



FIRESCOPE

CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Verdugo Fire Communications Center
Glendale Fire Station 21
421 Oak Street, Glendale, CA

October 10, 2012, 09:30 A.M.

Members Present

Mike Dyer – Chairperson FIRESCOPE BoD, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Daryl Osby – Vice-Chairperson FIRESCOPE BoD, Los Angeles County Fire
Ken Pimlott – Director, CAL FIRE
Kim Zagaris – Fire & Rescue, Cal EMA
Mark Lorenzen – Ventura County Fire
Brian Marshall – Kern County Fire Department
Dave Rocha – Alameda Fire, Counties North
Sid Beckman – National Parks Service
Joe Millar – U.S. Forest Service
Dale Hutchinson – Fire & Rescue, Cal EMA Region VI
Paul Bannister – U.S. Dept of Interior, BLM
Keith Larkin – Fire & Rescue, Cal EMA Region V
Ralph Domanski – FIRESCOPE, Cal EMA
Chuck Knapp – California State Firefighters Association
Bill Metcalf – Fire Districts South
Jim Wilson – Mariposa County Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Departments
Richard Webb – Linda Fire Protection District
Mario Rueda – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Brian Cummings – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Keith Richter – Orange County Fire Authority
Tonya Hoover – Office of State Fire Marshall (Call-in)

Guests Present

Mark Ghilarducci – Secretary, Cal EMA
David Fukutomi – Cal EMA
Chad Stokes – Fire & Rescue, Cal EMA
Mike Lococo – Fire & Rescue, Cal EMA
Art Torrez – Fire & Rescue, Cal EMA
Jon Kolman - Fire & Rescue HazMat, Cal EMA
Elaine Smith – FIRESCOPE, Cal EMA
Doug Windham – Cal EMA (Call-in)
Ishmael Messer – Cal EMA (Call-in)
Charles Butler – Los Angeles City Fire Department
Ray Navarro – SBC Fire

Jim Middleton – Mariposa County Fire
Mike Esparza – CSFA replacing Chuck Knapp
Robert Bell - USFS
Don Brady – Kern County Fire
Ray Ramirez – Ontario Fire Department
Mark Hafner - CALFIRE

Welcome, Introduction, Logistics – Meeting starts 0936

1. Chief Dyer introduces himself and welcomes the Board members and guests to the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting.

Approval of July 11, 2012 minutes

2. Chief Hoover stated that in the July 11th FIRESCOPE meeting minutes, there was an error with the spelling of her name.
3. Chief Hoover stated that item #12 of the July 11, 2012 FIRESCOPE meeting minutes should read:
“and State Board of Fire Service before being implemented.” **NOT**
“and then stakeholders before being implemented.”

ACTION ITEM – Motion made to approve the July 11, 2012 FIRESCOPE BoD Meeting Minutes, Chief Wilson seconds. Motion Approved.

Cal EMA Secretary’s Report

4. Secretary Ghilarducci stated that the Cal EMA reorganization plan has been completed and vetted through the regulatory control agencies within the state. He states that this reorganization plan will take place in two phases with the first occurring during the first week of November.
5. Secretary Ghilarducci stated that over the past few months, he has been working with the Department of Finance with regard to Cal EMA’s budget and possible impact the November 6th elections could have on it. He stated that overall he remains optimistic that most of, if not all of Cal EMA’s current programs will continue to be funded even if Proposition 30 doesn’t pass.
6. Secretary Ghilarducci stated that there was a 15% cut-back this year from the federal government under Homeland Security and FEMA grants, and that Cal EMA is currently working on streamlining the process of moving federal grants received into the hands of the local jurisdictions.
7. Secretary Ghilarducci stated that starting with the 12/13 Grant cycle, there will now be a 24 month performance period, with the federal government not granting any future extensions.

8. Secretary Ghilarducci stated that under Governor's Executive Order, Cal EMA, along with the Tribal governments throughout California will establish an "all-risk consultative policy" that will define how Cal EMA interfaces with, and supports Tribal governments. He adds that these policies could affect how Fire & Rescue jurisdictions interact with these governments throughout California.
9. With help from Chief Pimlott and Adjutant General Dave Baldwin, a "Dual Command Construct" has been created. During disaster response, this construct will allow a designated National Guard Officer the ability to have command not only of National Guard assets, but DoD units as well. In response to this, Cal EMA will create a formal office (Office of Military Liaison) to help with coordination.
10. Secretary Ghilarducci stated that because of contractual issues, there have been problems with the satellite communication system, but that a new contract has been proposed that will hopefully resolve these issues in the near future. He also stated that a strategic approach is being taken toward upgrading the state's current equipment in order to have the most full featured equipment available to responders.
11. Secretary Ghilarducci stated that during this past year, there have been quite a few requests for FMAGs, and that there has been discussion that these requests are intentionally being held up. He stated that this was not the case, but that FEMA has become quite stringent with requests meeting specific criteria before it can be approved.

CAL FIRE / SFM Update

12. Chief Pimlott stated that the current fire season is well above the five year average not only in regard to acreage, but also in fire starts with an average of around 200 to 250 starts happening every week. Overall, he has been very pleased with how the system has worked particularly in regard to the competition for resources and the movement of resources between the north and south areas.
13. Chief Pimlott stated that with the fall season approaching, he is noticing some humidity recovery, but that there has been absolutely no change in the fuel conditions, and until relief happens with a change in weather factors, peak staffing will continue. He adds that maintaining these staffing levels does have budget consequences, but this is being discussed with Administration.
14. In regard to the SRA fees, Chief Pimlott stated that the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Group filed a class action lawsuit in Sacramento on October 5th claiming that this fee is an illegal tax, but interestingly, is not seeking injunctive relief. He adds that the call center that was set up to answer questions from homeowners in regard to this fee has had over 30,000 calls since implementing this process.
15. CAL FIRE may have to implement \$10,000,000 in trigger cuts for the current fiscal year and over \$30,000,000 in cuts for the "out years" if the tax initiatives do not pass in the November elections.

16. Chief Pimlott mentioned that CAL FIRE is starting to see a number of retirements at all levels, and in the past week alone, 3 to 4 Unit Chief's have announced or have started their retirement.
17. Chief Hoover stated that October 8th through October 12th is Fire Prevention Week.
18. Chief Hoover states that the OSFM is currently working with the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) on a number of research projects having to do with reducing loss within the WUI.
19. Chief Hoover states that the "ventilation project" that her office and the Underwriters Laboratory Research Group have been working on, will come to a close in late November. She adds that more information can be found on the OSFM website.
20. Chief Hoover states that the High-Rise Task Force Report will be released later this month.
21. In regards to State Fire Training, OSFM is currently moving forward with achieving national accreditation, with a goal of 2013 for its completion.
22. There are currently 24 courses available that will refresh instructor skills as well as teach the new course plan in lieu of traditional lesson plans. She states that for many instructors, this will give them the ability to develop their own classes. More information can be found on the OSFM website.
23. The "Fire Prevention for Company Officer" rollout course is currently taking place and will replace the current 1A and 1B courses for Company Officer certification. More information can be found on the OSFM website.
24. In regard to the State Fire Training reconfiguration taking place, the new certification tracks for the required courses will now be solely based on the NFPA JPRs. Doing so will allow the OSFM to better track changes within the JPRs.
25. Chief Hoover stated that Chief Richwine has a meeting scheduled with SMEs to ensure that California will not have any issues with Fire Service training or with any of the rollouts by FEMA or the USFA.

EMS Update – 201 Rights & AB-244

26. **(Chief Ramirez gave a PowerPoint Presentation in regard to current and future EMS issues happening within California. This PowerPoint presentation will be made available for anyone wishing to obtain this from Chief Domanski, or from Chief Ramirez).**

Chief Dyer calls break @ 1050; Chief Dyer calls meeting to order @ 1107

CFAA Update

27. Chief Zagaris stated that his staff continues work on the reimbursement issues that have come up during this past fire season, and are currently processing invoices as quickly as possible.
28. Chief Zagaris stated that in previous discussions with Chief Dyer, there is a need to review if any personnel changes are needed with the CFAA sub-committee.

CWCG Update

29. Chief Zagaris stated that the CWCG met on October 9th for their quarterly meeting, and it was decided that a complete review of the MOB Guide would be performed with help from an IC group, a Duty Office group, and a group representing the GACCs.
30. Chief Zagaris stated that work is currently done on the approval of the 520/620 nominees, with an estimated finalization date of October 15, 2012.
31. Chief Bannister stated that primarily due to personnel retirement, there are currently multiple vacant positions for Type I and Type II Incident Commanders, and adds that a letter is being finalized and will be sent out stating this.
32. Chief Zagaris stated that work continues on the Incident Command Application system (ICAP), particularly with how personnel can apply for rosters.
33. Discussion has taken place with the California Fire Alliance in regard to fire prevention and the possibility of merging them into CWCG. Chief Zagaris adds that there has been some resistance to doing this, particularly with those who are signatories to the CFAA but who are not members of the CWCG Board.
34. Chief Bannister stated that his group has been tasked with creating “a mechanism” to educate people on the mechanics of the CFMA, and in particular, some of the more specific verbiage that had been introduced to it. He adds that how this information will be disseminated has not been determined i.e. podcast, pamphlet, online...
35. Chief Zagaris stated that with Chief McMurray’s tenure as the Chairperson coming to an end, a Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) individual is in rotation as the next Chairperson, but with the pending retirement of key BIA personnel, Contract Counties may be moved into BIAs place instead.
36. Chief Zagaris mentioned that the NMAC meeting which usually takes place in the first or second week of December has been pushed back into January and will most likely take place after the second week of January.
37. Chief Zagaris stated that the FIRESCOPE Task Force and Operations teams, along with CWCG, will need to plan a CalMAC orientation/exercise for this year, and asked Chief Domanski to help with its preparation.

IAFC Wildland Committee Report – Cohesive Strategy Update

38. Chief Hoover gave a brief discussion on the comments CAL FIRE had in regards to the Cohesive Strategy. *(This document is located in the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet and is titled “Western Comment Form”).*

OPS Team / Task Force Report

39. *(For the OPS Team/Taskforce report, Chief Rueda references the document included within the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet titled “Operation Team/Task Force Report”).*

40. The WUI Placard and its training component have been reviewed and approved by the Operations Team and was assigned form number ICS-231. This document along with the training material has been posted to the FIRESCOPE website.

41. Regarding the NWCG typing standards for Engines and Water Tenders, it was decided on by the Operations Team that they would delay implementing these changes until the next fire season in order to ensure that all entities involved could review these changes.

42. A position paper is currently being drafted by members of the Operations Team in regard to the notion of a Regional Area Command.

43. The “Mayday vs. Emergency Traffic” issue that came out of the NFPA 1500 has been given to the Task Force Safety Specialist group for their input.

44. The FEMA US&Rs are not consistent with FIRESCOPE ICS, and the Task Force has been tasked with providing a position paper on the impact of these changes.

45. The development of an I.T. Specialist Group has been tasked out, but work on it has yet to begin.

46. The Communications Specialist Group continues its work on Standard Terminology.

47. The Aviation Specialist Group continues its work and monitoring of the unmanned vehicle issue.

48. The Operations Team continues its development of a template for the Specialist Group “plans of work”.

49. The following documents have been posted to the FIRESCOPE website:

- FIRESCOPE Orientation Packet
- Clandestine Laboratory Response Guidelines
- Marijuana Response Guidelines

50. The Safety Specialist Group submitted draft documents to the Task Force concerning All Hazard Response to Tactical Law Enforcement Incidents. The Task Force reviewed the documents and returned it to the Specialist Group for revision, with a finalized draft expected in the next month.
51. ***(Chief Domanski gave a brief overview concerning the new features/content available on the FIRESCOPE website.)***
52. On July 18, 2012, the Task Force completed an orientation for the Southern California MACS Group.
53. The EMS Specialist Group asked the Task Force for permission to send out a survey regarding how the Medical Unit Leader (MEDL) and Fireline Paramedic (FEMP) positions were used this past fire season.
54. The Task Force reviewed and made recommendations to the NWCG Fireline Handbook to provide consistency across the Structure Triage categories. The review period for this handbook ended on September 28th, 2012.
55. The following Task Force vacancies/positions are as follows:
- County Fire Departments (North) - Vacant
 - County Fire Departments (South) – Vacant
 - Fire Districts (South) filled with Chief Gary Lane
 - Cal EMA filled with Assistant Chief Mike Lococo
 - L.A. County Fire Department filled with Assistant Chief Dave Stone
56. Upcoming Task Force/Operations Team meetings:
- Operation Team conference call (TBD October)
 - Task Force meeting – Yosemite (October 23-24, 2012)
 - Task Force meeting – Buellton (November 14-15, 2012)
 - Task Force meeting – Ventura (December 11-12, 2012)
57. ***(Chief Zagaris gave a brief update concerning EMT/Paramedic requirement for carrying a controlled substance. A document titled “Fireline Paramedic (FEMP) Controlled Substance Security” and an email titled “Ralph Domanski” can be found within the FIRESCOPE BoD meeting packet)***

FIRESCOPE Program Report

58. Chief Domanski stated that on September 28th, the bid request for the printed version of the FOG was sent out to three vendors and to the State Printing Office (SPO). He fully expects the “vendor print waiver” sent to the SPO to be approved and adds that the contract should be awarded to a vendor by October 28th.

59. Chief Domanski stated that 5 vendors have been contacted regarding the creation of an electronic version of the FOG, with 2 of them having replied back, and is expecting replies from the others by October 19th.
60. Discussion has taken place on whether the electronic version of the FOG should be an “eBook”, or an application. Chief Domanski stated that they are currently looking into the pros/cons of each, and that the eBook format has been the chosen favorite so far, but a firm decision won’t be made until more research is done.

New Business – FIRESCOPE FOG – Staging Area under Area Command

61. Chief Pimlott stated that multiple individuals within CAL FIRE have raised concerns regarding Staging Area under an Area Command and that this is not a readily accepted principle under the current ICS structure.

Chief Rueda mentioned that this issue initially came about from the changes to NIMS that were being proposed at the national level and was further reinforced by an Operations Team member when he gave several examples of when a staging area could be useful for an Area Commander (i.e. when resources need to be held prior to being sent to an Incident Commander.)

- Example 1: For the Northridge earthquake, the initial Area Commander had a need to stage certain critical resources before being allocated.
- Example 2: During the Los Angeles riots, there was a need to stage resources not based on prioritization, but on the safety of the resource itself, and to attach a Law Enforcement component to the resource before it was sent to the requestor.

Comments/Suggestions were made by the Board members, but because this information needs to be included in the FOG, and with it being printed soon, it was decided that a motion be made in regard to this item

ACTION ITEM - Chief Metcalf motions to withdraw “Staging Area under Area Command” from the Field Operations Guide (FOG) until further discussion can take place. Chief Osby seconds. All in favor; none opposed.

Dyer breaks for lunch @ 1240; Chief Dyer calls meeting to order @ 1310

Old Business

62. Chief Zagaris stated that there have been no new updates to the following items:

- The Fire Mutual Aid Plan
- The Private Fire Department issues
- The Blue Ribbon Commission

63. In regard to EMAC, Secretary Ghilarducci stated that work is currently being performed on the creation of a resource acquisition and management system that is being called a Mission Ready Package concept. According to www.emacweb.org:

Mission Ready Packages are based on NIMS resource typing but take the concept one step further by considering the mission, limitations that might impact the mission, required support, the footprint of the space needed to stage and complete the mission, and the estimated cost.

Mission Ready Packages also include credentialed personnel: those who are identified by the resource provider as having the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to conduct that specific mission.

Secretary Ghilarducci adds that this system will likely be driven based on data provided by the East Coast and Gulf States, but if asked, he would like California to be more involved with this than it currently is.

64. Regarding issues that affect EMAC, Chief Zagaris stated:

- I-Chiefs have received additional funding from FEMA through the National Integration Center. These funds will help with the Mutual Aid work that they are doing.
- Work continues with the Western & National State Foresters on the Inter-State Compacts.

65. Chief Dyer asked the Board members if the current list of priorities was still relevant, or if any have changed since the list was introduced:

- **Review of MACS 410-1 vs. Geographic & Regional MACS** - Chief Millar stated that he considers this item to no longer be a Board priority and has withdrawn it.
- **State Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid Plan** - Chief Dyer states that this item should be considered a priority.
- **Who Pays?** - Chief Zagaris stated that this item should be considered a Board priority.
- **Interoperability** - Chief Zagaris stated that since interoperability impacts multiple areas, especially those in I.T., it should be considered a Board priority.
- **Private Fire Departments** - Chief Dyer & Chief Metcalf both feel that this item be considered a Board priority.
- **CICCS** - Chief Zagaris states that CICCS should be a Board priority since it continues to have an impact in other areas.
- **Duplication of Efforts with Fire Service Groups** - Chief Richter & Chief Zagaris state that this item should not be considered a Board priority. Chief Bannister & Chief Pimlott state that the Board should still consider having this item as a priority.
- **Fire Service Cost Efficiencies** – No comment from the Board members.
- **Cohesive Strategy** – Chief Millar feels that this item should not be considered a Board priority, but still be a topic of interest based on the impact it has in other areas.

- **Who provides “Fire Based” EMS?** – Based on the presentation Chief Ramirez gave on EMS, the Board feels that this topic should be considered a priority.
- **Pre-Hospital Care** – The Board feels that this item be added to the list and considered a Board priority.

Cal EMA Fire & Rescue Update

66. Chief Zagaris stated that from late July to early September, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue personnel regularly had sustained use of 300 to 335 Engine Companies with most being of Type III category. He added that the California National Guard had provided assistance by mobilized 2 Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS) units to support activity that was taking place in Western areas.

67. During the June/July timeframe, there were numerous activations that needed the support from National Guard helicopters, but as the fire season got worse, the UH-60, along with the new Lakota UH-72 helicopters, started seeing action. Due to the increased need for air support, the New York National Guard had also lent California a CH-47 for use.

As a side note, Chief Zagaris stated that the extensive use of National Guard helicopters had an impact on Law Enforcement Wilderness Search & Rescue capabilities.

68. Mutual Aid Notification Coordination overall went very well, but Chief Zagaris states that there still were issues with following Operation Bulletin #1, which allows 5 Engines or 5 Strike Teams across an Op Area or Region Boundary.

69. Chief Zagaris states that in August, he signed an agreement with the I-Chiefs that will allow individuals with extended training capabilities the ability to provide support to the I-Chief “go teams.”

70. In regard to AB70 (Thermal Imaging Cameras), Chief Zagaris states that with help from Chief Lorenzo Gigliotti, over \$500,000 has been allowed for the procurement of these cameras for the Fire Service.

71. Chief Zagaris states that Chief Wyman is working on the creating a podcast to help answers questions regarding FMAGs.

72. Chief Zagaris stated that with help from Secretary Ghilarducci, the FY11/12 replacement engines have finally been vetted through the process, and adds that in a couple of weeks, Cal EMA will take delivery of the engines ordered during FY10/11.

New Business

73. ***(Chief Hafner gives a presentation on the Next-Generation Incident Command System (NICS). Included in the FIRESCOPE BoD packet is a document titled “Tech Notes” that explains this system)***

Chief Rueda stated that since there are other competing products in use throughout the state, one of the key points for FIREScope will be to determine the standards that will allow seamless interoperability between NICS and the competing products in use. Chief Zagaris added that interoperability tests that had previously been performed between NICS and the system Ventura County has in use have gone quite well.

74. In regard to the Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Citation, ***(Included in the FIREScope BoD packet is a document titled "Before the State of California Occupational Safety & Health Appeals Board)*** Chief Pimlott stated that in the past, CAL FIRE decided that it would be in its best interest to settle and not fight certain Cal/OSHA filings that had been charged against it. But over the span of several years, CAL FIRE decided that by building a solid accident review program, especially one with regard to heat illness, they could instead start challenging these types of citations. The document being discussed is Cal/OSHA's Denial of Petition for Reconsideration of one such case.

Chief Frank asked the Board members if they would entertain the idea of creating an *Amicus Curiae* if approval is obtained to move forward with the writ. The Board decided that any decision should be held off until local, state and federal partners could be involved.

75. Chief Wilson stated that on December 1st at Cal EMA HQ, a one day seminar will be held regarding the new rating schedule. ***(This document is included in the FIREScope BoD packet and is titled "VCOs & ISO")***

76. The FIREScope meeting schedule for 2013 is as follows ***(This document is included in the FIREScope BoD packet and is titled "2013 Meeting Dates")***:

- January 9th, 2013 – Cal EMA HQ Mather, CA
- April 10th, 2013 – Burbank FD Training Center Burbank, CA
- July 10th, 2013 – Cal EMA HQ Mather, CA
- October 9th, 2013 – Burbank FD Training Center Burbank, CA

77. ***(Chief Domanski gives a brief presentation/demonstration concerning the history of FIREScope and updates the Board in regard to the FIREScope Library)***

Roundtable

78. Regarding L.A. City Fire Department, Chief Rueda states the following:

- His department continues to struggle with, but is working through, the dispatch issues that have been encountered.
- He has asked the FIREScope Task Force to create a paper regarding special event management.

79. Mike Esparza will replace Chuck Knapp on the FIREScope Board of Directors as the CSFA representative.

80. Regarding Bureau of Land Management, Chief Bannister states the following:

- There are currently State Aviation Manager & Radio Program Manager vacancies within his program.

- There have been over 2,000,000 acres of habitat burned on BLM lands and because of this, there is not enough sage seed available to re-seed these areas. BLM is in the process of attempting to procure more, and prioritizing areas that should be re-seeded first with the seed that is available.
- Because of the severity dollars available, BLM is currently operating at full staffing, with seasonal staffing to continue through October.

81. Regarding the U.S. Forest Service, Chief Millar states the following:

- He is very happy to see how inter-governmental response has worked within California and in particular, with incidents involving L.A. County, Kern County, CAL FIRE, and the National Guard.
- The Office of Inspector General is currently performing audits within his department.

82. Regarding the National Parks Service, Chief Beckman states the following:

- With Sue Husari retiring at the end of September, he hopes to have her position filled before Christmas but until then, he will be assuming her duties for the first month, with Christie Neill taking over for the second month.
- Most of his large programs are currently in severity.
- In regard to inter-agency cooperation within California, he wanted to give particular thanks to CAL FIRE, local government, and the Forest Service for their part in helping contain the Reading Fire.

83. Regarding Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Chief Dyer states the following:

- There are currently a few issues that are happening with the Joint Aviation Program, but nothing that cannot be worked out.
- His department is currently in a better position “budget wise” than it was last year, due in part to the Union renegotiating its contract.
- A recruit class was to take place this October, but it was decided to have 2 classes in January instead.

84. In regard to Cal EMA Fire & Rescue, Chief Zagaris states the following:

- He wanted to give thanks to all involved with supporting the Mutual Aid system, and to the CWCG group who along with NMAC, continue their work on the MAFFS issue.

Meeting adjourned @ 1450