

MINUTES

CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 22-23, 1952

Room 415 - State Capitol
Sacramento

The meeting was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Fire Advisory Board, since many subjects discussed were of interest to both groups.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Joe R. Yockers State Fire Marshal, at 10:00 a.m., who advised that this would be a joint meeting and that the morning session would be taken up with subjects of interest to the Fire Advisory Board.

The afternoon session was also called to order by Chief Yockers, who had been requested to preside by Chairman Chief O. S. Ball. Chief Yockers announced that the afternoon session would be utilized almost entirely for civil defense subjects.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chief	O. S. Ball	-	Chairman
"	H. P. Bowhay	-	Chief, Division of Fire Services
"	John H. Alderson		
"	Louis F. Ledford		
"	Wm. Meinheit		
"	Bacil Roberts		
"	J. Lyle Stevenson		
"	Burnett Sanford		
"	DeWitt Nelson		
"	Jay W. Stevens		
"	Spence D. Turner		
"	Joe R. Yockers		
"	Gayle Cogger		
"	George F. Courser		
"	Edward P. Walsh		

ABSENT:

Chief F. J. Jefferson
Loren S. Bush

In addition to the members of the Fire Advisory Board the following were present:

Mason Riegel - Field Representative OCD, Fire Services, Sacramento
L. G. Smith - Asst. Chief OCD, Fire Services, Sacramento
Chief Thomas Ward Supervisor, Fire Training, Dept. of Education

The first subject discussed was "Results of Atom Bomb Test". Dr. Bellamy, now retained by the State OCD, spoke ably on the subject and answered numerous questions.

Since Dr. Bellamy asked that all this subject be considered classified no notes were taken.

A report on the Fire Prevention Program of the International Association of Fire Chiefs was given by Chief Jay W. Stevens. He said each State in the Union had responded and that the tremendous "Home Inspection" effort nationwide had been a success.

Chief Bowhay spoke on his investigation of the feasibility of the purchase of aluminum pipe to stockpile for emergency fire department use in time of need. He said he had found that aluminum pipe of varying diameter, 4", 6", 8", could be had in joints for coupling together with a quick coupling device" easy to fasten and locked by water pressure. Chief Bowhay thought 20' lengths would be practical for transportation on a conventional flatbed truck. He said the pipe would withstand high pressure up to 250 pounds p.s.i. for the 8" pipe. He estimated the cost to be about 50¢ a foot for 4" pipe to \$1.50 for the 8".

Chief Bowhay said in his studies he had tried to investigate thoroughly and had contacted seven concerns who might bid if purchase was made. He said the pipe was very light, a 20' section of 4" pipe weighing about 21 pounds, and that all kinds of adapters and connections for pumping into or taking water out of the pipe were available. The pipe has great flexibility, about 22°, 11° from center each way.

Much discussion on this subject followed, Chief Bowhay having asked for the thinking of those present. Finally it was agreed that a thorough test should be had. Chief Bowhay said he would arrange this and advise the members of the committee.

The meeting recessed until 9:00 a.m. of the following day.

On the second morning the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chief Ball.

Chief Bowhay first spoke on his three-zone plan, and showed a map of this scheme cleverly worked out. The basis of the plan he explained was three zones all tied to Sacramento but capable of working individually; A Zone in the San Francisco area encompassing Regions 1, 3, and 5; B zone in the Sacramento area

Regions 2,4, 6; and C Zone in the Los Angeles Area for Regions 7, 8, 9, and 10.

These Zones had been so worked out for control and radio hook-up. All present could glean that much planning had been put into this most important phase, with a view of connection by radio of all regions, for fire fighting, dispatching and communication alone, staying on existing Fire Department frequencies. Chief Bowhay said the plan of radio hook-up should not cost more than \$25,000.

The Director of Civil Defense, General Walter M. Robertson arrived and spoke to the group in clear and understanding manner on funds for fire equipment. He said that there is a sizeable appropriation in the present. Federal budget for fire equipment, enough he said to perhaps allow a million dollars for California.

Some money is now available General Robertson said, but difficulty has been experienced because of a matching basis never having been established by this State. He thought that perhaps 25 pumping engines might be made available and that he would ask the State legislature for matching funds to plan for 50 pieces.

The Director said that perhaps some funds should be used for light weight pipe, for;

1. restoring water systems
2. assist in fire suppression.

It seemed to be the consensus of opinion of all present that the question of direct appropriation versus matching funds and how much should be made available, was a question requiring Legislative decision. The General said he believed the California League of Cities would ask the State for funds to match local appropriations for Civil Defense.

Chief Meinheit asked if fire departments could be allowed funds for visual aid equipment. The General answered "Yes".

Much discussion on this followed. It seemed that Federal funds could be obtained for training purposes more readily than for others, but that requests must be sent in without delay. In order to show evidence of local matching funds a copy of the resolution of intention of the governing body was sufficient. A certified check was not required.

The Director said that now it will be possible to bring in Regional Service Chiefs for conferences and the State would pay the expenses for their travel.

The General and others spoke on the great demand from other States for copies of the Training Manual. Copies are not available for such distribution.

Chief Bowhay spoke on a program that he had investigated to use army men

for fire suppression purposes in times of emergency. He said that he had been in touch with the military authorities and that they were willing to provide soldiers for this purpose if the Office of Civil Defense would provide training. This sort of a scheme would provide a reserve of ten to fifteen thousand men.

The General asked if the group agreed to such a program. Chief Alderson spoke of the great difficulty in connection with such a program, which would entail feeding and equipping of large numbers of men. He said also that when such volunteers were used the questions of command arose.

Others spoke on this question but no definite action was taken.

General Robertson, Chiefs Alderson and Ball left the meeting to attend a meeting of the Disaster Council, and Chief Yockers assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

The Fire Marshall called on Mr. Ward Cockerton, a fire Instructor of the State Fire Training Program, to report on the Federal Civilian Defense Fire School recently held at St. Mary's College. Mr. Cockerton said that he and another State man, together with fire officials from many fire departments, had attended the two week meeting.

This was primarily a Teacher Training course and was in a sense a pilot school in order that other similar ones might be arranged in the future. Its basic purpose was to train teachers on this subject and arouse interest in Civil Defense. It was an intensified training course, the school running during the day and evening both, and entailed lectures, visual education and actual field training work.

Mr. Cockerton gave a very interesting and detailed account of the school. After he had finished Chief Bowhay asked the group what they thought of this program. Chief Meinheit answered that many had expressed an opinion that the course had value. He thought, however, that the Federal Government should not teach basic fire department evolutions which were taught in every day fire drills in the various fire departments. He believed that such courses should cover subjects of particular interest to Civil Defense and not obtainable elsewhere.

Chief Tom Ward of the State Fire Training Program said he did not think that such a school was a duplication of effort of his work. Chief De Witt Nelson said he believed that the course was too long and should be consolidated into a short training course concerning Civil Defense subjects of particular interest to Fire Departments.

Chief Ledford then moved that we accept the report and program with the suggestion that it be streamlined to one week and confined to training on Civil Defense subjects only. Chief Turner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Following this motion some further questions concerning this course were asked and it was explained that these schools were supported by Federal funds entirely and that the size of classes were about forty people.

Chief Meinheit said then that if future schools were held on this campus and that if fire departments cared to send men at a minimum of expense he would house ten or fifteen firemen at a time in some of his fire houses.

Chief Meinheit next spoke on the subject of priorities for the purchase of fire equipment. Chief Meinheit said he had been assured by a Mr. Manly Fleischman, who was Director of the National Production Board, that there would be no restriction on the purchase of fire equipment where such equipment was purchased by the U. S. Government or local political subdivision. He said that this statement had been made at a Mayors' conference held in Los Angeles and that the statement was definite. Chief Meinheit further said that someone had asked a question concerning cable for a fire alarm system and that Mr. Fleischman had answered that fire equipment was a prime consideration and would not suffer from material shortage.

The meeting recessed until 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 on the afternoon of January 23 by Chairman Chief Ball.

Chief Bowhay asked for some decision on the new three-zone system which he had explained earlier in the meeting. Chief Stevenson then moved that the three-zone system and the dispatching in connection therewith be approved. This motion was seconded by Chief Ledford and unanimously carried. It was then moved by Chief Roberts and seconded by Chief Cogger that the committee believes the expenditure of \$25,000 reasonable to complete the Fire Service Radio Net from State level to region to area and to city in target area, using existing fire service network. This motion was carried unanimously.

Chief Walt Winters, Deputy State Forester, next spoke on the State Forestry Radio Net. Chief Winters explained something of the history of this vast project and how it had started small and had grown progressively. In very interesting manner he explained how they had almost complete coverage throughout the State. Chief Winters said that obsolescence of equipment was a problem and therefore, continual work on the net was necessary. Chief Bowhay said part of the \$25,000 proposed was to tie in to this Statewide net. Chairman Ball asked if anyone present had any objection to such a plan; no one objected.

Chief Bowhay then asked if the group thought he should attempt to employ a radio technician and the subject was discussed at some length. After the discussion, it was moved by Chief Yockers, seconded by Chief Nelson and unanimously carried that the Fire Services exhaust its own resources in attempting to complete communications necessary for Civil Defense throughout the State and

after exhausting their own resources, then if necessary, hire a technician.

A discussion as to what men were necessary to assist Chief Bowhay in his work followed. It was by motion to Chief Turner, seconded by Chief Coger, the committee recommended that Chief Bowhay have three assistants. The motion carried. Chief Bowhay then explained his program for setting up three film libraries in the district offices of the State Fire Marshal's Office, one to be in Sacramento, one in San Francisco and one in Los Angeles. Chief Bowhay explained that the Fire Marshal already had some films and had worked out a system of distributing them to the fire chiefs on request. Chief Yockers agreed that he would work with Chief Bowhay on this project.

It was then moved by Chief Nelson, seconded by Chief Coger, that three film libraries be set up in the Fire Marshal's Office, the State Office of Civil Defense to purchase the films. This motion was unanimously carried.

A discussion on turn-out suits next ensued. Chief Bowhay and others remarked that if auxiliary firemen are used it is necessary to provide them with emergency clothing and that the provision of turn-out suits stimulates their activities. Others spoke of the difficulty of obtaining funds for turn-out suits for auxiliary firemen through local channels.

It was moved by Chief Walsh, seconded by Chief Yockers that the State should not provide money for turn-out suits until the Federal Government provides matching funds for this purpose. It was believed that this was a local responsibility at the present time. This motion was carried unanimously.

The Fire Marshal then spoke on the subject of State cars and said that he believed some of the rules concerning State cars and about garaging them in central places at night actually hampered Civil Defense preparation. He said this was true in his office. After some discussion was moved by Chief Turner, seconded by Chief Stevenson, that the committee request General Robertson to make necessary arrangements to allow key personnel in the State Fire Marshal's Office to take cars home at night and to equip such cars with radios. This motion carried unanimously.

Chief Bowhay spoke on the question of yellow alert signals and said that now Washington believes one, two or three hours notice would be given in advance of the need of such alert. He said that it was contemplated that perhaps an alert might continue for four or five days. He, therefore, had prepared an operational plan on yellow alert, as follows:

"In the case of full-time paid departments an immediate standby will be ordered. This includes recalling all off-shift personnel, firemen and chief officers; special service technicians such as mechanics, radio operators, telephone operators, and maintenance men; key business office personnel and sufficient clerks to their stations to man emergency dispatch boards and communications equipment. All emergency fire stations, control rooms and emergency dispatch centers at all levels will be manned. In the critical target areas, where it is practical, fully-manned apparatus will be

dispersed to pre-determined locations.

In the case of volunteer departments all available volunteer personnel will be alerted and placed on standby at their homes or places of business. All equipment will be placed on standby at the stations."

There was a great deal of discussion on this since it was deemed very difficult to carry out without disrupting regular fire department work. Particularly, the question of dispersing of fire equipment on the yellow alert was questioned.

Chief Yockers then suggested that this order be amended to allow a fire chief to disperse equipment and to call off shift men when deemed advisable. After considerable discussion it was moved by Chief Ledford, seconded by Chief Coger, that Chief Bowhay's orders be approved as amended. This motion was carried, with one disapproving vote.

Chief Meinheit then raised the question of how the number of auxiliaries that any fire department should recruit would be established.

A great deal of discussion was had on the subject and it seemed to be the consensus of opinion that the formula for recruiting auxiliaries now in use was satisfactory.

A discussion was next had upon the advisability of setting aside certain forestry equipment now located in the various counties for fire service use only. It was moved by Chief Roberts, seconded by Chief Coger, that Chief Bowhay proceed with this program. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chief Sanford said that if mess gear or other Forestry equipment used by Federal Agencies is required for State Civil Defense purposes, that the Regional Director for the Federal Civil Defense Administration should request the Federal authorities to set such equipment aside. He did not believe he could do so unless specifically authorized to do it by them.

A discussion on the specifications of fire apparatus was next entered into and it was brought out by Chief Bowhay that he believes some of the specifications so far drawn up by the Federal authorities needed revising. Much discussion followed about this and it seemed to be the consensus of opinion that good sturdy fire equipment should be specified, but without frills or adornment.

It was finally moved by Chief Turner, seconded by Chief Yockers that a subcommittee be appointed to study the specification question and report back to the committee as a whole. The motion was carried, with one dissenting vote.

Chairman Ball appointed the following committee on this Subject: Mr. Loren Bush; Chief Meinheit, and Chief Walsh.

Chief Bowhay next explained a board that he had perfected for use in the

various Regional Offices as a Dispatch Board. These Boards were discussed and all seemed to approve of them. Chief Nelson moved that the Office of Civil Defense handle the production of these boards. This motion was seconded by Chief Roberts and unanimously carried.

The question as to whether money should be spent for the purchase of taps, dies and other equipment for standardizing steamer connection was discussed. It was moved by Chief Roberts, seconded by Chief Ledford, that this committee recommend to General Robertson that \$1,500 be allowed for 4" thread Standard tools. The motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.
January 22-23, 1952.

JOE R. YOCKERS

CES:TP