



FIRESCOPE



Cal EMA FIRE AND RESCUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GUESTS:

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Michael Miller, Kern County FD
Janet Upton, CALFIRE
Loren Snell, CALFIRE
Steven Tharratt, MD, CA EMSA

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chief Freeman

- **Action Item-** Motion placed before the members and unanimously carried to approve minutes of the July 8, 2009 meeting minutes.

CAL EMA SECRETARY'S REPORT
Assistant Secretary Steve Sellers- Cal EMA

Secretary Bettenhausen sends his regards as he is in Washington D.C. this week. I am very glad to be here today. I have been directly over the Fire and Rescue Branch over the last year and we are continuing to look at what decisions we can accomplish together within the next few months. We have fully completed the OES/OHS merger but are still working on developing policy processes and things of this nature. Budget-wise we have recently gone thru some staff reductions, losing some 30 positions thru vacancies within our agency.

Cal EMA is still actively engaged with our fellow agencies regarding the Emergency Response Initiative (ERI). That is something that the Governor wants us to keep going after and so we are still supporting that effort. The Federal government and Homeland Security Grants are out for this 2010 fiscal year and there has been an increase of up to 42.7 billion dollars nationwide. Besides the Homeland Security grants in which there was a 20 million dollar increase, the Assistance to Firefighter grants are up to a total of 390 million dollars this year. We are still spending a great deal of time in DC in our attempts at making more grants available to more agencies thru out California.

EMS UPDATE
NASEMSO- Steven Tharatt, MD- EMSA

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-22-09 (EO) to support and facilitate California's aggressive approach to addressing the spread of the H1N1 flu virus also known as the swine flu. The Governor's EO ensures the state has the flexibility to respond to a potential flu crisis by renewing the ability for departments to cut through contracting red tape to obtain goods and services to fight the spread of the H1N1 virus. With the EO, the state will be able to acquire services faster such as medical staff for State facilities and transportation of H1N1 vaccine and goods such as hand sanitizer and paper masks.

The Governor also announced today that California has received its first statewide shipment of the H1N1 vaccine from the federal government. Vaccination is the most effective prevention measure from the virus.

These initial doses are targeted at children, and many more doses will be arriving in the days and weeks ahead. The State's health officials expect there will eventually be enough vaccine for all Californians in the priority group.

State public health and emergency response officials have been planning for the further escalation of the disease and the distribution of vaccines. This includes expanding surveillance to detect increased pandemic activity, continuing development of clear guidelines for the public, working with local health departments to ensure health care facilities can respond to a surge in the need for patient care, and strengthening communication lines with medical providers and the public to get out information. The federal government has begun distributing H1N1 vaccines to California and CDPH continues to work with federal and local partners on California's vaccination program

As it looks right now, H1N1 is a fast spread in CA as we are currently seeing levels of infections that we would typically see in January. In both Fresno and the Central Valley we are seeing an increase speed of infection. We are working hard at the vaccination process.

The challenge is getting the vaccine out.

We would like to see pregnant woman, as they are at high risk, healthcare workers including EMS personnel vaccinated and thus far, we are happy with the way the product is working. Due to the Governor's EO we have recently released 50% of the State's stockpile of masks which gives us 50 million masks as compared to the Nation's combined 80 million.

As of today I have approved 25 counties to have paramedics vaccinate EMS personnel. We have been talking to our colleagues in Australia and New Zealand where they are just finishing up their H1N1 season. Their information is giving us some of their lessons learned and an outlook on how sick people are going to be. They had about an 18-20% increase in influenza incidents, not the 40%, which is the extreme end of influenza planning. So overall we are happy with the response we've taken thus far and we have ideas to improve but realize that this is one of the biggest public healthcare issues that we've faced since 1910.

I would like to address the Recommended Standards for Delivery of Medical Services on Incidents Managed by NWCG Member Agencies.

They did not talk to us prior to releasing a Draft of this document and in reviewing it I find no defined a mission statement; so it appears that they are looking at this from a "Scope of Practice" standpoint only.

I would like to challenge this from a more realist approach. In working with POST we developed a program that not only has "Rules of Engagement" and Scope of Practice issues addressed but that detailed and specific training required. I think in working with FIREScope it is the analogy of POST and we can do very similar things with the Fireline Medic.

This is just their document and we did not get asked to render any comments on it. We can live with it but there does need to be a few changes to fit our laws here as it applies to California. I would like to see our group talk to this group and share documents because I believe that we are a lot further along with the actual mission statement and equipment call out; and what these people are actually doing on the line then what this group has identified.

They have a very aggressive timeline in completing the final of this document; they want to release this out to the states in January; which I believe is a little ambitious since this is the first we have seen of this. States such as California have existing regulations and there is a National "Scope of Practice. They don't touch on the issues of ordering pharmaceuticals and they haven't gone into the issue of controlled substances which is huge.

The way resources are transported from other states is also an issue here as there is National Regulation on the process of Interstate practices as it applies to the transportation of pharmaceuticals. We believe that we should have either the FIREScope Task Force or the Ops team take a look at these items, as this is a good opportunity for us to weigh in and makes some adjustments to this document while it is still in draft form.

- **Action Item-** *The FIREScope Board would like the FIREScope EMS Specialist Group to review the NWCG document and reach out to the NASEMSO to work cooperatively on this document.*

CALFIRE/STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

Director Walters

The State Fire Marshal is in Baltimore today attending a Code Change conference. Today is the big day for the vote on residential sprinklers.

As it relates to the budget, we have lost 17 million out of our mobile equipment replacement budget but we were able to get the DC10 back operationally considering it was originally cut out of our budget.

The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) directs greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions be reduced by 2020 to the State's 1990 levels and we are working through that and its implications to us. We also are struggling with vacant positions being taken away we currently have 114 positions vacant. We have 4 unit chiefs that are retiring before the end of this year.

Cal Fire is also in the process of getting all of our helicopters in or winter servicing so that we're ahead of the curve next spring and looking at our year round staffing levels that were reduced this past year. Additionally, we are in the process of prepping our crews for flood fighting operations this winter.

On the technology forefront, we would like to improve our technology. This past Monday, we traveled to Ontario and met with a group to take a look at new equipment. One of the aircrafts that we saw has a camera that you can control from the ground. I believe the mutual aid system in California would definitely benefit from this type of technology.

Cal EMA is also looking at some of the things that CALFIRE is doing as it relates to technology. We were able to meet and greet with the U.S. Fire administrator and there is a lot of partnership right now in trying to develop this technology. The U.S. Forest Service also seems to be very excited about the new technology that is being developed and NASA, Verizon and other individual groups are trying to get involved in this new technology as well.

CFAA UPDATE

Chiefs Wagner/Chief Zagaris

We have been diligently proceeding on the development of the California Fire Assistance Agreement and the U.S. Forest service has agreed to put the last signature on it. The draft document is included in the board packets. The key global document changes to note are that the document has become an all risk component and that the Bureau of Indian affairs is now signature to the document which it had not been before.

We've also had a couple of situations in which we had to adjust the Base Rate letter. It is now clarified how we will those agencies who do not report their annual salaries and how those who do not will have their salaries calculated. Additionally, travel expenses and staffing rotation (7 day) items were addressed.

CICCS UPDATE

Chief Vail

We met this past Monday and made a big push to get our Qualifications Guide out to STEAC as they are meeting in January. Our plans are that the physical fitness standards that we are working on currently will go into the into the quails guide. Since the time we've began this, we have had several new things come up.

The first is the Skills Crosswalk for structural and wildland firefighters has been developed by NWCG and the National Fire Protection Association and so in response we have put together and are looking at the GAP positions or "G" courses identified in the Crosswalk; and our sub-committees are looking at adopting the positions of FF1, FF2 and Engine Boss.

The second Item is the National Wildfire Coordination group is now regulating who can hand out certificates for training. Our question is- are we going to use NWCG or State Fire Training? We would like to come up with a letter saying if you are going to hand out certificates that there must be some written language as to what the requirements are to do this. The CICCS Task Force plans to meet with CWCG soon to discuss this specific issue in order to receive guidance Statewide. There is also a concern with some of the instructors who are out there presenting NWCG courses. Some of the instructors being used are retired and can no longer represent the host agency that allows them to issue NWCG certificates. This is not to indicate that these people are not quality instructors, only that they may not meet the requirements identified in the Field Manager's Course Guide. The instructor issue will be dealt with at the same time the Task Force discusses the issuance of certificates.

We also plan to have our Qualifications Guide completed by January. It will be a great document that will be inclusive of the Qualifications Guide and the Peer Review process. We are going to have a total of 7 training sessions within California to explain how this Guide will be used. We are going to try to really work hand and hand with the CWCG Ops team to mold this into an all-hazard document, including looking at different ways to maintain currency. The NWCG version of the 310-1 will still exist but "The California All-Risk Qualifications Guide" is what our document will be called. Thanks to all of the people that are signed up to this group as having this broad representation from Federal, State and Local players is giving a wide range of ideas.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (ERI) UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

The Legislative committee met on October 23rd with Secretary Bettenhausen leading a lot of the discussions which centered mostly on the funding of costs associated with the fires. The State Senate took up AB 196 on the Floor this afternoon, which is one of two measures that seeks to implement the Emergency Response Initiative (**ERI**). The ERI proposes a 4.8% emergency response surcharge on all new or renewed commercial and residential fire or multi-peril insurance premiums in California. The revenue generated would be directly allocated to local fire agencies, Cal-FIRE and Cal-EMA for the express purpose of funding critical emergency mutual aid response, equipment and other needed resources.

When the Senate votes were tallied, the final score was 23 "YES," 14 "NO and "3" NOT VOTING". This left AB 196 short the required 2/3 votes it needed to pass. The bill was granted re-consideration, which means it can be brought up at a future date for action.

Cal Chiefs and many others rallied around the Bill and went back to the Capital on Wednesday to lobby. We are in the process of reviewing the January budget and we have queried the Department of Finance to see where we are at. We are looking for the formulas that they are going to use to divide the 150 million dollars in funds back to local government. We have some support, not as much as we like but we are still going to try to get this initiative passed.

We are also trying to develop some context as to what the hazards are in each individual's districts. We also want to get the Chiefs rallied around to the local legislators.

BRC TASKFORCE MEETING

Chief Roper

The Task force sub-group met recently and is in the process of forwarding the standards of coverage document to the Task Force. As part of his ongoing commitment to emergency preparedness, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on the 29th of June issued Executive Order S-12-09 (EO). Additionally, Governor Schwarzenegger announced the two co-chairs and 14 members of the BRTF. Several members on the FIRESCOPE Board are also on the committee. Several of these Blue Ribbon items are still ongoing. The overall definitions of "Structure Protection" still need to be addressed. We hope this will soon be addressed at the Board level.

IAFC WILDLAND COMMITTEE

Chief Roper

The "Ready, Set, Go!" program was designed for citizens in fire prone areas. The USFS has now given \$200,000 to the I-Chiefs to take "Ready, Set, Go!" and move it to the National level. The U.S. Fire Administration is giving another \$50,000 to I-Chiefs to assist in this move and incorporating it into the FIREWISE Communities program.

The Wildland Urban Interface Conference is March 30 - April 1, 2010 in Reno, Nevada with the National summit meeting scheduled for February 2-4, 2010 in Phoenix, AZ. More information on these meetings and conferences are to follow. Our Wildland Fire Leadership Council will be the back up as identified in the QFR document and that meeting is tentatively scheduled for either the 2nd or 3rd week in January.

FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM REPORT

Chief Pierce

Structure Protection Guidelines

Special Meeting with Task Force Representatives; September 10, 2009

The primary focus of this special meeting with Task Force representatives was to continue our discussion from the June 2009 joint meeting and draw consensus on forward progress in reference to Structure Protection and Triage terminology.

Issue

Over the past several years, the availability of classes and information focusing on the Urban Interface has increased dramatically.

Much of the curriculum is based on the personal firefighting knowledge, skills and abilities of the individual writing the course material, while other material is available through such sources as the State Fire Training and the NWCG. Ultimately, this can be confusing to personnel responding neighbor to neighbor, as well as state to state. One of the biggest challenges in this rapidly changing environment is to insure that common terminology and understanding is maintained to insure operational effectiveness and provide for firefighter safety.

To this end, the Board of Directors requested that the Operations Team and Task Force review current materials and terminology and provide recommendations back to the Board of Directors.

Update on Actions to Date

The Ops Team and Task Force met in June to discuss Structure Protection Guidelines issue and again at a special meeting in September to draw consensus on the subject matter.

As requested by the Chair of the Ops Team, the Task Force reviewed the proposed changes to the Structure Protection Terminology located in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Initial Response Pocket Guide (IRPG). These proposed changes are currently included in the upcoming January 2010 IRPG printing. NWCG has provided an opportunity for FIRESCOPE to review and provide comments to them. However has indicated that this may be too late to incorporate any changes in the 2010 document.

The assignment was to insure the language in the document satisfied the FIRESCOPE tenet of “common terminology”. In addition to the IRPG draft, the Task Force also reviewed the NWCG S-215, Fire in the Urban Interface and California State Fire Training (SFT) Fire Command 1C curriculum. This was done to determine if those courses included structure protection common terminology that supported the intended changes to the IRPG.

The concept was to negate confusion among first responders by having conflicting information between the various documents. After review and discussion, it was determined and it is recommended that the best way is to provide the information in the IRPG would be to use existing (common) terms already taught by NWCG and SFT in their respective courses.

We will also endeavor to provide outline formatting and information to the NWCG in an effort to change the future IRPG to align better with their own S-215 curriculum and the SFT Command 1C Course. The majority of the information provided in the Structure Protection Chapter of the IRPG meets the tenets of FIRESCOPE. The final result is expected to be that the ICS, SFT, NWCG and other existing documents will follow the framework of NIMS, maintaining compatibility and clear text. Additionally, it is expected that the updated information will be included in the upcoming 2010 FOG.

The Ops Team will continue to keep the Board updated on information as it progresses.

MACS 410-3/Red Flag Warning/Critical Weather Conditions

The MACS 410-3—California Fire Weather Program has been under review by both the Task Force, Predictive Services and the NWS to incorporate guidelines to better define when critical weather requires the announcement of Red Flag Warnings. Both the Task Force and Ops Team have approved the new wording and guidelines.

Action Requested

That the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors approve the guidelines outlined in the revised MACS 410-3 to provide for its incorporation into FIRESCOPE MACS.

- ***Action Item-** The Board directed that the FIRESCOPE Operations Team provide back to the Board at their January 2010 meeting a final draft of the MACS 410-3 document, a separate “Strikeout” document identifying changes made and a letter from the National Weather Service endorsing the 410-3 document.*

FIRESCOPE Operations Team Region IV Representation

The FIRESCOPE Operations Team has identified a need for a Cal EMA Region IV representative to replace a vacancy due to separation. The position was advertised and a total of 4 applicants applied. After a careful review of each applicant’s letter of interest resume the Operations Team has recommended to the Board that Division Chief Marty Scheuerman of the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department be appointed to the position.

- ***Action Item-** The Board approved the appointment of Chief Marty Scheuerman of the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department to the FIRESCOPE Operations Team.*

Upcoming Meetings

November, 2009- Conference Call
January, 2010- Shell Beach with Task Force
May, 2010- Sacramento/Conference Call
June, 2010- Mammoth Lake with Task Force

FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE REPORT

Chief Stone

Field Operations Guide (FOG – ICS 420-1)

The 2010 FOG review and revision continues. The Task Force is still on target to have the document ready for the Board of Director’s approval.

Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)

North and South Operations have been using the Draft MACS 410-1 this fire season. The Task Force will review the feedback and revise the document as necessary.

It is expected that the final MACS 410-1 will be forwarded through the Operations Team to the Board of Director’s in January 2010 for review and approval.

Structure Protection Guidelines

The Task Force is currently working on the Structure Protection Guidelines for inclusion as a chapter in the 2010 FOG. At this time, it appears unlikely that the Task Force will be able to provide revisions for the 2010 NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG). The NWCG did not have a public comment period for this document.

Currently, Cal Fire has a committee working on a Wildland Policy and Procedures Guide with a section on Structure Protection; and the Task Force was given a presentation by Chief Kelly Gouette, Cal Fire. The presentation was well received and compliments the Task Force's Structure Protection assignment to address common language for this subject.

Upcoming Meetings

October, 2009- Sacramento
November, 2009- Nevada City
December, 2009- Orange County
January, 2010- Shell Beach with Operations Team

FIRESCOPE BOD ADVISOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND VOTING STATUS

All

Discussion ensued as to whether or not California Professional Firefighters (CPF) and the California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA), who are classified in the MACS 410-4 as Special Advisors be given permanent status as full voting members of this Board?

Before we can proceed any further on any action we would first need to modify that language within the MACS 410-4 to allow the two organizations to be full voting members.

Motion approved to recommend to Cal EMA Secretary Bettenhausen that the FIRESCOPE MACS 410-4 be changed to allow CFAA and CPF Special Advisory members to have full voting privileges.

- **Action Item-** *Modify the language in the FIRESCOPE 410-4, Articles of Organization to the following:*

'The California Professional Firefighters (CPF) and the California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) are permanently recognized as Charter Advisory Board Members by the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors/CalEMA Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Committee; and as such, will be included at the Board table, may attend all Board meetings, may discuss and participate in all Board business and shall have permanent voting privileges on all policy matters.'

CWCG UPDATE **Chief Husari**

- Effective January 1st Kim Zagaris will become the CWCG Chair.

- We met a couple of weeks ago and discussed recruitment and especially recruitment of ICS. We asked the CWCG Operations Team to look at our performance evaluation process for Incident Management Teams and the role of the NIMO Teams. We are also looking at new methods for recruiting Incident Management Team members.
- We have decided to have an AAR meeting this time every year and that the CWCG Operations Team will organize that.
- The Federal Incident Management Team Meeting will be held in Reno, NV.
- Federal, State and Locals teams will meet and will be at McClellan February 23-24th.
- Cal EMA Chief Scott Vail provided us an CICCIS update
- There will be a Fire Alliance meeting coming up next week.
- The CFAA signatory process and the status of the document was discussed
- And we spoke of revising our charter to eliminate the practice of CALFIRE managing our Federal Teams

LUNCH BREAK

CAL EMA FIRE AND RESCUE UPDATE

Chief Zagaris

Within Cal EMA the most concern currently is the engine program as there are no additional funds to buy any new engines with the exception of maintaining our Type 1 replacement program. Current personnel openings include an Assistant Fire Chief position for Region 2 North, an AGPA position and a Fire Equipment Fleet Manger.

Due to DGS requirements it will be required that all Cal EMA engine assignees start tracking their Engine miles monthly.

We have been getting a few inquires of our Surplus Fire Engines via the Safe Act Program. Five of these Engines are being donated to Mexico.

Whereas Oregon and Arizona National Guard helicopters are currently deployed overseas, we have been advised that no CNG Blackhawk helicopters will be available next fire season as they too are now being prepared for overseas deployment next year.

OLD BUISNESS

All

Volunteer Fire Company Registration- Chief Dennen

Assemblyman Jefferies passed a bill in 2007 further defining the registration process of Volunteer Fire Companies.

It requires that those companies register annually with the California Emergency Management Agency and identify the names of their members in their volunteer agency and their operational status, i.e. active, inactive, etc.

A registration website has been developed and will be linked off of the FIREScope website pending final Board approval. Chief Dennen will provide an update at the January, 2010 Board meeting.

410-3 Red Flag Warning- Chief Zagaris

Throughout this past year in response to concerns raised by Cal Fire and others the FIREScope Task Force and Predictive Services Specialist Group at the direction of the FIREScope Board of Directors at their January, 2010 meeting reviewed, revised and modified the MACS 410-3, Fire Weather Warning Program Guide. This was done based on concerns that the numbers of Red Flag warnings issued by the NWS have been excessive without consultation with the GACC Predictive Services Unit thereby resulting in increased media and political pressure to bring on augmented staffing at a significant cost to fire services agencies. After a series of conference calls and meetings, the NWS has agreed to attach the finalized MACS 410-3 to the National Operating Plan as an addendum for use in California once FIREScope has approved it.

The FIREScope Operations Team is recommending to the Board that we use the criteria outlined in the revised MACS 410-3 for a period of one year to evaluate its applicability and effectiveness.

There was discussion by the Board regarding if FIREScope and the National Weather Service are in clear agreement before adopting this document as this revision would have impact on many agencies; and it is currently unclear at this time if the Las Vegas and Reno NWS, who are also currently forecasting within California would adopt this document,.

- **Action Item-** *That the FIREScope Operations Team provides back to the Board, the original MACS 410-3, the revision with Strikeouts of those changes made and a letter from the NWS endorsing those changes being recommended by both the FIREScope Operations Team and Task Force. At the next meeting we would like to know that the NWS is in agreement with this document. We would like to see a strike out version of all the changes.*

ROUNDTABLE

All

Los Angeles County Fire Department's Chief Freeman thanked all in attendance for the support and sympathy expressed for their fallen firefighters.

AJOURNMENT

- **Action Item-** *Adjournment Motioned and Seconded at 1430 hrs.*

NEXT FIREScope BOD CONFERENCE CALL: January 7, 2010 @ 1600 hrs.

NEXT FIREScope BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING: January 13, 2010 @ Burbank Fire Department Training Center