

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

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**October 9, 1996**  
**Sacramento, California**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Andrews - Director - Office of Emergency Service  
Gary Costamagna - Chief - Sacramento Fire Department  
Neil Honeycutt - Chief - Office of Emergency Services, Fire and Rescue Branch  
James Sewell - Chief - Ventura County Fire Department  
Russell Richards - Chief - Stanislaus County Fire Department  
Pat Kidder - State Fire & Aviation Officer - Bureau of Land Management  
James Brannon - Chief - Linda Fire Department  
Larry Holms - Chief - Orange County Fire Authority  
Ronny Coleman - State Fire Marshal - CDF/State Fire Marshal's Office  
James Owen - Deputy Director - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bill Bamattre - Chief - Los Angeles City Fire Department  
P. Michael Freeman - Chief - Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Chris Cameron - Protection Specialist - National Park Service  
Keith Simmons - Chief - Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Douglas Sporleder - Chief - Central Fire Protection District  
Daniel Clark - Chief - Kern County Fire Department  
Jose Cruz - Director - United States Forest Service

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gary Pavusko - Deputy Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Mark Ghilarducci - Deputy Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Cary Eckard - Deputy Chief - Kern County Fire Department  
Steve Vittum - Division Chief - Santa Barbara County  
Ralph Alworth - Division Chief - CDF  
Glen Newman - Region Chief - CDF  
Gary Gilbert - Region Chief - CDF  
J. M. Harris - South Area Chief - CDF  
Donald Anthony - Deputy Chief - Los Angeles City Fire Department  
Steve Sherrill - Chief Deputy - Los Angeles County Fire Department

Andy Anderson - Chief - Quincy Fire Protection District  
Ray Quintinar - Deputy Director - U. S. Forest Service  
George Ewan - OCC Riverside - U. S. Forest Service  
Tom Nichols - Protection Specialist - National Park Service  
Rich Mc Kinney - Battalion Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department  
Mike Antonucci - Assistant Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Kim Zagaris - Assistant Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Jim Marquis - Assistant Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Jim Cox - Assistant Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Dan Tinnel - Assistant Chief - Office of Emergency Services  
Will Brock - Assistant Chief - Office of Emergency Services

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M. by Chairman Gary Costamagna and self-introductions were made.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chief Larry Holms moved to approve the minutes of the July 10, 1996 meeting.

Chief James Sewell seconded the motion and the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

### **NEW OES FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL**

Neil Honeycutt introduced the newest member of the OES Fire and Rescue Branch staff, Gary Pavusko, Deputy Chief, FIREScope/Administration. Chief Pavusko, with 23 years in the fire service, was formerly with the Bureau of Land Management, assigned to Las Vegas. Prior to his appointment to OES he had been detailed to the Otay Mountain Interagency Fire Management Team on the California-Mexico border. Chief Pavusko will work in our Sacramento Headquarters supervising both Sacramento and Riverside staff.

### **OES DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dick Andrews reported on the processes used to obtain both a Gubernatorial Disaster Declaration and a Presidential Disaster Declaration. He explained the criteria used to obtain funds under the FEMA Fire Suppression Assistance Grant Program. This process begins with gathering cost estimates during the emergency, determining the total cost of the fire, and notifying FEMA early in the process. In order to qualify for these funds the "floor cost" must be met. In California this floor cost is currently \$13 Million dollars/per fire (based on a five year average). None of the August fires met this criteria.

Director Andrews gave a detailed report, from the NEMA conference held in San Diego, regarding the command, control and coordination of federal resources during two recent disasters involving aircraft. The TWA 800 crash in New York, and the ValueJet crash in Florida. He explained that the coordination of local, state, and federal activities during these incidents was hampered because no single federal agency has the responsibility for coordination, and they

do not use the Incident Command System.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

Chair Costamanaga indicated that this process will be completed by the next meeting. The executive committee recommendations have been presented to Director Andrews.

### **OES FIRE AND RESCUE BRANCH REPORT**

Chief Honeycutt outlined the activity of the Fire and Resuce Branch during the recent fire seige. This included processing over 100 Strike Teams, and 90 Overhead personnel. OES Fire and Rescue Branch will host a meeting of both the Region Chiefs, and the ECC Chiefs, for all 6 Regions in early 1997. The topics will include standardization of operating practices. OES Fire and Law Branches will also be coordinating terrorism awareness training with the Fire Departments in 1997.

### **OES FIRE OPERATIONS**

Neil Honeycutt reported the four new engines will be ready for delivery within 30 days. The Fire Branch has ordered five (5) new engines from the current year budget. He explained that the purchase of these engines does very little to solve the more serious problem of replacing the older engines in the fleet.

The Reimbursement Subcommittee will hold their first meeting on October 30, 1996, at Mather Air Force Base. The group will discuss equipment rates, personnel costs, the impact on volunteer departments, and streamlining the reimbursement process. Invoices for fires before July 1 have been processed. OES is working on new computer program for the new more complex reimbursement formulas.

### **SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

Mark Ghilarducci reported on recent activities in USAR and Special Operations. On July 10, elements of the Sacramento USAR Task Force, OES HRF -2 , and local Heavy Rescue units responded to the rockfall incident in Yosemite National Park. An Incident Support Team (IST) was dispatched to Hurricane Fran. Mark reported on the USAR involvement at both the Republican National Convention and the Summer Olympics in Atlanta. California USAR Task Forces are currently renegotiating their MOA's with FEMA. He described current pending Federal Legislation and the impact it may have on the USAR program. Two logistics disaster support caches (40' trailers) have been developed and will be pre-staged in the state. The location of each will be determined after discussion with local fire agencies.

### **CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP (CWGG)**

Pat Kidder reported on the current status of the NWS Fire Weather forecasting in California. The cuts are driven by the Office of Management and Budget, and their Modernization Plan.

These cuts mainly involve the relocation of fire weather forecasters to Sacramento and Hanford, (from Redding and Riverside) reduction of spot weather forecasts, and the reduction of fire qualified Incident Response Meteorologists (IRM)..

Ray Quintanar found this to be totally unacceptable. Mike Harris stated this has turned political. The Watershed Fire Council of Southern California held a news conference in Riverside on this topic yesterday (July 9, 1996). Neil Honeycutt agreed that this is a very serious problem affecting a large number of local government fire personnel. Various Board members expressed the view that this is a serious public safety issue. Following a long discussion the Board of Directors took action on this issue. Board members were directed to provide the Executive Coordinator with names of interested parties or groups.

*Chief James Sewell made a motion to take a position in support of the CWCG/ NWS Agreement being developed, to maintain the current levels of National Weather Service functions in California, to protect firefighter and public safety, property, and resources. Director Andrews directed to contact the Secretary of Commerce. The text of the Boards position is provided below.*

*Chief Jim Owen seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.*

Text of Board's Position Statement:

"It has been a long term position of the OES Fire and Rescue Advisory Board/ FIREScope Board of Directors that the provision of accurate, timely fire weather information is critical to the public safety in California. We are highly concerned with the impact of the National Weather Service Modernization Plan and related budget reductions on this critical public safety service."

Our Position is:

1. That fire weather forecasting be reconsidered as a "Core Product" mission of the National Weather Service.
2. No changes to the pre-October 1, 1996 level of service in fire weather forecasting be allowed for 120 days.
3. That the National Weather Service enter into a discussion with the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG) to insure continuation of fire weather forecasting at an acceptable level in the future.

## **PRESENTATION - PROJECT WILDFIRE: DEFENSE/SPACE CONSORTIUM**

Chief Ben Lopes introduced Mr. Richard H. Davies of the Defense/Space Consortium of Sunnyvale, California. This non-profit consortium is involved in converting military and aerospace technology to civilian use, specifically in the public sector. Mr. Davies explained the various programs his group is working on in the Silicon Valley.

One application involves the use of satellite imagery to assist fire departments in pre-fire planning in the Urban Wildland Interface areas. The group is also studying the possibility of using existing military communications infrastructure to handle non-sensitive information (data) for civil use.

### **1996 FIREScope WORK PLAN: Operations Teams Report**

Chief Andy Anderson explained that the Work Plan covers only one year. Future plans call for the development of a Strategic Plan by the Operations Team. This will be a item on the agenda for the next Joint Operations Team meeting in Morro Bay (January 1997).

Chief Anderson reported that National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) had omitted FIREScope from the membership on various committees. This omission has been resolved with the appointment of Ralph Alworth to represent FIREScope on the NWCG Incident Operations and Working Group.

Work Plan elements are:

- FIREScope Work Plan covers the current 12 month period.
- Strategic Plan will be the umbrella document (Long Range Plan)
- The plan will be updated each year.
- Joint Operation Team meetings scheduled in January/July

***Chief Larry Holms made a motion to accept the Work Plan as submitted and also requested that the Operations Team and Task Force develop a strategic plan to be submitted back to the Board.***

***Chief James Sewell seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.***

A informational discussion on the process of Strategic Plan development followed the approval of the motion. The Board directed we have the After Action Report follow-up on each agenda and these items be included as an important part of the Work Plan. The Board agreed they would like to have a list of issues the Task Force and Operations Teams are working on presented at the next Board meeting. These issues would be prioritized by the Board to provide direction to the Task Force and Operations Teams.

The Field Operations Guide (FOG) reprinting process was discussed following a question from Chief Don Anthony. The FOG's will be issued next year after a few minor updates are made. Approximately 30,000 FOG's will be printed.

Chief Honeycutt indicated the Deputy Chief Pavusko will coordinate FIREScope activities with the Task Force and Operations Teams.

### **TASK FORCE REPORT**

Ralph Alworth presented the Task Force Report (attached). George Ewan reported on the work of the \_\_\_\_\_ Specialists Group.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

The next meeting will be on January 8, 1997 at the OCC in Riverside.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by:

**Neil R. Honeycutt, Chief  
State of California  
Office of Emergency Services  
Fire and Rescue Branch**