

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

**Minutes of the Meeting  
November 30, 1994  
State Fire Marshal's Office  
Sacramento, California**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Donald Manning, Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
Neil Honeycutt, Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Gary Costamagna, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department  
Jim Dykes, Deputy Director-(*For Richard Wilson*) - CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Larry Holms, Chief - Orange County Fire Department  
John Lee, Deputy Chief - Montclair Fire Department (attending for Loren Pettis)  
Michael Freeman, Chief - Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Jim Sewell, Chief - Ventura County Fire Department  
Doug Sporleder, Chief - Santa Clara County Fire Department  
James Wait, Deputy Chief - (*For Ron Coleman*) State Fire Marshal's Office  
Ray Quintanar, Acting Director - U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Keith Simmons, Deputy Chief - Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Russ Richards, Fire Warden - Stanislaus County

**DIRECTOR OF OES**

Richard Andrews

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chris Cameron, Protection Specialist - Branch of Fire Management  
Pat Kidder, Fire & Aviation Officer - Bureau of Land Management  
Loren Pettis, Chief - Montclair Fire Department  
Richard Wilson, Director - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT**

Eldon Nagel, California State Firefighter's Association  
Brian Hatch, California Professional Firefighters

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bruce Ward, Deputy Director - Office of Emergency Services  
Paul Beckstrom, Deputy Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Lee Mitchell, Deputy Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Kim Zagaris, Assistant Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Mark Ghilarducci, Deputy Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Glenn Newman, South Area Chief - California Department of Forestry  
Jim Owen, Region Chief - California Department of Forestry

Mike Colgan, Battalion Chief - Orange County Fire Department  
 Mike Scherr, Deputy Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
 Art Cota, Division Chief- State Fire Marshal  
 Mike Richwine, DSFM III, California State Fire Marshal  
 Mike Dougherty, Emergency Operational Coordinator - U.S.D.A. Forest Service

### **OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Chairman Donald Manning. Self-introductions were made.

### **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 13, 1994 MINUTES**

*Larry Holms moved that the minutes of the July 13, 1994 meeting be approved as written. Keith Simmons seconded, and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.*

### **1993 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES: AFTER-ACTION REPORT**

Ray Quintanar and Mike Dougherty reviewed issues contained in the 1993 Fires After Action Report. They emphasized the need to show continued leadership by implementing recommendations based upon the report.

Ray Quintanar added that the Summary Report of the Action Items he was presenting stated nothing new. Many of the action items were also addressed in the 1991 Tunnel Fire After Action Report.

He also commented that the ten "Action Items" presented will require some oversight by the FIREScope Board, and completion dates will need to be evaluated.

Dick Andrews recommended that a long-range approach could be taken to act on the recommendations contained in the 1993 Fires After Action Report, and that the 93 recommendations it contained should not be overlooked.

The ten points contained in Ray Quintanar's after action summary were:

#### **ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY**

##### **1. UNIFIED COMMAND TRAINING: Bring Statewide System Users up to a Common Operating Level.**

###### ***Comments:***

Ray Quintanar said that a meeting was held with the State Fire Marshal, Ron Coleman, and that Chief Coleman committed to helping accomplish the goal.

Discussion followed regarding possible methods of ensuring that the after-action recommendations are acted upon and resolved. Suggestions included

the establishment of an oversight committee with involvement from the State Fire Marshal.

## 2. EOC/MACS INTERFACE

Ray Quintanar recommended that a protocols be developed for interfacing MACS with local, operational area, and regional emergency operation centers (EOC's).

### *Comments:*

Dick Andrews expressed the opinion that these subjects are being addressed through the SEMS process. Guidelines and training modules are almost complete, and are based upon the NWCG. He added that the absence of references to how SEMS has addressed such issues was misleading, and that "we are not giving ourselves enough credit for what has been accomplished."

A discussion followed regarding the method of providing SEMS training. It was pointed out that the training should probably not be delivered by the California Specialized Training Institute, but rather through the Fire Service and the State OES Fire and Rescue Branch.

## 3. CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE MUTUAL AID COMMUNICATION

Mr. Quintanar recommended that State OES needs to bring Mutual Aid providers up to a strong operating level with available Mutual Aid Frequencies.

### *Comments:*

Donald Manning commented that this was the biggest issue in the summary, due, in part, to the technology involved.

Kim Zagaris offered a brief history of the White Fire Frequencies, pointing out that the frequencies were originally managed by OES. Some time later, OES delegated that authority to Cal-Chiefs, which in turn, gave the responsibility for policing the frequencies back to OES. He suggested that the Board meet with Cal-Chiefs to discuss the issue.

Glenn Newman recommended that guidelines be developed for purchasing radios.

## 4. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ICS TRAINING

The recommendation was that the FIREScope partner agencies, along with the State Fire Marshal's Office, need to develop minimum ICS Training standards for fire service personnel in California. This effort should include written position descriptions and training, and statewide certifications and qualifications.

### *Comments:*

Mike Dougherty recommended that ICS training be included in Firefighter and

Chief Officer curricula.

**5. ESTABLISH ICS ADVISOR TEAMS**

The recommendation was that the FIREScope Board of Directors establish ICS Advisor Teams, and make them available through the Mutual Aid System.

*Comments:*

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of putting the teams on contract. Costs for the contract could approach \$50,000.

**6. AUTOMATED RESOURCE TRACKING**

The recommendation was that OES and the FIREScope Board of Directors develop an automated resource tracking system for the fire service Mutual Aid System. The system would include billing support program.

*Comments:*

The discussion that followed identified a lack of experienced personnel to fulfill resource tracking roles.

**7. OCC OPERATIONS: MACS PROCEDURES**

It was recommended that the MACS Procedures Guide be used as designed without modifications to the Modes of Operation.

*Comments:*

It was suggested that FIREScope review the MACS Procedures Guide. On a related subject, the MACS conference calls were said to be convenient, but lacked face-to-face personal contact.

**8. MOBILIZATION CENTER DEVELOPMENT**

It was recommended that OES assist in the development of pre-identified mobilization centers, and that it provide support funding.

*Comments:*

In discussion, the funding of the centers was questioned, but the concept of pre-identified centers was well-received. June 1995 was suggested as a deadline for funding approval.

**9. USE AND MANAGEMENT OF OUT-OF-STATE MUTUAL AID RESOURCES**

It was recommended that OES explore adding out-of-state resources to the Mutual Aid response system, as these resources can have faster response times to border areas than state resources.

*Comments:*

In discussion, it was recommended that OES review the Interstate Compact Agreements and make findings related to this issue.

**10. DEVELOP AN ALTERNATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY**

It was recommended that FIREScope assist in identifying hardware and software for the improvement of statewide mutual aid communications.

*Comments:*

It was recommended that the FIREScope Communications Specialist Group study this issue in order to provide better plans for common communications protocols.

*Larry Holms suggested that the ten-item After-Action Summary be published before May, 1995.*

Ray Quintanar suggested that the Board's Five-year Plan be reviewed with this After-Action Summary in mind.

The discussion that followed included these points:

- Some of the ten-point suggestions have been valid for many years without adequate resolution.
- A new five-year plan should be adopted.
- In terms of funding, OES Director Andrews would prefer to move ahead and coordinate new funding with the Governor's Office and the State Legislature to support the After-Action recommendations, rather than relying on the alteration of existing sources.

*Ray Quintanar moved to form five subcommittees to address these issues.*

*James Sewell moved to amend the first motion in order to form four subcommittees instead of five.*

*Douglas Sporleder seconded the amendment in order to form four subcommittees. The motion was approved unanimously.*

OES Director Andrews questioned the specifics of the motion. He suggested that a new long-range plan be developed, rather than attempting to amend existing plans.



## US&R UPDATE

Mark Ghilarducci provided an update on the State and National US&R Programs. He reviewed State and National funding for the programs and how federal dollars would be allocated this year. State funding remains the same, although equipment money is currently frozen. Federal money available this fiscal year amounts to approximately two-million dollars.

Chief Ghilarducci reviewed an initiative on the national level to alter the make-up of the 56-person US&R Task Force. Based upon past missions, it was recommended that two Safety Officers, two Plans Officers and two Logistics Specialists be added to the Task Force. This action would increase the number of positions on the task force to 62. The proposal will be reviewed at the National US&R Task Force Leaders meeting on December 1 in Washington, D.C.

In reviewing Task Force training requirements, Chief Ghilarducci pointed out that overtime costs for training were creating a substantial problem for the Task Forces. OES and FEMA are aware of this problem, and are working hard to try and offset some of the costs. More "train-the-trainer" curriculum is being devised and will be offered for in house training.

He also provided information on research and development projects. Currently, work with NASA-JPL is underway. NASA would like to use some of their space technology to enhance victim detection capabilities following structural collapse. In addition, OES has entered into an agreement with Lawrence Livermore Laboratories to provide an aftershock alert system for Task Force personnel working on structural collapses following earthquakes.

Finally, Chief Ghilarducci announced the completion of the FIREScope ICS-120-1 guidelines for US&R. These guidelines will be included in the overall ICS Field Operations Guide. These guidelines will also be included in the 1995 OES STRESS Survey.

## NORTH/SOUTH OPERATION TEAM REPORTS

Mike Scherr stated that the revised Field Operations Guide has been sent to State Printing. He estimated that the FOG's would be mailed out from OES Sacramento in February, 1995. He added that additional copies may be purchased by the Fire Service.

## MIRS - (MULTI AGENCY INCIDENT RESPONSE SYSTEM)

Neil Honeycutt reviewed the status of the MIRS project, and presented a project package to the Board. The first phase is jointly funded by CDF, the U.S. Forest Service, and State OES. Initially, a Request For Information will be sent to entities that can supply technical knowledge, hardware, and software for the project.

The project participants are concerned that the system will be able to incorporate changes in technology, so that the components do not become quickly outdated.

Funding of the advanced phases of the project has not yet been identified, although upcoming meetings will address that issue. Chief Honeycutt offered to carry forward any suggestions about the project to the MIRS Steering Committee.

### **USCG - (FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL) FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE**

Mike Colgan reported that plans are being made to develop a Field Operations Guide for oil spills on bodies of water, which the Coast Guard hopes to use as a standard for federal and international response.

### **MUTUAL AID "WHITE FIRE" FREQUENCIES**

Paul Beckstrom referred to the earlier discussion regarding White Fire radio channels. He reiterated that Cal-Chiefs ultimately develop the regulations governing the White Fire frequencies, and delegates the enforcement of those regulations to State OES.

He presented a document from the FIREScope Communications Specialist Group regarding the use of White Fire 1. The FIREScope Communications Specialist Group and Cal-Chiefs Communications Section agreed upon the recommendations. Chief Beckstrom noted that the recommended revision of OES Bulletin 28 prohibits the use of White One for tactical or fireground use, which frees it up for use in contacting dispatch centers. It also prohibits the use of cross-band repeaters on White 1.

*Jim Dykes suggested moved to approve Bulletin 28 .*

*Glenn Newman seconded the motion , and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.*

### **NEW OES ENGINES**

Paul Beckstrom reported that Westmark was awarded the bid for the new OES engines. He briefly reviewed the schematic drawings.

### **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

Chief Honeycutt requested comments on the existing Five-Party Cooperative Agreement, as it comes up for renewal next year.

### **SEMS UPDATE**

Larry Holms reported that the FIREScope Board of Directors' guidelines are in final revision. There are still unresolved issues regarding the advisability of EOC's located in low population density counties, versus regional EOC's covering those areas.

EOC courses are nearing final review. A meeting will be held December 13 to assess progress. Chief Holms anticipated that the training could be made available by

November, 1995.

### NWCG ICS TRAINING

Mike Scherr reported that a committee has been formed by the Fire Marshal to coordinate this ICS training. The committee is chaired by Bill Cote, consisting of Gary Godfelt, Mike Colgan and Ralph Allworth.

Chief Scherr said that endorsements from FIREScope and Cal-Chiefs are desired.

### CLOSING REMARKS/NEXT MEETING DATE

Jim Dykes, Deputy Director for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, reported that CDF has budgeted funds in 1995-1996 to test the Canadair "Super Scooper" aircraft.

Donald Manning suggested that the April meeting be held in Riverside.

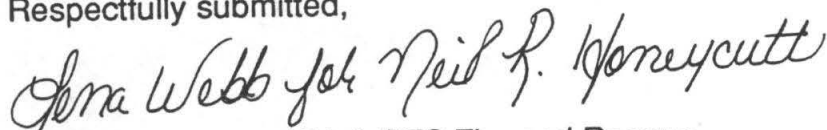
Glen Newman added that the Board should see the remodeled OCC in Riverside.

The Board Members congratulated Lee Mitchell, OES Fire and Rescue Branch Deputy Chief, upon his retirement. His last day at work will be December 30, 1994.

The next meeting was set for January 11, 1994.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Neil R. Honeycutt, Chief, OES Fire and Rescue  
February 22, 1995

NRH/mdd/mlw