

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 1951 MEETING
of the
FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
of the
CALIFORNIA DISASTER COUNCIL
at Sacramento, California

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ball at 10:30 A.M. with the following members and visitors present:

Members:

O. S. Ball, Chairman
John R. Alderson
L. S. Bush
Louis P. Ledford
William Meinheit
Eacil A. Roberts
J. Lyle Stevenson

Edward Walsh
DeWitt Nelson
Jay W. Stevens
Joe Yockers
F. J. Jefferson
K. P. Holmes for
Gayle V. Coger
of Fresno

Staff:

Harold Bowhay
Burton Washburn
Mason Riegel, Asst. to Mr. Bowhay

Visitors:

Batt. Chief Wm. Gilmore, S.F.
Chief John Marston, Stanford Univ.
Tom S. Ward, Supt. of Fire Training,
Dept. of Education
Mr. Gen. Kenley, American Rubber Co.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The first subject on the agenda was the problem of suction hose threads. Chief Yockers reported that he is on the committee of the Fire Chiefs' Section of the League and he pointed out the lack of definite information on actual conditions. He stated that he thought most of the 4-inch outlets were 4x3x4 but was not sure how consistent this was and recommended that careful study be made before asking for a national standard on 4" threads. Chief Walsh pointed out that his hose was all on 3" couplings, NST, but that he carried adapters to 2-1/2" NST. It was pointed out that there were two problems involved - one is the lack of a national standard for 4" threads and the other is the problem of the various sizes of standard threads used in the different departments.

Chief Alderson explained an adapter used in Los Angeles which might meet the need; this is in the form of a Universal adapter which does not depend upon a screw thread to connect it to the hydrant, but is clamped on by means of a chain and turnbuckle; a flexible rubber washer inserted in the cast iron case provides the seal. This has the standard suction thread for Los Angeles on the end. It was brought out that this would not only solve both of the problems mentioned before, but would also meet the situation of sabotage to hydrant threads. It was suggested, however, that there would be little possibility of cities going to the expense of providing a great number of adapters or of changing their hose threads unless a bill was passed by the State Legislature. It was, therefore, moved by Chief Alderson and seconded by Chief Ledford that a skeleton bill be drawn up and introduced, to eventually provide for adapters on all equipment responding to mutual aid, or that a method of standardization be adopted and included in the bill at a later date. The Chairman appointed a committee consisting of Chief Yockers, Chairman, Chief Walsh, Chief Meinheit, Chief Roberts and Harold Bowhay to study the need for adapters and other solutions to the problem. Chief Yockers volunteered to draft the Bill and have it introduced.

The next subject discussed was the Training Program for auxiliary firemen. Mr. Tom Ward outlined the method of obtaining a basis for material by holding four conferences. An outline was developed and copies presented to each member of the committee. After considerable discussion of the outline, it was moved by Chief Walsh and seconded by Chief Alderson that the Committee adopt the outline as prepared. Chief Meinheit brought up the point that the Disaster Council would not recommend any published material not okayed at the Federal level; Mr. Washburn felt that this would not apply to training material. Chief Yockers brought up the question of the extent of the basic training for auxiliary firemen and questioned whether it would be necessary to give such an extensive course to auxiliary firemen. Chief Alderson pointed out that he felt that if we were going to train auxiliary firemen, we should do the best job possible. The motion was carried as submitted.

It was then moved by Chief Yockers and seconded by Chief Walsh that Mr. Bowhay work with Mr. Ward on the preparation of reference material on basic training and when this was finished, work on advanced and additional training and that the Outline be made a part of Annex 3f of the California Plan, but only when the first manual is available.

A question was brought up regarding the distribution of manuals and Mr. Bowhay felt that at the present time the State would provide enough for each instructor and more, if necessary. The motion was carried.

It was moved by Chief Ledford and seconded by Chief Meinheit that General Robertson be requested to have a supply of manuals printed large enough to carry out the Training Program, and that a bulletin be sent to every Fire Chief stating that a manual will be available in approximately 30 days.

The next subject discussed was the training of Warden and Fire Watch Service. The question was proposed whether this should be developed by the Fire Service as far as fire training is concerned. Chief Alderson pointed out that the Federal Government is preparing a book which he understands is well under way and probably it would be out before we could publish one. It was also pointed out that this will be largely a local problem. It was moved by Mr. Bush and seconded by Chief Meinheit that the Fire Training Program for Warden and Fire Watch Service be laid on the table until the Federal Program comes out. Motion carried.

It was then moved by Chief Alderson and seconded by Chief Stevens that the entire Training Program be submitted to the Office of Civilian Defense, Chief of the Training Division, by the Chief of the Fire Division. Motion carried.

The next subject discussed was that of Fire Hose and the restrictions now being placed on rubber companies which will interfere with the proper quality of hose. Mr. George Kenley of the American Rubber Company was asked to outline this problem. He pointed out that fire departments are not covered by defense order ratings and that the rubber supply to their company as well as others had been reduced from 18 to 20% in the last two months. He pointed out that if the manufacturers on the Pacific Coast were to be kept in the hose business for fire departments, it would be necessary to obtain greater amounts of rubber. He suggested that a letter, stating we felt that a manufacturer of hose on the Pacific Coast was essential to Civilian Defense,

due to its ability to make repairs quickly and replace damaged hose, be written. After considerable discussion as to the status of the Fire Advisory Committee on this subject, it was felt that our only problem would be to make a definite recommendation to the Director of Civilian Defense, Disaster Council, or the Governor. It was agreed that Mr. Washburn would draw up a resolution and bring it to the meeting the following morning. This was done, and the following resolution was adopted on a motion from Chief Alderson, seconded by Mr. Nelson:

WHEREAS, The Department of National Defense and National Security Resources Board have designated six industrial areas of California as critical target areas; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the President of the United States through the National Security Resources Board has urged upon the State of California and its political subdivisions the organization of an adequate state civil defense program designed to meet catastrophic attack upon any section of California; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has urged cooperation between various states to meet war caused disaster conditions resulting from enemy action; and

WHEREAS, Fires resulting from enemy action would require every available resource, both manpower and equipment, of the entire State of California to meet such attacks; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that all existing equipment be maintained in constant readiness and repair and that immediate replacement of fire equipment and parts, such as fire hose, couplings and repair facilities be maintained on the Pacific Coast to accomplish that purpose; and

WHEREAS, The Fire Fighting Services have not been given a Defense Order Priority Rating by the National Production Authority, which rating is essential to assure adequate equipment, replacement, and repair;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fire Services Advisory Committee of the California State Disaster--Civil Defense Council recommend to the Governor that the Director of Civil Defense and all representatives of California in the Congress of the United States urge upon the President of the United States, and the National Production Authority, that the Fire Services be given a Defense Order Rating in the same priority as other essential elements of the national mobilization effort; and

FURTHER, That the Federal Agency's rulings and priority ratings be designed to assure adequate manufacturing and repair facilities on the West Coast in sufficient quantities to provide immediate requirements to meet fire services needs in both needed new equipment, maintenance, replacement and repair of fire fighting facilities."

The next question was presented by Mr. Bowhay: On what basis should a fire department recruit auxiliary firemen -- on what ratio, based on fire equipment available? After considerable discussion, Chief Alderson moved, and Chief Walsh seconded, that it be the recommendation of the Fire Advisory Committee that auxiliary firemen be recruited and trained on the following basis:

- 1) Consider all equipment available to the department; then compute the manpower necessary to man this equipment properly on the basis of Underwriters' standards. Multiply this by 3 to provide 3 complete shifts;

- 2) Subtract from this total number the number of paid or volunteer members available in the department;
- 3) The remainder would be the number of auxiliary firemen necessary to adequately man the department, but in order to obtain this number, it is recommended that 3 times this number of auxiliary firemen be recruited, in order to assure adequate response.

A question was then brought up as to the necessity of screening auxiliary firemen. It was pointed out that screening might involve many factors beyond that of taking fingerprints and checking as to a criminal record. After a discussion on these points, it was moved by Chief Alderson and seconded by Chief Roberts that Chief Bowhay inform General Robertson that in the opinion of the Fire Advisory Committee, it was just as important to screen auxiliary firemen as auxiliary policemen or other services. It was then moved by Chief Alderson, seconded by Mr. Nelson, that the matter of screening be put on the Agenda for the next meeting and that a bulletin be prepared for distribution to the Fire Chiefs. Motion carried.

The meeting was then adjourned until the following morning.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 16, 1951

Chairman Ball called for a report from the sub-committee appointed to determine the amount of equipment necessary to combat an atomic attack. Chief Alderson, who was Chairman of the committee, was called back to Los Angeles, so a report was submitted by Mr. Bush. The report was primarily one of progress since the committee had not completed studies in all the cities involved in target areas, but they had agreed on a basis of computation which could be worked out by a study in any community.

In Los Angeles, the Fire Department had made extensive studies on building densities and building heights within target areas and studies of like character had been made on samplings in San Francisco. The basis of computation pre-supposes circles around a target: The 1st circle is one-half mile in radius, within which it is assumed all buildings will be destroyed; therefore, no fire problem. The 2nd circle, at a two mile radius from the ground zero, is assumed to be the area within which many fires of serious proportions are burning in conflagration proportion, and possible fire storms. The 3rd circle, two-and-one-half miles in radius, indicates the zone in which many small fires have started due to flying brands, broken gas mains, etc.

A plan of attack agreed upon by the sub-committee was that the fires in the 2nd zone would have to be completely surrounded with sufficient equipment to fight the fires.

A certain percentage of equipment would have to be added to fight conflagrations, or especially stubborn fires within that area, and another percentage should be added to provide depth to the fire fighting line, which equipment would be kept in reserve and called upon in case of fires starting in back of the companies at work, or for other emergencies. These percentages would probably be influenced by the characteristics of the area considered, such as building densities, wind conditions, topography, etc.

In order to come to a conclusion on the number of pieces of equipment for the perimeter of the fire, the sub-committee agreed that it was best to compute it on the basis of hose streams rather than pumpers. It was

assumed, however, that water supplies would be available, in order to reach a conclusion. The number of hose streams necessary would depend upon building densities and would be increased by the percentage of multi-story buildings in the 3rd zone. After determining the number of hose streams on this basis, an irregular line is assumed around the perimeter of the 3rd zone, and in the cases studied this reached about 18 miles. With this information it is possible to estimate the number of pumpers necessary, according to their capacities.

An example was carried out to show how the figures were computed, but it was pointed out that this should not be taken as a criterion for determining the number of pieces of equipment necessary in any location, since this applied to only one particular target area. It was also pointed out that it was the wish of the sub-committee to keep most of this information within the Fire Services, rather than to give it any publicity whatever, until the Fire Services Advisory Committee receives a complete report, and then decides to make these findings public.

Chief Yockers added to the discussion on points brought up, as did Chief Walsh and Chief Meinheit, who were the other members of the sub-committee present. It was decided that this sub-committee would be continued and give a further report at the next meeting of the Fire Committee.

The next subject presented was a question from Chief Walsh as to how far the Fire Chiefs should go in rescue work under an attack. Discussion disclosed that there was considerable doubt in regard to this matter, and it was finally moved by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Chief Ledford, that General Robertson be requested to clarify the recommendation of the State Civil Defense Office in respect to rescue work.

The next question, presented by Mr. Nelson, was in regard to the Division of Forestry radio system. An appropriation of funds should be provided to strengthen this important link in the communication system. The following resolution was presented, with the understanding that this matter would be taken up by the Staff, and that they would take the necessary action:

"WHEREAS, Radio communications are essential to emergency Civil Defense operation, and

WHEREAS, The State Division of Forestry has a radio network covering a large portion of California, and

WHEREAS, Many of its repeater stations and land stations are not equipped with auxiliary power plants for operating purposes when commercial power services are not functioning, and

WHEREAS, The Division of forestry has for many months been attempting to get authorization and appropriations for the purpose of overhauling 29 war-surplus power plants, the purchase of 16 additional power plants, and funds for installing all such plants,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fire Services Advisory Committee recommend and urge that the Director of Civil Defense and Division of Communications and the Communications Advisory Board immediately take such action as may be necessary to make these auxiliary power plants available at the earliest possible date."

[NOTE: The Division of Communications has detailed data on this subject under letters of Oct. 18, 1950 and Jan. 4, 1951, from the Division of Forestry.]

It was moved by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Chief Meinheit, that the Fire Advisory Committee adopt the resolution. Motion carried.

The next question discussed was that of Inter-State Mutual Aid, presented by Mr. Burton Washburn, who stated he was attending a meeting on the subject the following week and wished to obtain some information regarding the Fire Services on this subject. No official action was taken by the Committee, but Mr. Washburn felt that from the discussion he would be able to handle the situation from his standpoint.

Upon question from the Chairman, it was the sense of the Committee that the next meeting should be held in Los Angeles, since the members from the South had been very generous in coming North, but certainly the next meeting should be held in their territory.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren S. Bush,
Chief Engineer

LSB/w

RESOLUTION

Adopted by

FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

of the

California State Civil Defense - Disaster Council

WHEREAS, The Department of National Defense and National Security Resources Board have designated six industrial areas of California as critical target areas; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the President of the United States, through the National Security Resources Board, has urged upon the State of California and its political subdivisions the organization of an adequate state civil defense program designed to meet catastrophic attack upon any section of California; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has urged cooperation between various states to meet war-caused disaster conditions resulting from enemy action; and

WHEREAS, Fires resulting from enemy action would require every available resource, both manpower and equipment, of the entire State of California to meet such attacks; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that all existing equipment be maintained in constant readiness and repair and that immediate replacement of fire equipment and parts, such as fire hose, couplings, and repair facilities be maintained on the Pacific Coast to accomplish that purpose; and

WHEREAS, The Fire Fighting Services have not been given a Defense Order Priority Rating by the National Production Authority, which rating is essential to assure adequate equipment, replacement, and repair;

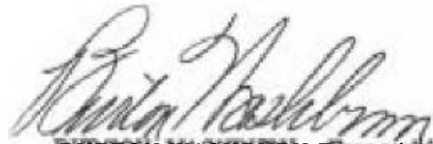
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fire Services Advisory Committee of the California State Civil Defense - Disaster Council recommend to the Governor that the Director of Civil Defense and all representatives of California in the Congress of the United States urge upon the President of the United States and the National Production Authority, that the Fire Services be given a Defense Order Rating in the same priority as other essential elements of the national mobilization effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Federal Agency's rulings and priority ratings be designed to assure adequate manufacturing and repair facilities on the West Coast in sufficient quantities to provide immediate requirements to meet fire services needs in both needed new equipment, maintenance, replacement, and repair of fire fighting facilities.



O. S. BALL, Chairman
Fire Services Advisory Committee

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was passed at a meeting of the Fire Services Advisory Committee of the California State Civil Defense - Disaster Council, held at Sacramento, California, on January 15, 1951.



BURTON WASHBURN Executive Secretary
California State Civil Defense -
Disaster Council