

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Conference Room, Public Works Building
Sacramento, California

January 29, 1959

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carrell, after a short meeting of the State Fire Advisory Board, with the following persons present:

I. ATTENDANCE

Present: Charles N. Carrell, Chairman
Chief, Santa Monica Fire Department
O. S. Ball, Fire Warden, Stanislaus County
L. S. Bush, Chief Engineer, Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific
Gayle V. Goger, Chief, Fresno City Fire Department
George E. Coursey, Chief, San Diego City Fire Department
Norman J. Farrell, U. S. Forest Service
John Garthe, Chief, Santa Ana Fire Department
Keith E. Klinger, Chief Engineer, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Henry C. Lingua, Chief Engineer, Central Fire Protection District, San Jose
William L. Miller, Chief Engineer, Los Angeles Fire Department
William F. Murray, Chief, San Francisco Fire Department
Jay W. Stevens, Assistant Manager, National Board of Fire Underwriters
J. Lyle Stevenson, Chief, Stockton Fire Department
Maurice E. Theda, Regional Forester, National Park Service
Joe E. Yockers, State Fire Marshal

Harold P. Bowhay, Chief, Fire and Rescue Division, California Disaster Office

Absent: DeWitt Nelson, Director, State Department of Natural Resources *

Members of State Fire Advisory Board and others present:

E. L. Albrecht, Sr., Secretary, C. S. F. A., Sacramento
George Arens, Chief, Arbutus Fire Department
Elmer Brouillard, Chico
* John Callaghan, Chief Deputy State Forester, representing DeWitt Nelson
Lloyd B. Canfield, Chief, Beverly Hills Fire Department
Gene Desimone, Chief, Citrus Heights Fire Department
Dick Dwage, U. S. Forest Service, Pasadena
Harry H. Dyck, California State Firemen's Association, Fresno
S. H. Edmondson, Fire and Rescue Division, CDO, Walnut Creek

Robert A. Mason, Director of Communications, Santa Clara County
Chester W. Moller, Chief, Berkeley Fire Department
Hugh F. Morris, Chief, San Mateo Fire Department
Melvin K. Reiley, Fire and Rescue Division, CDO, Sacramento
James J. Sweeney, Jr., Chief, Oakland Fire Department
George Taylor, Fire and Rescue Division, CDO, Pasadena

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of November 18, 1958, had been distributed to all members. As there were no errors or corrections, the Chairman declared the Minutes approved as submitted.

III. REPORT ON STATEWIDE RADIO NET

Chief Harold P. Bowhay presented a progress report on the statewide radio net, in which he reviewed the basis of the radio net and pointed out a plan to separate the various areas to avoid overloading frequencies. He indicated that there would still be some blank areas, but the next step would be to extend the network to northern California. He did not contemplate that this would be done this year, however, due to reduction in all budgets; but mentioned that there is money in the budget to equip all fire trucks during the present year.

Motion 1 It was moved by Chief Klinger, seconded by Chief Cogger, and carried,

That the committee go on record as repeating its recommendation that all mobile civil defense equipment be equipped with radio.

IV. REPORT ON FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIO FREQUENCIES

Chief Bowhay then called on Robert A. Mason, Director of Communications, Santa Clara County, to discuss the problem of inadequacies of radio channels for the fire service. Mr. Mason warned the group that the problem of inadequate radio channels is becoming very serious, as the FCC is faced with many requests for allocation of new channels. A concerted action by the state, as well as by fire and police communications administrators, is vitally necessary. Based on the seriousness of this problem it was decided that Mr. Mason would send Chief Bowhay a resume of the problem and a suggested course of remedial action as soon as possible. It was voted unanimously that, after Chief Bowhay had discussed this report with the Fire Advisory Board Communications Committee, the report and a request for direct state-level assistance in petitioning the FCC for additional fire emergency radio channels would be submitted to the Governor immediately.

The suggestion was made that the Communications Advisory Board be revitalized and expanded to include a representative from the Attorney General's Office and two technicians, and that this committee have adequate representation in Washington.

Motion 2 It was moved by Chief Klinger, seconded by Chief Garthe, and carried,

That the committee instruct Chief Bowhay to submit the problem of fire service radio frequencies to the Governor, after conference with any other groups or persons that he deems necessary.

V. RADIO CODES

Chief Bowhay then discussed the necessity of having a uniform code for radio communications. The desirability of uniformity was evident to the committee and it was finally decided that the California Disaster Office would compile the codes now in use by fire and police systems in California. It was voted unanimously that Chief Bowhay refer these codes to the Communications Advisory Committee to determine which code should become the recommended standard for California.

VI. PAY FOR FIREMEN RESPONDING ON MUTUAL AID

The staff brought up the problem of various pay scales throughout the state and some of the difficulties encountered in establishing a uniform method of reimbursement for men responding on mutual aid fires. It was pointed out by Chief Miller and several other members of the committee that it had long been the tradition of the service to render mutual aid without cost, and that it was generally felt that normal mutual aid should not be given with any anticipation of reimbursement. The problem situation arises when fires are of several days' duration, especially when volunteers are manning the state trucks.

Motion 3 It was moved by Chief Bush, seconded by Chief Miller, and unanimously carried,

That Chief Bowhay appoint a subcommittee, representing the various agencies involved, to formulate and recommend a clear-cut policy regarding the reimbursement of personnel working outside of their own jurisdiction as a result of the mutual aid program.

Motion 4 It was moved by Chief Miller, seconded by Chief Kringer, and unanimously carried,

That a subcommittee be appointed to study the responsibilities (governmental and proprietary) that may be assumed when fire equipment responds to or through another jurisdiction;

That this subcommittee be empowered to promote immediately any legislation necessary to insure protection of the fire chief and the political jurisdiction from liability which might be incurred as a result of such response; and

That the committee recommend support of any corrective legislation introduced during the 1959 session of the State Legislature.

VII. GOVERNOR'S FIRE CONFERENCE

Chief Yockers reviewed the Governor's Fire Conference of the previous day, pointing out that he felt sure the Governor would want an answer to his question as to whether or not the National Guard could assist in fighting serious brush fires in Southern California.

Motion 5 It was moved by Chief Klinger, seconded by Chief Arens, and unanimously carried,

That the State Fire Advisory Board and the Governor's Fire Services Advisory Committee have reviewed the proposition of water and chemical bombardment of fires from aircraft and recommend that this proposition not be pursued further at this time, in view of the conclusion of Adjutant General Earle M. Jones that the available National Guard aircraft are not of proper design to adequately serve this purpose; and

That, on the basis of General Jones' generous offer outlining other equipment which the National Guard could provide, such as heavy equipment, cargo and reconnaissance planes, and personnel, the California Disaster Office be directed to work closely with the National Guard and integrate activities wherever possible.

Motion 6 It was moved by Chief Miller, seconded by Chief Klinger, and unanimously carried,

That the State Fire Advisory Board and the Governor's Fire Services Advisory Committee take the necessary action to express their appreciation to Major General Earle M. Jones, the Adjutant General, for his cooperation.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

LOREN S. BUSH
Secretary