



FIRESCOPE

**CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY HEADQUARTERS

**3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, California 95655**

October 13, 2010, 0930

Members Present:

Bob Roper (Vice – Chair, Ventura County Fire Department)
Kim Zagaris (Executive Coordinator, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue)
Sheldon Gilbert (Cal EMA Region II)
Tanya Hoover (State Fire Marshal)
Richard Webb (Linda Fire Protection District)
Jim Wilson (Mariposa County Fire Department)
Del Walters (CAL FIRE)
Joseph C. Millar (U.S.D.A Forest Service. Fire & Aviation)
Paul Bannister (U.S Department of Interior. Bureau of Land Management)
Nick Dunn (Kern County Fire Department)
Mike Dyer (Santa Barbara County Fire Department)
John Tripp (Los Angeles County Fire Department)
Mario Rueda (Los Angeles Fire Department)
Lou Paulson (California Professional Firefighters Association)
Chuck Knapp (California State Firefighters Association)
Sue Husari (National Parks Service)
Ken Wagner (Roseville Fire Department)
Keith Richter (Orange County Fire Authority)
Ken Pimlott (CAL FIRE)
Cesar Partida (Cal EMA Region III)

Pat Dennen (Cal EMA Fire & Rescue)

Members Present:

Mark D' Ambrogi (Cal EMA Region IV)

Keith Larkin (Cal EMA Region V)

Guests Present:

Steve Sellers (Cal EMA)

Tom Maruyama (Cal EMA)

Tom Drayer (FIRESCOPE Program, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue)

Pat O'Bannon (FIRESCOPE Program, Cal EMA Fire & Rescue)

Chad Stokes (Cal EMA Fire & Rescue)

Jon Kolman (Cal EMA Fire & Rescue HazMat)

Welcome, Introductions and Logistics:

Chief Roper: The FIRESCOPE October meeting is called to order. Chief Freeman had a last-minute commitment and will be unable to attend. I will be facilitating in his absence.

Chief Millar is congratulated on his promotion to Fire and Aviation Director, USFS, Pacific Southwest Region 5 and welcomed to the BOD.

Approval of May 27, 2010 and July 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

- **Action Item-** *Chief Nick Dunn Motioned, Chief Millar Seconded approval of both sets of minutes. Motions approved unanimously.*

Cal EMA Secretary's Report:

Assistant Secretary Sellers: Announced that Undersecretary, Frank McCarton has resigned and has been replaced by Mike Dayton. Mike came to Cal EMA from the Office of Homeland Security during the transition and had headed up Homeland Security Grant Programs and Policy. Helen Lopez, our former Deputy Chief of Staff, is now our Deputy Undersecretary.

The State budget was passed and during this economic downturn Cal EMA management will continue to focus on, support and protect emergency operations, which includes Fire and Rescue, law enforcement and emergency management.

Cal EMA Secretary's Report:

The recent budget approval did not include the Emergency Response Initiative. During the transition Cal EMA will make it a point to emphasize our continued support of the fire service, our concerns regarding the Initiative not passing and importance of the work being done by the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

Director Maruyama announced that jurisdictions will see a change how their FMAG reimbursements are handled due to the CDAA (California Disaster Assistance Act) being enacted. The current Administration is currently and will continue to assist those who have submitted federal applications for reimbursement of wildland suppression costs by matching their local contributions.

Cal EMA has been working with the states of Texas and Louisiana to recoup reimbursement for hurricane deployments over the past year. The State of Texas has responded back with the statement that a warrant for \$1,739,871.69 has come across their desk and is just waiting for three more jurisdictions to sign the affidavit before it is furthered processed. Cal EMA has yet to hear back from Louisiana.

Director Maruyama and Assistant Secretary Sellers both spoke at length regarding the San Bruno incident with detailed information regarding Cal EMA and Cal Fire's response and the succeeding re-entry plan that was enacted. Both thanked those involved for their assistance and cooperation.

Director Maruyama announced the acquisition of 3 new 40' Mobile Command Vehicles by Cal EMA and the operational and logistical plans for both as well as Cal EMA's two 53' Rehab trailers.

Cal Fire/SFM Report

Director Walters spoke to Cal Fire's involvement in the San Bruno incident with an emphasis on the fixed wing and rotary offensive attack and the deployment of 25 engine companies.

Director Walters spoke of current staffing and resource issues as it relates to the current economic downturn; and the recent Bargaining Unit 8 contract signings. He is still unsure as to what impacts the overall budget shortfalls will have on their cooperators. He also spoke to his upcoming retirement. The fact that this will be his last FIREScope Board of Directors meeting and the numbers of managers within Cal Fire who have also recently announced their impending retirements.

Acting SFM Hoover also mentioned the recent San Bruno incident and the follow-up impacts to her department. The State Fire Marshal's office does not regulate gas lines but does regulate

hazardous liquid lines. Because of the San Bruno incident there has been a lot of interest in pipelines running through communities. As such, the pipeline division of the SFMO has been busy attending community meetings and working with local responders to identify those pipelines that run through their respective jurisdictions.

Cal Fire/SFM Report

Chief Hoover offered up her office's technical information relating to pipelines, both active and abandoned; the size of the pipeline; contact information; inspection history, and any available mapping tools to those agencies asking.

Chief Hoover updated the BOD on the status of the Local Response Area mapping project; stating that there were two counties left to complete; L.A. County and Orange County and that they were about a month away from completion from tying in to the ability to use the construction standards with the construction provisions within the building code in the wildland interface.

Chief Hoover updated the BOD on the provisions for Driver/Operator. Assembly Bill 1648 was signed and her office has been recently working with the DMV to meet the terms of the legislation; up to and including developing a new test. What is currently anticipated is, those with "Class B licensing" are good, and the Fire Chief's can sign off on the training requirements for their new drivers. Exam development and pending direction from DMV will determine how the program will eventually evolve.

Chief Hoover announced that NIMS Instructor of historical recognition letters will be going out next week from Cal EMA; and the SFMO is using the CICC Task Group process to put that together.

Chief Hoover stated that her understanding is that Cal EMA has sent a list of instructors that were approved to EMI; and all but four of the applicants were approved. We will be doing some follow-up for additional documentation.

Chief Zagaris commented that he is not exactly positive that that it was widely distributed out to the fire service; and that Assistant Secretary Sellers had a recent conversation with Cal EMA Undersecretary Dayton and Assistant Secretary Jim Ayers, who oversees Cal EMA Training and that out of that conversation came the realization that there was a need to further extend the historical recognition period. Cal EMA Assistant Secretary Ayers will send a request to FEMA requesting that California be given an extension

Acting SFM Hoover spoke to the status of VST nozzles stating that they were still on track for the removal, or at least the requirement, to remove clips on VST nozzles at gas stations by October 15, 2010.

SFM Hoover: "The State Fire Marshal's Office with the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee is putting together a Task Force that will specifically focus on smoke alarms. A conversation of

ionization versus photoelectric; and which technology is appropriate and which technology is not appropriate is being debated. This debate will be presented from a scientific standpoint, involving current information, current testing; and if there is a need to adjust the “California way” of doing things to better serve our State, then the Task Force will recommend that.

Cal Fire/SFM Report

Once those recommendations are returned then this Office will make recommendations on our code adoption and provide information back out to the fire service.”

SFM Hoover: “Finally, next week, the State Fire Marshal's office will run an Emergency Regulations package forward to the Building Standards Commission that will address residential sprinklers and the use of antifreeze in cold areas. Our position is that we have taken the ability to use antifreeze with the fixed concentration, pre-mixed, within very limited criteria.”

Presentation to Director Walters

Chief Roper presented a Letter of Appreciation to Director Walters, “As you have progressed through the ranks from a seasonal firefighter to the Director of Cal Fire, you have done a remarkable job and that is an accomplishment that you should cherish. Thank you for Mutual Aid partnership as well as the regional coordination”.

CFAA and Local Agreements Update:

Chief Zagaris thanked Chief Dyer, Chief Roper and Chief Drake for the work done thus far on the CFAA re-write while stating that we are all fairly close in finalizing the agreement.

Chief Zagaris spoke to the fact that we are probably “within 90% to 95% of where we need to be; and that the compounding issue is the Admin rate, which is now at 16.8%. Early in the year, we felt that it shouldn't be at any more than 10%, where in reality we've now discovered that it is its base that should be set at a minimum of 10% and not the top end. The Federal agencies were pretty adamant that we needed to follow the OMB Circular 87 rules and which opened up a lot of discussion within the group resulting in our request that six fire agencies within the State: Redding; San Diego; Roseville; Mariposa County; and two others run the formulas and report back to us by the end of next week.”

Chief Roper added that currently it is the recommendation of the subcommittee that that we come up with a one rate formula; and that the members of the Board get back to him with any comments by Wednesday of next week. We are going to be meeting as a steering committee on October 26th, and based upon the feedback received we will set a date of January 1, 2011 for finalizing the agreement

Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) Update:

Chief Gilbert announced to the Board that the ERI is “dead” today but it did show up in both versions of the budget; first as a tax fee on insurance policies and next as a vehicle license fee before it was finally cut. With the new Administration, we will have to see how it plays out. I think that Mr. Paulson is to be commended for his work on the legislative side and we will continue to push it forward from the CAL Chief’s side.

Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) Update:

CPF President Paulson stated that there are two additional aspects that are coming into play as it relates to the ERI and both deal with the two propositions on the ballot this coming November. The first one, Proposition 26, based on the “Sinclair Paint” lawsuit decision, will adjust California fees if passed; and it is felt that if that happens, it will have a huge impact on the locals within the State.

President Paulson: “Proposition 25, which is the Balanced Budget Initiative, calls for the budget to be passed at a 55% threshold which give us the ability to go ahead and pick different funding sources within the existing budget and then lobby on our merits; versus having to try to find an alternate revenue source which will give us a better foothold to go in and negotiate monies in the existing budget to fund the ERI.”

EMS Update

Chief Gilbert spoke to the issue of 201 rights as it relates to ambulance transport. It all recently came to a head in the last few months when the City of Stockton had to take 13 First Responder A-List units off the street, and the public had to pay the price, while the City and the LEMSA fought over who could get the call. Subsequently they have struck a deal and those units are back in service.

Chief Gilbert: “A year ago, Cal Chief’s; CPF; CSFA; the League of Cities and the Fire Districts, all worked on a position paper on this issue and it was brought to the EMS Commission and requested that they put together a summit and a subcommittee to try and solve this once and for all.”

“The Fire Service currently has a pretty liberal interpretation of what a 201 Jurisdiction is. Conversely, the LEMSA has a pretty restrictive interpretation of what the definition of a 201 Rights jurisdiction is.”

“The subcommittee consisting of myself, representing Cal Chiefs; Lou Stone, representing California Professional Firefighters, Gray Johnson, representing the Docs, Riverside County EMS Director Bruce Barton, and Lou Meyer, representing the California Ambulance Association has since put together a basic framework to stabilize the reimbursement rates for the Mutual Aid system.”

Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force (BRC) Update:

Chief Gilbert advised the BOD that the Blue Ribbon Task Force met with the Governor for the last time a few months ago. “We gave him a briefing on what exactly we have accomplished, and what is left to be done.” The main request from the BRTF to the Governor were that he recommend, as part of his transition, that the Blue Ribbon Task Force remain intact as a voice and a briefing body on fire service issues to the Governor and the Legislature. The Governor agreed by stating, “The Task Force has significant value and should continue as a voice and an advisor to this Office and the Legislature on fire service issues.”

Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force (BRC) Update:

Additional requests to the Governor from the BRTF were:

- Permission to report back to him on the overall health of the fire and rescue mutual aid system and those economic effects and pressures being placed upon it; which is the purpose for the survey that will coming out from Cal EMA
- That we finalize the recommendation from the Task Force as it relates to “Initial Fire Attack Standards” and the “Standards of Coverage” issue that we took on as a subcommittee a few years ago.

Chief Zagaris reported there are two surveys. The first being the survey that was sent out last year; with which we had 282 prospective participants visit the site; but only 94 completing it.

The second survey, going out to the Regions and Operational Areas in November, 2010 will specifically address equipment and staffing levels and the ability for agencies to respond in support of the mutual aid system.

Director Walters briefed the BOD to the Cal State University San Diego study on staffing and production levels stating that the study produced by Dr. Matt Ron points out to what we already knew and that was that two firefighters are better than one, three are better then two and four is the optimum number of people on an engine. “Some other things though, that were really “eye openers” in this study, and that is just what we are doing to our firefighters on hose-lines and how past the “red line” they are in relation to the effects on their hearts. It also dovetails the studies being done in Oklahoma on structural fire protection...it is a very similar conclusion.”

IAFC Wildland Committee Report

Chief Roper updated the BOD on the status of the first draft of the Cohesive Strategy project. The Cohesive Strategy was mandated by Congress last October; it was given a one-year turnaround time. This first phase included a draft which was a compilation of the responses received from the forums organized earlier this year. “There is no doubt that the compressed time frame probably did not produce as inclusive a document as we would like to have had. Two weeks ago at the WFLC meeting, we ratified a second draft; and that has since been turned over to the OMB in order to meet the mandated deadline.”

The second phase consists of a second draft that will result in what will be the framework for the final product. It's was agreed upon that the strategy taken would be regional in nature, so that it is not a "one size fits all"; and there is a large science component to this strategy which is specific to the Federal FPA project.

This coming Friday, there is a meeting to discuss developing the framework for Phase 2 of the project; with Phase 2 allowing a 12 to 14 month turnaround before it's due. "We are hoping to receive an extension to two years in order that it may be as comprehensive a document as possible."

Chief Roper will be providing updates to the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors through Chief Zagaris as to future opportunities for FIRESCOPE to comment on the Cohesive Strategy project.

FMO Paul Bannister spoke his agencies thoughts regarding the Cohesive Strategy project and the their reasoning for some skepticism due our feeling that the science-based component of FPA hasn't yielded any results for what was anticipated and the short turn-around period for comment may have compromised the draft that was submitted to the OMB.

Director Walters commented to the fact that several months ago the National Association of State Foresters were given one of the first drafts to look at. "As an association, we had a real problem with the way it was presented; and again, it goes back to the science considerations for everything we do in fire management."

Director Walters: "Texas, for instance, is 95% private property, so they had a very similar way of looking at wildland fire protection in the way that CAL FIRE does. I think Texas, Oklahoma and Nevada weighed in pretty heavily and when I looked at it last month in Orlando, at the meeting of the Fire Committee, it's a much better document. Again, can we bring it to the ground? It's acknowledged in the document now, that not only regionally, but that it's split up into the same three regions that NASF uses, but there are 17 Western States in that."

"Recently, at the same time this was being done, a forest assessment was being done that looks at some of the same issues, and it used the same area but it split the West into three different areas, and we are included with Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. It breaks it down from the 17, which is split at North Dakota and down to Kansas."

"The State Forester from Montana is the one that is probably going to be most of all, on the Fire Committee and involved in the implementation portion of this for the next step I should say. And he has asked me to be involved as we split up the West."

"There is just no other way. I mean, even California itself has different considerations from North to South, and East to West, on how we approach Wildland fire management. But, I think that there are enough caveats in here to allay my concerns, but it will have to be brought down to a fairly I don't know, local level, but certainly will take into account the different areas of the Country. I think it's headed in the right direction."

Chief Roper agreed with Director Walters stating, “I propose that for one section would be is what FIREScope could be; the Cohesive Strategy oversight component for at least California, because of the way we are already organized. And so there will be “subgroups” within those three regional groups, so I think we are headed in the right direction, it's just that it is going to require, as this gets rolled out, it's going to require some participation of this body probably, to have delegates and stuff assigned to it.”

Chief Roper wrapped up the discussion by stating that Phase 1 was the feedback submitted by the cooperators; Phase 2 is the Framework; and Phase 3 will be the implementation.

IAFC Wildland Committee Report

“There still is a lot of work so if you have any questions, let myself know or contact Director Walters and so forth so we can get the “flavor” of the group; but we will let you know as each step unravels and what everybody can help with.”

CWCG Update:

FMO Husari advised that the CWCG met yesterday in South Lake Tahoe concurrent with the CNH meeting and the Forest Service BOD. The new Chari is Ken Pimlott from Cal Fire

FMO Husari: “The primary discussion topics of the meeting were the Federal Interagency IMT’s, and those recommendations that were brought forward by the Operations Group. Recruitment for team members will go out shortly with interviews to follow.”

“Next year it is thought that the application dates up for the IC’s, the Deputies and the training IC’s will be moved up October 1st., to make that process a little more functional.”

“The IMT meetings scheduled for next year have been held up due to Federal travel caps and as such may be reduced in size; The Forest Service is soliciting approval to hold a large team meeting, so a large meeting may still take place.”

“Last year’s joint Federal and State IC meetings were a big success; and those are scheduled for again next year. They are scheduled for the week of April 18th. There has been discussion about the content of the meeting, which may include a presentation on NIMO by Chief Gage.”

IMT succession planning is also on the agenda as the impacts to Federal agencies may be significant in the coming months and years. “We are looking at the possibility of perhaps having to drop another Type I team this year, and did a little talking about how to deal with that, if we do have to do that.”

The Training Working Team brought forward information and recommendations on how CWCG could deal with the volunteer system as it relates to personal and professional liability associated with command activities; and five future training sessions on working with the various fire service agreements, unified command, etc. are being scheduled State-wide.

A discussion involving the California Fire Alliance and leaving the charters and the organizational structure in place as they were originally intended also took place. And finally, was the letter requesting DPA updates will be going out within the week with the process completed by January.

FIRESCOPE Discussion Questions:

Chief Roper spoke to the “FIRESCOPE discussion questions” that he gave to the FIRESCOPE Task Force at their Ventura meeting and provided those same questions to the BOD. “The FIRESCOPE Task Force and Operations Team has worked on the questions and completed them this past summer. He asked that the BOD members review them and be prepared for further discussion on the topic at the January, 2011 meeting.

Chief Wagner suggested that the discussion be structured in order that the main focus of the January meeting is focused on this particular issue with the possibility of breakout sessions with the Task Force and Operations Team.

FIRESCOPE OPS Team Report:

Chief Rueda briefed the BOD of the last Ops Team meeting in June, 2010 in San Francisco. He stated that the primary focus of the meeting was to review and provide guidance on the “Plan of Work”; to finalize Chapter 14 of the FOG, which addresses the Wildland Interface Guidelines and the Structure Protection Guidelines; and to work on the questions that Chief Roper proposed. Guidance was also provided to the Task Force on things that the Ops Team would like to see them look at in the “Plan of Work”.

Chief Rueda: “The first item was to look at a revision of the Protective Action Guidelines which are really evacuation guidelines with the last revision in 2007. In the large fires that we have had since then, I think there has been quite a bit learned. And I want to make sure that we are continuing to look at a very important aspect of what we are now being charged with and what the public expectation is in respect to evacuation.”

“The second area that we asked the Task Force to look at was Fire and Law Enforcement operations. More and more I think, jurisdictions are being held to a standard that we, number one, respond to Law Enforcement events and provide some sort of support and rather than being on the trailing edge and being told what to do, be on the leading edge and defining where we think we fit and how far, how much we do.”

“The last item that we asked the Task Force to look at was really a radio usage guide. In our research, we found that probably ten Radio Usage Terminology Guides. There is one that I think will end up revising that will serve as hopefully, something that will bring all the guides together, and that is the FIRESCOPE document “10-1, The Glossary”. But there is also a NIMS document. There is a California Radio Interoperability Guide document. There is a Radio Operators Guide that has a glossary. There is a NWCG glossary. There are quite a few glossaries including probably, many agency specific documents and they are all similar, but none that can really serve as a guiding document for the Fire Service, or at least in California to use.”

“Also included in your packet for this meeting, is what you had asked us to do Chief, and that was to look at the Invasive Species Issue and Decontamination. We did include a guidance document that's been looked at by the Task Force and OPS Team, and is ready for review and will be posted on the website as a guidance document.”

FIRESCOPE OPS Team Report:

Chief Roper queried the Board as to any questions? “In the packet there is the information on the Decontamination for Aircraft, and why the Task Force gives the report. We will give you a couple minutes to look at this. Just so you remember where this came about, I brought up, at least I have one “water facility” in our County that is now due to the Invasive Species, has asked us to decontaminate all aircraft before they are dipped into the lake. They have already quarantined all boats on the lake. And so, I understand in Riverside I believe, that there is a lake that has also quarantined aircraft and so forth. It's just one of these growing things we have to adapt to, so thank you for your work on this, and we will come back for the approval in a minute.”

Task Force Report:

Chief Stone spoke to recent Task Force activities such as the 3 MACS orientations given by the Task Force this past year. One in Redding; one in Riverside for local government cooperators and another one in Riverside for the OCC and Cal Fire personnel who were unable to attend the earlier one. “All three were very successful and we received very good feedback on them.”

Chief Stone reminded the BOD that 2011 will be the 40th anniversary of FIRESCOPE and that discussions are underway for some type of recognition.

Relative to the Field Operations Guide which is currently under revision Chief Stone spoke to the fact that the Task Force is in the process of finalizing for the April Board approval, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Chapter; the Hazardous Materials and Mass Decon Chapter; US&R; and Protective Actions.

The Task Force is also currently looking NWCG versus FIRESCOPE Engine and Water Tender Typing, standards and trying to see where that fits. “We had a good discussion yesterday about that.”

Chief Stone: “Chapter 14, which is also going to be included in the new FOG update, is the Structure Protection Guidelines. The original document has gone out to the Fire Service community, with the OPS Team and the Task Force reviewing their feedback. “What we are going to do is clean it up a little bit so it's more “user-friendly” in the FOG.”

Chief Stone: ““We do have some vacancies to fill within the Task Force; Cities North, Counties North and Districts South. At our meeting yesterday, I had the Department of Interior representative; he has gotten a promotion and left to New Mexico, so I will need to fill the DOI spot. And then I got the “Districts North” guy telling me that he is retiring in January. And then the CAL FIRE guy says “Oh, by the way, I am going to retire in January”, so I looked around and I have around six people left. I looked around and go, “You guys aren't leaving, are you?” So, that’s just inevitable when we talk about succession planning and we have a few vacancies to fill, and I will be working with the OPS Team on that, Chief.”

Upcoming meetings are Nevada City in November and Buellton in December.

Task Force Report:

Chief Roper initiated a proposal to adopt the aquatic species decontamination protocols approved.

- **Action Item** – *Director Dell Walter motioned, Chief Keith Richter Seconded to approve the Aquatic Species Decontamination Protocols.*

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 1220. Meeting resumed at 1240.

Jesusita Fire Review Update:

Chief Pimlott briefed the BOD on the status of the Jesusita Fire review and spoke to the fact that the incident was managed via Unified Command which consisted of Cal Fire, Santa Barbara County and USFS-LPNF; with Cal Fire eventually bringing in a Team. During the course of the Fire, a burn over incident occurred and a decision was made to order a CAL FIRE Serious Accident Review Team and review the process. Chief Dale Hutchinson assembled and put together a team, or rather an interagency team, to review and determine the details behind the burn over. They engaged in the review and identified that it wasn't just one, but there were multiple incidents within the larger incident that occurred involving the actual burn over with injured employees, property damage, or near misses. It was a difficult process as they worked through to try and figure out how many of these to include in the final review.

Chief Pimlott: “We had done a few of these before that involved multiple agencies. This one, I think, was a bit unique in that it was a sort of a CAL FIRE incident, along with Los Padres and Santa Barbara County but at the same time, the resources that were involved in the burn over were not CAL FIRE, but involve multiple other local government departments. So working through the sensitivities of the individual departments’ policies and procedures, and ensuring that there was appropriate representation in vetting of this as it went through the process.”

“Dale did an outstanding job with his team, working back with all the affected agencies in developing this report. Since it was a CAL FIRE team that was assembled and under CAL FIRE jurisdiction, the team reported the “review report” back to the departments and per CAL FIRE policy, we take a serious accident review, and then we convene a Board of Review made up of a number of executive level and subject matter experts, as well as outside agency allied management support.”

“The Board of Review then looks at the working recommendations that come from the review team and then will make overall recommendations, normally they would make the recommendations to the department's Director, and then go back and enact and work through whatever those recommendations may be, whether they involve changes to training, policy, equipment, or whatever it may be.”

“The sole purpose of the review is not to find fault, not to do an administrative investigation of employees, but is to look at obviously, preventing the incident from occurring again and how we can correct that.”

Jesusita Fire Review Update:

Chief Pimlott: “Well, that was the focus that this took, but we recognized early on that this really wasn't just a CAL FIRE issue, but a Fire Service issue. What we felt very strongly about was when we convened the Board of Review, that we really reached out and broadened that Board to include, Kim Zagaris and him representing FIRESCOPE. We had a number of folks in this room, Nick Dunn, a member of Mike Dyers staff, all the agencies that were involved as well as outside subject matter expertise.

“So in August, we met in Burbank and reviewed the report and subsequently took the working recommendations from the team and have melded that into what is now a “draft set of working recommendations” that I need to get back to the Board members to validate one last time and ultimately, Chief Walters will, because we need to conclude the CAL FIRE portion of the process is that we will approve the working recommendations from the Board.”

“The next step in that is what we really wanted to talk about. Really, every issue that was identified from the incident are Fire Service issues, and not any agency specific issues. I think it was real clear during the Board of Review that each agency that had personnel and equipment issues involved in the incident, they got their own policies and procedures that they are going back home with and addressing those individually, and that's all happening. There are probably six or seven issues that were identified by the Board and the Review Team that really need to be addressed by the Fire Service. They were already identified in the “Green Sheet” that came out, that was public, but there are many issues that crossover into the Structure Protection Guidelines that we worked on and adopted earlier this year.”

“Again, we have some difficult concepts that we got issues on both sides about the use of SCBA's in the WUI environment, and where we deploy resources, and defensible space inspections and the impact of how we are going to get those done. All of those things, it's

recognized that the only two agencies that didn't have anybody physically involved were the Forest Service and CAL FIRE, and that was only because we didn't have anybody there. I don't think we would have been immune to this any differently than anybody else. It's just that in these particular areas where the burn occurred we didn't have resources.”

“Again, we left the Board of Review with the concept that we want to bring the working recommendations to FIREScope, with the recommendation that the Operations Group take those on and see if we can't vet those out through the process.

“Hopefully within the next month, we will have completed the review recommendations and have those approved at the department, and get those back out to the group to start that process. I just wanted to throw that out to the group so that anyone who was participating in the review, or other members of FIREScope that would like to see that as the process, might see a different way to look at that.”

Jesuita Fire Review Update:

Chief Rueda: “I just wanted to thank everybody that was involved in the review. These are because of the complexity and the number of agencies, but they are always difficult and sensitive topics because, there are always people involved. And the way the group came together and talked through issues, I thought was very professional. It was very positive.”

AB 1648 – Vehicle: Firefighter's Operation of Firefighting Equipment: Drivers Records:

Chief Wilson spoke to the issue of negative impacts to rural fire departments by the new Vehicle Firefighters License program and potential conflicts with the current Driver/Operator curriculum.

SFM Hoover: “In cooperation with the State Bar Marshal's office so again, we are not in the driver's seat. DMV is supposed to craft this test and forwarded it to us to make sure that it lines up with our current “Driver/Operator”, so that we don't have to do two different things. You bring up some really good points to get a clear information bulletin out on the impact of this State Fire training and how it affects local government, and to put that out to everyone a long time before January 1. Hopefully within the next couple weeks, I can get something out to the group.”

Private Fire Equipment Update:

Chief Dennen updated the BOD on a PowerPoint presentation that CAL FIRE put together on the use of private fire equipment and the importance of speaking to them about the differences between a “volunteer fire Company” and a “private equipment provider”. “This PowerPoint's focus is on the awareness level to law enforcement that talks about groups of private Fire protection vehicles that are potentially going to be entering the fire scenes. It is an update and a good document to share with your local law enforcement providers.”

Chief Zagaris: “I think the real drill here is that agencies rarely, I think you know FIRESCOPE has already got a guideline in place. The “I-Chief’s” got a guideline in place. CAL FIRE has got something now for those folks. I think, if we take a look what's, there from a Op area, and hopefully from a regional level, it pretty much comes together and stays on the same page because, all of our resources are going to be running together. So, as long as we are talking at the “Op Area” level, and sharing how we are operating, it will spread from one area to the other, if we are consistent in how we approach and deal with these folks.”

“In the packet you’ve got the FIRESCOPE guidelines in there, but the article, as you read through it just makes you think, “What’s really going on out there?” You read it and you almost go, “well, we definitely need legislation”. Not all the folks out there like this. There are some really good private providers working for the insurance companies, and they are not all operating this way. We take the good with the bad and understand that it is a work in progress.”

“I think at least, what Cal Fire has provided, my understanding was what started out as something we shared with law enforcement folks, helped them understand, and not everybody knows what a “public agency” versus a “private agency” is and what they are doing.

Private Fire Equipment Update:

Chief Dennen: “They have other issues in Colorado as well. There is another article out about Private Fire Protection, and the siege that they just had a week or so ago. It continues and will continue to haunt us in the future.

SFM Hoover: “When the e-mails started up again this past time around, I guess it's been a couple months, one of the things I did was go to the Department of Insurance and share some more information with them, and they also like to keep this communication open so, if we are having challenges and fires with those insurance operators working outside of the appropriate insurance methods, then we need to let the Department of Insurance know, and they can take that on from their side as well.

EMAC:

Chief Zagaris: “EMAC has a “sunset clause” set for March 1, 2012. So, at some point, we are all going to have to have a conversation with the next Administration about what it is we want to do with EMAC. I can honestly tell you that the largest outspoken group nationally about the current EMAC process is the Fire Service.”

“The other part of the process is we got to get money back into local governments hands much quicker. We’ve gone out the door several times through EMAC. This is our second hurricane go around with EMAC, in which it has taken almost 2 years to receive back reimbursement.

“So, when Secretary Bettenhausen returns, we are going to have the next conversation, and we are going to discuss the value of making agencies “whole” same as we did after Hurricane Katrina. I think that the overall reimbursement process can be better and more efficient.”

Cal EMA Fire and Rescue Report:

Chief Zagaris briefed the BOD on current Cal EMA Fire and Rescue issues starting with the fact that last year's budget was flush enough to purchase needed engine replacements; and as of right now, Quincy Fire, San Francisco, Ross Valley, Santa Rosa, UC Davis and Napa, have all received those replacement engines, leaving one engine left to assign. Cal EMA through the S.A.F.E. program has reassigned 12 fire engines to Montana; Dobbins, Oregon; Cedarville; Sierra Valley; and Quincy.

Additionally Cal EMA has donated five engines to Mexico. “Actually, I didn't donate them; I transfer them to Cal EPA who has another program by which they transferred them to Mexico”; and in addition to the 12, Cal EMA has sold, we have 11 more pending and five of those will be going to the City of San Francisco, which will then provide them the ability to provide a mutual aid Strike Team when needed. .

Chief Zagaris: “That will leave us with about 15 in the back. But we also have three engines assigned to CAL FIRE and to the Academy. One is on “permanent assignment” out there as a heavy rescue unit. And the other two, they are using for their “Engine/Operator” classes.

Cal EMA Fire and Rescue Report:

Chief Zagaris: “Vacancies still are an issue as we are still struggling in some ends to actually get some more personnel hired within Fire and Rescue.”

“We had a fleet person hired and that person didn't quite work out by mutual agreement. We are still trying to resolve how to hire a Deputy Chief of Special Operations to oversee Haz Mat operations.

“We are covering probably about 40% of my operation right now with retired annuitants. We are struggling at best. There are not a lot of folks looking to come to work and as I have cleanly pointed out with the new budget, if we go back to at least our retirement at “2 1/2 at 55”, I am sure that is going to widen our recruitment and retention issues that much more. So, I am not sure how overall we are going to continue to meet our succession plan out there, but it becomes more interesting each and every day.”

“The one real good thing that I can tell you involves the reimbursement issue that has been on the table, especially downtown at the Governor's Office, it started off as an Executive Order in late April or early May, followed by the Blue Ribbon Commission. We are moving forward with updating the entire computerization program that you do your reimbursements on so, that we can get that thing turned around in a much quicker method. In fact we are already in conversation with CAL FIRE, as well as talking about how we can use iPads or something else out there, and be able to print things right from the incident and be able to hand the invoice to the teams in some cases that are out there. We will see how it goes.

The other side of the house is we will work towards where the agreement section goes. The Forest Service has indicated that they are looking to maybe reduce some of the local agreements and use the CFAA where they can, and where it has benefits out there. So, that will create an additional workload for our staff and we need to be prepared to deal with that as well.

We are working through those items and with this being a slow season at best right now, it has allowed us some opportunity.

Old Business:

FIRESCOPE BOD Fire Districts South Vacancy:

Chief Zagaris briefed the BOD as to the current status on the Fire Districts South vacancy by commenting that he has received 3 applications thus far. “So, we will have a resolution of that probably in a couple of weeks and will report something back out to the group.”

Old Business:

Fire Retardant Scoping Letter:

Director Millar: “In your package should be a document from the Forest Service dated September 3, and the comments period was scheduled to hear comments relative to the use of retardant, in by October 12. Understand that this is the first of a series of scoping packages that will go out. They will take the comments from this October 12 due date, and they will come back and do some work on it and then, they will send out an additional package that of yet, to be determined.

“It is something that I just wanted to put on everybody's radar so that you are at least aware of if nothing else, what we are going through on the Forest Service side.”

“When you have the chance and the opportunity, you are welcome to comment. “Forest Users” is a broad term there, and I just wanted to make sure that the group was aware of this.”

New Business:

Elections of FIRESCOPE BOD Chair and Vice-Chair Positions:

Due to Chief Freeman's impending retirement, Chiefs Roper and Zagaris in accordance with MACS 410-4 facilitated a lengthy discussion surrounding the election/re-election of FIRESCOPE Board of Directors Officers.

- **Action Item** – *It is the consensus of the Board to open the nomination process for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair until November 1, 2010. That Chief Roper shall hold the position of Interim Chair until such time an election is held via email prior to January 1, 2011. That the nominee’s name be provided to Secretary Bettenhausen for concurrence and appointment; and that the announcement as to the new Chair and Vice-Chair be issued at the January, 2011 BOD meeting.*

Marijuana Plantations on Wildland Incidents:

Director Millar initiated a lengthy discussion on an increase in firefighters within his agency and possibly others discovering marijuana plantations while on wildland incidents; and the possibility of having FIRESCOPE develop guidance documents relative to response.

Marijuana Plantations on Wildland Incidents:

Chief Drayer: “Obviously, your frequency of coming across this particular event is more so than the local government. Does the Forest Service have a standardized policy, an operating policy in respect to this occurrence?”

Director Millar: “We are walking down that path, and because we are walking down that path, we are looking out for other opportunities of skillful knowledge and experience.

New Business:

Marijuana Plantations on Wildland Incidents:

Director Millar: “And even though some of the local government folks may not be in our kind of “rural or wilderness experience”, they are still certain things that you have gained by their environment, that may translate well into us developing a better package. So I am just looking for a better opportunity.”

Chief Rueda: “As you've seen not in the wilderness environment, but we actually put out a guideline for folks to identify houses that are gutted and converted into pot farms. They are using three or four times the electricity. Their heat signature is a lot greater and quite often, our concern is not as much as the fire, but the booby-traps in the yards that are protecting these places. So, we have assisted RPD with warrants at places that were guarded, but I suspect some of those wilderness areas might be guarded also, if they are valuable.”

Chief Drayer: “We had several Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies that worked with fire as it related to our response to meth labs back in the 80s or early 90s. With the unit that I was assigned to, there were guidelines developed for that type of response. I think that a lot of the guidelines that were developed back then relative to firefighter safety are probably still relevant today if we were to apply it to marijuana.”

Chief Zagaris: “It’s maybe more of situational awareness and the State, Federal, and local agencies as well as the Guard are all involved and maybe a good place to work back from would be to work back through and develop some of these situational awareness items.”

Chief Roper: “I would like to ask Director Millar if he can work with Chief Rueda to frame the situation, look back at what we talked about before with clandestine drug labs and so forth. And then we can talk about that.”

Roundtable:

Chief Gilbert: “Just a reminder that Saturday is the Memorial. If you can make it, we are going to honor the firefighters from Station Fire.”

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1345 hours.