

MINUTES

Joint Meeting

CALIFORNIA STATE DISASTER COUNCIL FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

and

STATE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

69 9th Street - San Francisco
May 23, 1951

Because of their mutual interest in the subjects at hand, the Fire Services Advisory Committee and the State Fire Advisory Board met jointly. Roll call showed the following:

State Fire Advisory Board

Present:

Chief Joe R. Yockers, Chairman
Chief John H. Alderson
Chief George Courser
Chief William A. Meinheit
Captain Chester W. Moller
Chief Hugh Morris
Chief Terence Mulligan

Absent:

Chief Lloyd B. Canfield
Chief E. R. Thomas
Chief Spence D. Turner
Chief Edward Walsh

Fire Services Advisory Committee

Present:

Chief O. S. Ball, Chairman
Chief John H. Alderson
Chief George Courser
Chief F. J. Jefferson
Chief Louis Ledford
Chief William A. Meinheit
Chief Bacil Roberts
Chief Burnett Sanford
Chief Jay W. Stevens
Chief J. Lyle Stevenson
Chief Joe R. Yockers

Absent:

Mr. Loren S. Bush
Chief Gayle V. Coger
Mr. DeWitt Nelson
Chief Spence D. Turner
Chief Edward Walsh

In addition to the above, the following were present:

Major General W. M. Robertson, Director, State Office of Civil Defense
Chief Harold P. Bowhay, Chief of Fire Services, Office of Civil Defense
Burton Washburn, Executive Secretary, California State Disaster Council
Mason D. Riegel, Field Representative, Fire Services, O. C. D.
Worth R. Kidd, Facility Protection Officer, O. C. D.
Chief Charles E. Smith, State Fire Marshal's Office
Robert D. Palmer, State Fire Marshal's Office

The meeting was opened by Chief Ball, Chairman of the Fire Services Advisory Committee, at 10:30 a.m.

By motion of Chief Courser, seconded by Chief Roberts, and unanimously carried, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

Chief Yockers then reported on the progress made on the development of a standard 4" hose thread and stressed the fact that he was not attempting to standardize steamer connections, but only to provide an acceptable 4" standard thread for California. He said his studies so far indicated that the thread he had developed would interchange with almost all the threads of this size in California. With the exception of one city, simple use of taps and dies would actually standardize the thread.

A discussion of this subject followed, and led to the subject of adapters.

General Robertson said he felt that if adapters were necessary, the State should play an important part in their development and procurement. Chief Yockers said that he desired to complete the study and mentioned that the adoption of a standard 4" thread by the National Fire Protection Association was contemplated.

After more discussion, it was moved by Chief Ledford and seconded by Chief Stevenson that the Fire Marshal continue these studies. The motion carried unanimously.

General Robertson next spoke on the subject of facilities protection. He said he believed this phase of civilian defense was highly important and merited more consideration than it had been receiving. He advised that he had employed Mr. Worth R. Kidd, who was charged with development of this program for the Office of Civil Defense.

General Robertson spoke of the difficulties surrounding the facility protection problem in that lists of facilities considered strategically important were so highly classified they had not been released. He said if lists were not forthcoming soon, he would set up his own program. This program would not duplicate the efforts of or interfere with local officials in any way, and would tie into plant protection work by Federal authorities under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Department of Defense.

The General then introduced Mr. Kidd, who spoke on facilities protection. He said his thought of a program was divided into four phases: fire, security, industrial safety, and civil defense. He said he had made a study of this problem and believed that the State program should parallel any plant defense planning of the U. S. Provost Marshal. Thus, a plant not now under Federal planning would be ready to tie into a Federal program if taken over at a later date by the U. S. Department of Defense.

Mr. Kidd stated he thought the program should be a service available upon request and further, that the State should not duplicate efforts of local officials. He said he favored joint inspections by a team of experts in the four fields he had mentioned. Following Mr. Kidd's discussion, a general conference of all present, on this subject, ensued.

General Robertson asked if the armed forces had ever collaborated with local officials. The answer was that they had not.

During the discussion, Civil Defense speakers stressed the fact that, regardless of whether the Department of Defense or the State were to lay out a plant security program, no such program would supersede the jurisdiction of the local fire officials.

It was mentioned that during the last war cooperation between military posts and local officials had, in some cases, not been good. In one case it was mentioned that military authorities would not even advise where ammunition was stored.

General Robertson said that he did not intend to enter the field of sabotage or fingerprinting in plants, although he might advise that the plants have a program concerning these matters.

Chief Alderson said he felt that the group favored some plant protection plan.

Mr. Kidd said he felt a sub-committee from this group was necessary, to work with other committees on the subject.

Mr. Washburn then spoke on the program of the law enforcement officials. Chief Jefferson spoke on the problem of plant protection in the lumber industry. All agreed that this was certainly an important field. Mr. Washburn then submitted a resolution on facility protection and, after some discussion, Chief Alderson moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Chief Mulligan and unanimously carried. The resolution is as follows:

1. That California needs a coordinated Facility Protection program, including participation by state-wide fire departments and other agencies; that such a program should be developed on a state-wide basis at the earliest possible date.
2. That the Fire Services Advisory Committee recommend to the Governor that a representative advisory committee be appointed under the provisions of Section 1520 of the California Disaster Act, composed of leading industrialists, which committee would be charged with the responsibility of recommending to the Governor and the Office of Civil Defense the over-all policy in connection with the Facility Protection Program.
3. The Fire Services Advisory Committee recommends a system of state-wide training available to local fire and other agencies at the local level in the Facility Protection Program; in order that local facilities may be provided competent advice and guidance from local teams composed of Fire, Law Enforcement, Safety, and Civil Defense personnel.

4. That this Committee appoint a sub-committee, consisting of three, to be selected by the Chairman, to work with the State Office of Civil Defense and public and private fire agencies in the development of the Fire Protection phase of a state-wide Facility Protection Program.

Chairman Ball then suggested a committee on facility protection, as follows: Fire Marshal Joe R. Yockers, Fire Chief John H. Alderson, Fire Chief Edward Walsh. Chief Alderson nominated Henry Boone, Assistant Chief of his Department, to act in his stead, and the Chairman therefore appointed Chief Boone on the committee.

Chief Courser then moved that the sub-committee be approved. This motion was seconded by Chief Roberts and unanimously carried.

Chief Jay W. Stevens then spoke on the fire prevention program of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and suggested that the civil defense program and his program work together in closest cooperation.

General Robertson spoke at some length on the financing of the national civil defense program and said that the funds so far had been allocated for medical and educational and informational needs, but apparently none was earmarked for the purchase of fire equipment. He said that he felt that California should be a leader and allocate funds for this latter purpose.

A great deal of discussion then followed on this subject. Chief Alderson said that a study had been made as to what fire equipment would be necessary to combat atomic bombing, and stressed the need for a study pointed toward the strengthening of water systems in cities. The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

Following luncheon, the group further discussed the probable fire equipment needs if this State or any portion thereof was subjected to bombing.

General Robertson asked if this group had ever expressed itself on how much pool equipment would be necessary to combat any given number of atomic strikes. He said he had set up the figure of five strikes as a possibility. Chief Sanford said the committees working on wild land protection had already sent in what apparatus they felt was necessary for this protection and, therefore, future studies should consider structural fire fighting only.

After further discussion on this, it was suggested by Chief Bowhay that the present committee should continue and carry forth its work on this matter to completion. The Chairman asked that this be done. The committee consists of Chiefs Alderson, Walsh, Courser, Yockers, and Mr. Bush.

Chief Yockers then read and spoke on a bulletin that he had prepared for distribution by all cities. The bulletin was studied carefully by all present, as to the subject matter and also as to the mechanics of

distributing it. Chief Ledford moved that the bulletin be accepted as read, and submitted to the Office of Civil Defense for printing and distribution. The motion was seconded by Chief Meinheit and unanimously carried.

Chief Yockers moved that the Office of Civil Defense be urged to expedite the printing of this bulletin in order that it might be distributed in California as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Chief Ledford and unanimously carried.

Chairman Ball then called upon Chief Bowhay, who discussed the vital subject of just where the State Fire Plan fit into the over-all Civil Defense Plan.

This matter was discussed at great length and all seemed to agree that, according to California Law, the State Fire Plan was an entity in itself, answerable to the Fire Coordinators, but not under the jurisdiction of local Civil Defense Coordinators. It was mentioned that, obviously, fire authorities would work in closest cooperation with all civil defense authorities.

Mr. Harry Stoops, Regional Coordinator of the San Francisco District, was asked to join the discussion, and did so. He explained his operational plan and said he envisioned the fire plan as remaining intact. More discussion on this basic issue followed.

Chief Bowhay asked for an expression by those present as to the use of dynamite to establish fire lines in time of great need. All Chiefs present expressed themselves as being not favorable to the use of dynamite.

Chief Ledford moved that the Chiefs present go on record as being against the use of dynamite for fire fighting purposes. The motion was seconded by Chief Stevenson and unanimously carried.

Chief Jefferson then spoke on a manual that he had developed, primarily for the use of wild land protection.

The committee seemed to feel that a study should be made, looking toward a reprint of the bulletin and its further distribution to all Fire Chiefs.

Chief Jefferson said he thought a cooperative agreement between the State Forestry, the Office of Civil Defense, and the U. S. Forest Service, could work out some scheme of having more of these bulletins printed.

Chief Sanford then said that a book on wild land protection had been prepared which closely followed the fire plan in the California Fire Disaster red book. He said the plan of mutual aid that had been in use for years had thus been put on paper.

Chief Bowhay suggested that a Chairman or Dispatching Head be appointed for the wild land plan. Chiefs interested in this protection, primarily, agreed.

A further discussion on county-wide organizational plans followed.

At 4:30 p.m. a motion was made by Chief Jefferson that the meeting adjourn. This motion was seconded by Chief Sanford and unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned.

CHARLES E. SMITH
Acting Secretary