

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

Meeting Minutes  
Governor's Office of Emergency Services MPR1&2  
October 12, 2005

**Members Present:**

Kim Zagaris, Chief, Fire and Rescue Branch – Office of Emergency Services  
Henry Renteria, Director – Office of Emergency Services  
P. Michael Freeman, Chair – Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
William Bamattre, Chief – Chief, Los Angeles Fire Department  
Bob Roper, Vice Chair – Chief, Ventura County Fire Department  
Ed Wehking – Bureau of Land Management  
Julius Cherry – Sacramento Fire Department  
Ruben Grijalva - State Fire Marshal  
Jim Wright – Deputy Director, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection  
Todd Newman – Division Chief, San Marcos Fire Department  
Chuck Knapp – California State Firefighter's Association  
Sue Husari, Fire Management Officer – National Park Service  
Dennis Thompson – Chief, Kern County Fire Department  
Ben Lopes – Chief, Santa Clara County Fire District  
Ray Quintanar – Director, U.S. Forest Service  
Candace Gregory – CDF Region V  
Del Walters – CDF Northern Operations Region III

**Members Absent:**

Charles "Chip" Prather, Chief – Orange County Fire Authority  
John Sherri, Chief – Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Bill McCammon, Chief – Alameda County Fire Department  
Larry E. Webb, Chief – San Marcos Fire Department  
Dale Geldert, Director – CDF

**Others Present:**

Frank McCarton, Chief Deputy Director – Office of Emergency Services  
Darrell Ralston, Assistant Chief, -Ventura County Fire Department  
Dan Drake, Division Chief – Orange County Fire Authority  
Rich Green – Assistant Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Bob Praytor, Deputy Chief – OES  
Pat O'Bannon, Assistant Chief – OES  
Greg West, Assistant Chief – Los Angeles Fire Department  
Nick Dunn – Deputy Chief Kern County Fire Department  
Art Bishop – Div Chief, Apple Valley Fire Department  
Doug Qualls – Chief, Apple Valley Fire Department  
Dave Stone, Battalion Chief – Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Lori Lopez – OES Fire & Rescue Branch  
Mike Schmidt – Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
Tom Hendrix – Chief, Colton Fire Department

Steve Brown – Chief, Chico City Fire Department  
Mark D’Ambrogi – Chief, Auburn City  
Richard Johnson – Deputy Chief, San Mateo County Fire Department  
Bill Kaage - Deputy Chief, National Parks Service  
Paul Beckstrom, Assistant Chief, OES  
Paul Bannister, Deputy FMO, CA Bureau of Land Management  
Mike Dyer – Deputy Chief, LA County Fire  
Carol Myer – Director, Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services

### **Introduction and Logistics**

Michael Freeman opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Self-introductions were made.

### **Approval of previous meeting Minutes**

**Bob Roper (Ventura County FD)**

#### **Motion**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> Cherry**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lopes**

**Motion Passed**

### **OES Director’s Report**

**Henry Renteria (OES)**

- Hurricane Katrina/Rita response – most devastating and expensive events to hit the continental United States. Thousands left homeless. Many issues with response/lack of response. Governor received call from Louisiana governor, and California teams received enormous praise. They were the first on the scene, and first to rescue people. Worked with FEMA with evacuees that need long-term housing, but have not received evacuees as of yet. Some came on their own or through other organizations. 15,000 evacuees have come to CA. We are trying to get them to register for the FEMA reimbursement process.
- Cal-Trans and CHP are planning a workshop to be conducted at OES headquarters to conduct massive evacuation planning.
- Southern CA fires – we received FMAGs for fires. Newspapers headlined that things were done right. Thanks for all the support.
- Tsunami warnings – conducted a tsunami workshop with OES Coastal Region and National Weather Service, updating tsunami warning systems. Have new computerized system, which will allow more people to be notified. The local governments need to identify who they want to receive information.
- SEMS Advisory Board and committees – have convened, priority is the integration of NIMS. Beginning compliance with SEMS. CA has received positive feedback from the federal government.
- Public safety radios strategic planning committee – working on inter-operability issues. Committee is meeting every 2 months, recommending strategy for state radio monitoring system. Huge issue, very costly. Much more work to be done.
- Golden guardian 2005 – Homeland Security exercise scheduled for November 15-16 – involving OES’ Coastal and Inland Regions, along with numerous state and local agencies.

## SEMS/NIMS

- Packet in folder – part of the NIMS Toolkit OES is developing for local governments as guidance material for integrating NIMS into local systems.
- FEMA and Homeland Security approve, and are using it as a model for rest of the country.
- It will be a challenge to bring into law and public use.
- SEMS maintenance system will keep CA compliant with NIMS.
- There will be a workshop and will start bringing it to the local governments. Each individual county and city needs to adopt NIMS, and communication lines are always available for feedback.
- Kim Zagaris outlined the day to day operations with NIMS packet. A memo was issued stating NIMS must be used day to day in order to receive funds. There are issues with “clear text” with law enforcement, which highlights the need for a statewide communication system. There has been some resistance from some fire departments in the nation.

## Operations Team Report

### **Darrell Ralston (Ventura County FD)**

- Personnel changes – George has been replaced by Ralph Domanski. Tom needs a replacement for Northern Operations, and they are currently looking for a NWCG replacement.
- Task Force and Operations Team have combined plans. They continue to follow the ambulance strike team issue, and provided input to the fire EMT task book as well as structure protection specialist.
- The team is meeting tomorrow with the main issue being structure protection. Will take input for November meeting.

## Task Force Report

### **Greg West (Los Angeles City FD)**

- Ralph Domanski has been replaced by Art Torrez.
- FOG logo and national document consideration. Will come back with recommendation when the FOG is revised. Hoping for January 2007 release for the updated FOG.
- The group continues to discuss demob guidelines.
- Specialist and working teams – Safety Specialist Group met in Mono County, discussing an all-risk safety officer curriculum. The High-Rise group is being formed and will get together soon.
- Met once in August since last FIREScope meeting. The Hurricane Katrina/Rita crisis caused additional meetings to be cancelled. A meeting next month is scheduled.
- So far, 39,000-40,000 FOGS have been sold, including 700 to FEMA during the Hurricane crisis.

## Update on Ambulance Strike Teams

- Attended State EMSA, Ontario fire rep. Most attendees were private businesses or EMS people.
- Fire based ambulances are not going to be part of the private ambulance resources. Following regulations and state plans – those assets will be part of OES Fire & Rescue and will be dispatched under State Mutual Aid system.
- Hurricane issues caused delay on action with this issue.
- Radio frequencies – will not authorize them to preprogram fire frequencies. IC will determine when to allow them to program frequencies into radios at an event. There are not enough tactical and command channels to allow free-use of frequencies, which can cause safety issues during events.
- During hurricanes, private ambulances were dispatched, raising the issue that this problem needs to be resolved quickly.
- FIREScope will provide them with the CA Statewide Inventory System (CFRIS). State EMSA needs to provide leadership.
- Michael Freeman suggested that FIREScope should be more involved. Not many of CA Fire Chiefs are involved. Statewide meeting may be needed with participating agency heads that can filter it down to the local areas. The entire issue needs to be addressed at the State level.

- Maybe legislation needs to be required. It is not clear whether the north and south would be consistent with how they would request these resources. Currently, ICS is a voluntary system.
- Michael Freeman will work with Henry Renteria, along with one other board member, to understand the issues before trying to offer leadership/support. Joe will be the Northern Operations rep and Michael Freeman will be Southern Operations rep.
- Next meeting on November 9, 2005.

### **Engine Procurement Augmentation Plan and Staffing of Type 3 Engines Update**

#### **Kim Zagaris (OES)**

- Survey went out using Zoomerang. The results were included in the meeting packet. 93% responded in support of expanding Type 3 engines. Kim reviewed the survey results. The bottom line is that OES should continue purchasing Type 3 engines and Water Tenders.
- This survey went out to answer the question from the last FIREScope meeting on whether it was appropriate that OES continue to purchase Type 3 engines – based on Blue Ribbon recommendations.
- Kim will email out the comments from the survey.
- Staffing Issues - 2 strike teams in southern CA and 1 in northern CA. Assignees have to verify and agree that they will have staff properly trained to operate Type 3 engines. There will be minimum qualifications set.
- Currently working on BCP for the 5 million coming down the road.
- There are still ongoing issues with Master Mutual Aid and local fire departments.

#### **Motion**

A motion was made to approve the continuation with current OES direction of initial purchase of Type 3 engines, and that staff will need to do a thorough analysis to ascertain whether or not additional engines are needed prior to them being purchased.

**1<sup>st</sup> Roper**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Bammatre**

**Motion Passed**

### **Blue Ribbon Commission Update/After-Action**

#### **Kim Zagaris (OES)**

- Packet in folder providing the most current information. Additional clarification of work complete and continuing was also discussed.
- FIREScope BOD was asked to review the report, that was posted on the website. This is a continuous report that should to be reviewed regularly.
- The report has been presented to the Governor – he was pleased. He will approve it and move it forward. FIREScope will be the care and maintenance group, as this will be a living/working document.
- The July 1, 2005 completion date for the definition of structure protection (Item 2, Section 3) may need to be adjusted with regards to CFAA. A motion was previously passed for a spring date and will be addressed to the Blue Ribbon group.

### **US&R and Swift Water Deployments for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**

#### **Kim Zagaris (OES)**

- Provided an overview. Original deployments began August 26. On August 29, FEMA asked about swift water availability.
- 3 Swift Water teams from the north and 5 Swift Water teams from south were sent.
- Received request for US&R teams from FEMA – sent all 8 CA teams. Most were staged in Dallas or Houston.

- Many lessons will be learned from the incident. State operations have a lot to learn to avoid the situations that occurred in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Hurricane Rita prompted a redeployment of 5 US&R teams to Texas and Louisiana.
- Swift Water caches are still getting back, and an after-action still needs to be done. Many reimbursement issues are still unresolved.
- CA Chiefs need to meet and be on the same page prior to Miami meeting.

### **Local Agreements Update**

- Moved to January meeting.

### **CICCS Update**

#### **Ruben Grijalva (State Fire Marshal)**

- Historical recognition period for CICCS ends 12/31/05.
- All positions on PACE V committee have been filled, and a meeting has been scheduled.
- 10 applications for 500/600 level are submitted for review.
- State Training and Educating Advisory Committee meeting is this Friday.
- Reinstated STEAC committee.
- Two new training centers have been certified in Chula Vista and Elk Grove.
- Mike Richwine has replaced Art Cota.
- State Fire Training funding in regards to the Blue Ribbon Commission is issue.

### **Structure Protection Fiscal Roles & Responsibilities Update**

#### **Bob Roper (Ventura Co. FD)**

- Draft definition was not adopted because of numerous oppositions.
- After several reviews/revisions and BOD presentations. The memo was included in the meeting folder.
- The State Master Mutual Aid System is not broken, but there have been many changes with staff and fire service as a whole. The system was originally designed for huge catastrophic events, and may be overused for day-to-day fires.
- Federal, State, and local personnel training is needed on what these agreements are and how they work in reality.
- Bob Roper asked the BOD to adopt all 7 definitions listed in memo, and provided in overview/detailing of the 7 definitions.
- Any questions, comments, concerns need to be brought back to Bob Roper, Kim Zagaris, or the Ops team, before November so the CFAA process can be ratified before next fire season.
- A few questions were addressed.
- Ray Quintanar suggested one agreement be established, instead of several federal state and local guidelines.

#### **Motion**

A motion was made on recommendations.

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Stone**

**Motion Passed**

### **Vacant FIRESCOPE Positions**

#### **Kim Zagaris (OES)**

- Request for a committee to assist him on a conference call before the next meeting to review all of the applicants and recommend a selection.

## **OES Election Process Update from 10/13/04 BOD Meeting**

- Packet in folder – changes noted in italics and strikeouts. Additional changes were added by the board.

### **Motion**

A motion was made to adopt the Election Process as revised and presented to BOD.

**1<sup>st</sup> Bammatre**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Roper**

**Motion Passed**

## **OES Fire and Rescue Branch Report**

### **Kim Zagaris (OES)**

- Three Deputy Chief positions still vacant. Steve Gage left with USFS in Washington, D.C. at the NIC center. Jim Holdridge retired.
- Continuous emergency operations since August.
- Not a very busy fire season until last month with the Southern CA fires. 74 strike teams committed. 16 came from outside of the region.
- Experienced a problem obtaining an FMAG when the request was sent through a bad fax for the Harvard fire.
- CFAA meeting on November 2.
- Resource typing work continues.
- CFRIS report – identifies 293 agencies have entered into the system, 174 of them have submitted their resources into the system. Next will be a mailing to show who hasn't replied, in hopes to step up compliance. Salary surveys will eventually require CFRIS participation in order to get paid.
- NFPA meeting in San Francisco to discuss ICS 1561.
- Working with the State Fire Marshal's office on rewriting RS1 & 2, but is going slow.

## **Region I Report**

### **P. Michael Freeman**

- Topanga fire – received fast Mutual Aid response, with great support from Region VI.
- Harvard fire – created a few problems, but again, great support from Region VI, Southern Operations and the State.

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## **Region II Report**

### **Ernie Loveless**

- Nothing to report.

## **Region III Report**

### **Del Walters**

- Sent 1 local strike team, 2 OES and 1 local Water Tenders.
- Ken McLean left Shasta Trinity, with Mike Chuchel being appointed as the new Unit Chief.
- Manton Fire – received a large amount of support.

## **Region IV Report**

### **Mark D'Ambrogi**

- Supported Southern CA fires. Opted not to fill Master Mutual Aid request.

## **Region V Report**

### **Candace Gregory**

- Operational Area election and regional elections are coming up.
- Supported fires in Southern CA.

## **Region VI Report**

### **Peter Hill**

- Re-elected Tom Tisdale as Region Chief. Mike Warren has stepped up for Riverside County.- Fire activity – busy supporting Region I.

## **CDF Report**

### **Jim Wright**

- Fire season still ongoing due to high wind activity.
- Crossed into Mexico to put out some fires headed for border. Helped save the town of Tecate, Mexico.

## **Forest Service Report**

### **Ray Quintanar**

- Sent 9 teams to hurricane relief – some are still over there. Will have a after/action review, with teams being underutilized among other issues.
- 4,000-acre fire burning up north that will not be fought.

## **Bureau of Land Management Report**

### **Ed Wehking**

- Quiet year so far – received final report on single air tankers, and a large proportion of their deployments eliminated fires at the initial attack level.
- Rural Fire assistance may be discontinued.

## **National Park Service Report**

### **Sue Husari**

- Received many compliments for CDF team.
- Just began with rehab for Southern CA fires.
- Hurricane efforts – 7 National Park Service areas affected. Sent all-risk teams out. Did rehab with museum artifacts. Many personnel have been traumatized, seeing things wildland firefighters do not normally see. Special effort is made for people coming back to help them adjust.
- A few fires in parks – 2 in Yosemite.
- NIMO proposal is completed and will be presented to NWCG next week. Would like to bring in state/local governments into that proposal.

## **Old Business**

- Ray Quintanar was awarded Fire Chief of the Year at the California Fire Chiefs Conference. Congratulations to Ray.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

*Next Meeting – January 11, 2006  
San Marcos*