Chief Hollenshead: Is it necessary to have the term “Temporary Refuge” in there, because if indeed a TRA is safe enough for a firefighter to go into then isn’t that a Safety Zone?

Chief Rueda: The only other element that was discussed there and has not been discussed here is that, in many areas once you are there and the fire starts impacting you and you haven’t left early enough, you’re stuck, you’re not going to a Safety Zone, nor should you, it’s more dangerous. It first started out in discussions as a place where you can basically park your engine and be assured that your engine wasn’t going to be burned over because if your engine was safe, then most likely you would be safe. That doesn’t fit the definition of a Safety Zone.

Chief Roper: Let’s go back to Ed’s question on the difference between a Safety zone and a TRA, do you as authors feel that that’s contained in this document or do we need to enhance that so that it’s clear to the student?

Chief Drayer: This question is directed to the chiefs that have that different fuel model in their back yard, meaning structures. Do you see you putting your firefighters in a position of conflict when you’re telling them that if they don’t have a pre-identified Safety Zone, then they can’t engage?

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE STRUCTURE PROTECTION GUIDELINES (continued)

Chief Rueda

For me, I think it's kind of like when you're teaching your people to find a Safety Zone, your blinking, because they know they can never get to it. I agree with the "OR". This is designed for the people who are making these decisions to stick with them knowing that you're not going to be held accountable on the back end for it.

Chief Hollenshead: Originally it was motioned for "OR" and that has now changed to "And"?

Chief Roper: Asks Chief Rueda to phrase it with the "AND" and then again with the "OR".

Chief Husari: I think that we are in this problem because of the word predicted. We've gotten on to a contingency thing, and a contingency is based on the fact that you are predicting something; but then you observe something else. I would suggest that we possibly tweak the word predicted as opposed to the "AND" and "OR". The TRA is there because of the observed fire behavior, the Safety Zone is there because of the predicted fire behavior.

Chief Rueda: Before you engage, you want firefighters to make a prediction.

Chief Schmitt: Can I make a suggestion that we may be able to fix this by adding another bullet? We can change Bullet #1 to say, "Safety Zones are available based on predicted fire behavior" and then we can say on the second bullet, "TRA's are available based on observed fire behavior".

That way we are covering the Safety Zone and the fire prediction that's predicted. We are addressing temporary refuge areas based on observed fire behavior.

Chief Rueda: The reader needs to decide if they should engage.

Chief Hollenshead: I suggest we move TRA as a continuation after safety zone.

Chief Roper: We do have a motion on the floor, the board does not have to make a decision, if the Ops Team and Taskforce see the value of the dialog here and feels that they can meet and resolve it in a timely fashion. The IPRG is already out, so whatever decision we make is not going to be reflected in that this fire season.

Chief Dennen: Another suggestion is to change the bullet point and add another one, the first one would be "establish safety zones", and the second one would be "identify TRA's" and then the "AND" and "OR" is out and the predicted and observed is no longer a consideration.

Chief Tripp: We create a second bullet. First bullet is Safety Zones and second bullet is TRA's; and wherever there is an "OR" it will be changed to an "AND"

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE STRUCTURE PROTECTION GUIDELINES (continued)

Chief Rueda

Chief Drayer: I think we have enough to work with here; and if I may suggest, due to the importance of this issue, when the date for the conference call is set we should handle this item as a single issue topic and not combine it with any other non-related Board work.

- **Action Item-** *Motion placed before the members to clarify that a TRA is to be established only when the escape route to the pre-identified Safety Zone has been compromised; and that the TRA is a secondary means of egress and is not to be used as the primary security measure. The Ops Team will also separate TRA from Safety Zone and clearly define each; and the Ops Team is to replace “OR” with “AND” where applicable. The Board will conduct a single issue conference call in the coming month to approve the final document for State-wide distribution throughout the mutual aid system and publication into the ICS 420-1 (FOG). Motion approved unanimously*

OPS TEAM REPORT/TASKFORCE REPORT

Chief Rueda

Since the last Board meeting the FIRESCOPE Task Force conducted a MACS Orientation at North Ops and has preliminarily scheduled the Southern California MACS Orientation for July 15, 2010. A joint conference call also took place between the Task Force and the Operations Team to primarily work out the issues surrounding the structure protection document. There are two other items that are also up for approval, one is the MACS 410-1 document and the specific portion to be considered, is the MACS 429 document embedded within the MACS 410-1, which has since been revised into an “All Hazards” format. The second document is the MACS 410-3; there is a strike-through version and a clean-version with the letter of concurrence from the National Weather Service in your Board packets. What resulted was a change to criteria for Red Flag predictions.

Red Flag predictions from the Oxnard office ended up being the only area that was inherently different from the rest of the state. They reduced the sustained winds, as opposed to 25 mph; they will issue Red Flags at sustained winds of 15 mph and gusts of 25 mph, RH 10% or less for 6 hours or more. I think this was changed because some of the fires they observed over the last several years grew to be very large, even though there wasn’t necessarily a wind component associated with the low humidity and low fuel.

Chief Drayer: We took our stance with the NWS due to the pressure put onto the fire service by their issuance of warnings; thus resulting in us establishing staffing patterns and moving fire resources up and down the State, even though there was very low large fire probability due to the projected weather at the time. For example, CALFIRE generated 2.5 million dollars in staffing costs for a total of 1 ½ acres burned over the month of January, 2008. That was a genuine concern for some agencies.

Chief Dennen: Does this apply to Reno & Las Vegas forecast offices? I have stations on one side of the mountains and others on the other side and they have different Red Flag criteria from each other. I’m not sure the Ops Team or the Taskforce can fix the National Weather Service reporting criteria but if we establish a State-wide standard it may not necessarily apply State-wide.

Roper: Is Reno/Las Vegas on Board with the Red Flag Criteria?

OPS TEAM REPORT/TASKFORCE REPORT (continued)

Chief Rueda

Chief Drayer: Yes, by way of the NWS' Annual Operating Plan, which the revised MACS 410-3 will now be alignment with; and to which they will attach it once the Board approves the document.

Action Item- Motion placed before the members to approve both the MACS 410-1 and the MACS 410-3 as presented. Motion approved unanimously

CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

I have already sent out a couple of updates, one with the new radio frequency information; and the other, is the updated 2010 aviation assets spreadsheet and a current list of available helicopter managers as compiled by the FIRESCOPE Aviation Specialist Group.

Also, we are waiting for Chief Dennen to come on-board with us. We've also reinstated Assistant Chief Marvin Howard from retirement as our Region II North Assistant Chief. So we now have two Chiefs covering those 16 counties. Final personnel note, we've also had a Deputy Chief on board with us for the past 4 months who is currently on medical leave.

Hopefully within the next month, we will take new delivery of the next 7 replacement Type I fire engines.

WESTWIDE WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Dean Cromwell

The Westwide Wildfire Risk Assessment project's purpose is to make you aware of the importance of fire planning for your area and this realization is drawn upon the Southern experience. The West and the South has considerable problems with wildfire across multiple states; and basically the Westwide Wildfire Risk Assessment is designed to provide information across to all 17 of the western states including, California. The 17 western states together have developed a program for funding. There is a website for the Westwide Assessment and this covers all lands and use tactics that could be used in the likelihood that fire would occur.

The concerns and impacts that California has been lumped in to with the other states; and for better or for worse, we are different, we have a lot of population. Also, there is not an ongoing funding source for this updated study project. Two things other than the motion of the project, I would like to know if there would be an interest from the Board of a more detailed briefing of this project and the other thing is the extent in which FIRESCOPE would like to have continued updates for your future meetings. This is our first outreach to talk to any executives for this project.

Chief Roper: Is this computer generated or are you going to be relying on local input to really decipher parcel by parcel?

Mr. Cromwell: It's largely computer generated by your state representatives, who are aware of the data and that go out on incidents. California has weather data from the National Weather Service; and because California is so well coordinated, it has good data; but other states data is not very good.

WESTWIDE WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT (continued)

Dean Cromwell

Chief Roper: Does California have a data layer that shows which jurisdictions by county or city has adopted the WUI codes.

Mr. Cromwell: No.

Chief Husari: I think CALFIRE is trying to detect how many structures there are and where they are. Hybrids will produce better for other states than California.

➤ *Action Item- The Board requested that Mr. Cromwell keep the Board updated as to the status of the Westwide Wildfire Assessment Project.*

PRESENTATIONS

Chief Roper

Chief Roper acknowledged retiring Chiefs Hollenshead and Dennen with certificates of appreciation for their service to the Mutual Aid System and to the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Roper

Chief Webb: I would like to bring up for discussion some issues that came up in Cal EMA Region III, and maybe even in some other regions, with regards to some resources that were ordered for the Station Fire. We are an OES assignee.

Is it a proper use of Mutual Aid when you start using local government resources from one side of the State to respond to the other side? And because the order and request for the resources requested came with an ANF request number it was misleading to a lot of agencies because they thought that since the order came from the National Forest that it couldn't be mutual aid therefore it would be reimbursed under the CFAA.

Chief Webb: When we look at the F-42 instructions it is very clear that the 3-letter identifier is responsible for reimbursement. This was a fire that started in the forest and burned onto local jurisdiction; so I think that there is going to be some fear that there is going to be some costs that you just can't control.

Chief Roper: In ROSS there is a new field to identify as to how the equipment is ordered that is there now.

Chief Drayer: The field for the requesting agency's 3 letter identifier is mandatory; the one for financial responsibility is not. If dispatch fails to fill in that free text field there could be some confusion as to reimbursement.

Chief Zagaris: OES engines have a higher level of commitment. The responsibility for the requesting side is to share the information. What is not happening is that whoever is making the request is not using the 3-letter identifier.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Chief Roper

Chief Webb: The Station Fire is not getting 100% reimbursement, eventually they'll get 93.75% reimbursement on their costs, which is pretty good but it's not 100%; and these are agencies that are having brown outs. I think that this can't happen very often because it's going to start to break people down. Part of our Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations, were to add additional engines, and I'm not sure very many people are going to jump on board with this going on.

Chief Zagaris: We are going to move the OES engines because they have a higher obligation to go; they don't have the option to turn down the request. Going back to 2008, we moved Strike Teams out of Prado Mobilization and they weren't paid for by the agencies that requested them. We all agree that under the CFAA that you can't move a Strike Team unless you agree to pay for it. I ended up making the payment to make folks whole and took the repercussions for that. If you are going to order a resource you better know what you ordered. In 10 years, we have increased the use of the mutual aid system in California by 800%. We have been given approval to move forward on revamping our reimbursement process. This will allow the reimbursement timeline go from 210 days to perhaps 60 or 90 days. We do have a higher requirement for the OES engine fleet, one of the benefits of having an OES engine is that you get to use it locally; but on the same end you need to go out the door with it when asked.

Chief Roper: Back in 2003 with the Blue Ribbon Committee, when we didn't have the financial situation that we have today, that was one of the recommendations to get more engines and to utilize the State's fleet more. Has MMA outlived its original creation? We are living with a system that was created back in the 1930's and 40's. It was used more for earthquakes; not fires. ROSS changed for this year; it needs to be made mandatory on the 3-letter identifier.

Chief Zagaris: As the board makes decisions and we go out and set standards it is incumbent upon us that we recommend and suggest improvements to the California Fire Service. We need to lead by example; I get on my Assistant Chiefs when they order resources without going through the system. I am proud that we are where we are at internally and that we need to share this as we go.

The next FIREScope BOD conference call is scheduled for, July 1, 2010 @ 1600 hours – 951-782-4210.

The next FIREScope BOD meeting is scheduled for, July 13, 2010 – Burbank FD Training Center.

AJOURNMENT

Chief Roper

Chief Drayer: Asked for headcount for dinner. Chief Zagaris and FIREScope have agreed to reimburse those local government Board members who are staying overnight to attend the Wildfire Leadership Council meeting tomorrow morning. You will need to fill out a State travel expense claim, which we will process for you and the instructions to complete the form are in the packet that you will be given. There will be transportation provided by Cal EMA staff to and from the hotel.

3:30p.m. – Meeting adjourned.