

January 16, 1979

MEETING NOTES  
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S  
November 27 and 28, 1978  
(Claremont, California)

I. Attendance

Present were:

Bragdon  
Callaham  
Chaffin  
Cunningham  
Dresser

Gerard  
Masson  
Patterson  
Richey  
Smith

Barrows  
Irwin  
Land  
Masoner

II. Progress Report

Irwin provided a short progress report on the 1978-79 Action Plan. Over the past 9 months, about 70 to 75 percent of targets in the Plan have been achieved. It is expected that most of the targets not affected by funding will be accomplished by early 1979.

The Board directed the Program Office to develop a "statement of accomplishment" showing how the FY '78 \$1.2 million was expended, and what resulted from that effort. A draft of this report will be presented to the Operations Team in January. Final product will be mailed to Board members by March 1, 1979.

III. Program Office FY '79 Budget

Copies of the planned Program Office budget for \$1.2 million (dated 11/22/78) were reviewed by the Board.

Members expressed concern about the potential funding of priorities 6 and 7 ("Radios" and "Upgrade FIREMARS Cache"). The Program Office will not expend monies on these items until concerns of the Board are satisfied.

See Section VI (D) below for further notes on communications.

IV. MACS Functions

The working paper "Multiagency Coordination System Functional Area Description" was reviewed.

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The Design Concept Steps and the assumptions were accepted.

The Board accepted the paper as a framework of desired NACS functions, with the following direction to the Operations Team:

- A. In item 3.d, the Line Effectiveness Assessment Module should be expanded to include those programs necessary to provide an urban-wildland fire spread model.
- B. An item 3.j should be added. This item should show the need for other modules such as, "Earthquake Plans," "Evacuation," etc.

The Board directed the Operations Team and Task Force to continue work on this product.

V. Economic Evaluation Results

Hugh Carmichael, of Aerospace Corp., presented a briefing on the FIRESCOPE Economic Analysis. This is a highly positive evaluation. Briefly, it establishes the following:

- A. FIRESCOPE region suppression workloads can be expected to increase in the future.
- B. Costs and losses can be expected to escalate also.
- C. The FIRESCOPE "Recommended System" level (capable of serving five simultaneous incidents) is cost effective if the system provides as little as 3 to 7 percent increase in fire service efficiency.
- D. Full implementation of the FIRESCOPE design could reduce public costs and losses by as much as \$2.0 million per year average.

Board members will receive a complete copy of the Evaluation in early January, and another indepth briefing on the product will be presented at the next Board meeting.

VI. Operations Team Recommendations

Recommendations from the Operations Team were deliberated, with the following results:

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- A. Agreed to extend the use period of the interim OCC and remodel space so that soon-to-arrive computer hardware can be installed.

Original recommendation called for "at least 5 years" of extended use. The Board agreed to this without defining a time frame. They felt that the site could be vacated sooner if some very favorable circumstances should make it advisable to do so.

The Program Office was directed to fund necessary materials and activities for remodeling.

- B. All Board members signed the Letter of Agreement to improve and maintain Situation and Resources Status-Keeping procedures. Copies of the Letter are being distributed to the Operations Team and Task Force.
- C. All Board members also signed the Letter of Agreement to implement the FIRESCOPE Incident Command System.

The Board directed the Program Office and Operations Team to develop a position statement that can serve as a guide for the inclusion of other fire agencies, State Fire Training, Fire Marshall's Office, etc. in ICS adoption and training.

- D. Only the first of five recommendations from the Communications Working Group was approved by the Board. This authorizes the Program Office to obtain consulting assistance for the Working Group and a maintenance agreement with the State Communications Division.

The remaining four recommendations were tabled, pending more staff work and a better understanding of overall communications planning by the Board.

The Board asked that a full briefing on the progress, plans, and overall goals of the Communications Working Group be presented at their next meeting.

- E. The Board members all signed the revised "FIRESCOPE Decisions Teams and Specialist Group Charters."

## VII. Funding

Board members carried on an indepth discussion of funding constraints, outlooks, and desired actions.

Federal, State, and local partners are all feeling the consequences of reduced budgets and the potential for further cuts.

The partner agencies all reaffirmed support for the FIREScope concept as a vehicle to improve fire agency coordination and offset the future effects of increased fire problems, increased costs, and rising public losses.

As a result of the discussion, the Board reached general consensus or understanding on the following:

- A. The Forest Service will keep FIREScope implementation funding in future Regional budgets. Board members agreed that the Implementation Plan should be revised to show a "level funding" amount of \$3.7 million per year, rather than what is now shown until the full system is implemented.
- B. The FIREScope Economic Evaluation should be used as much as possible to inform interested parties about the potential payoffs of the system.
- C. The Office of Emergency Services has information that their 1979-80 budget will contain \$60,000 earmarked for OCC operations. Indications are that this will be continued and increased in future years to meet justified needs.

The OES has been informed that formal agreements between current partners are needed to support budget requests.

The State Finance Department is not convinced that the State should provide the necessary Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding for all non-Federal partners.

The Board agreed that there is renewed need to examine the cost sharing situation and the appropriate role of the State in O&M funding. However, based on existing facts and constraints the Board reaffirmed its belief that the State should be responsible for all non-Federal O&M costs.

- D. The Forest Service will take action to clarify the apparent confusion on "matching funds" that appeared in this year's appropriations language.

It is important that all legislative levels understand and agree to the longstanding agreement between FIREScope partners that the Federal Government would provide implementation funding and that partners would then provide ongoing O&M financing.

- E. However, since "matching fund" language is contained in the FY '79 appropriation, the Forest Service needs to show good faith. All partners are requested to keep records of their contributions to the Program for future reporting by the Program Office.

VIII. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held March 14, 1979, with no decision on exact location. The aim will be to hold it where the Southern California Watershed Fire Council holds their March meeting, and thus reduce travel costs for Board members.

The Board agreed to at least the following items for the agenda:

- A. Program Office "Statement of Accomplishment."
- B. Progress briefing on MACS functions.
- C. Second briefing on Economic Evaluation product.
- D. Position Statement on inclusion of other fire services in ICS adoption and training.
- E. Position Statement on O&M costs and State role therein.
- F. Briefing on Communications planning and recommendations.
- G. Briefing on Automatic Weather Stations.