

FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING CONFERENCE CALL Thursday April 12, 2007

PARTICIPANTS:

Brian Kelly, Darrell Ralston, Mike Dougherty, Greg West, Tom Drayer, Vince Cohee, Jim Little, Nick Dunn, Jack Hickey, Andy Anderson, Mark Schmitt, Tom Franklin, Jim Hollingsworth

The teleconference started on a sad note with the announcement that newly appointed FIRESCOPE Ops Team member, Bryan Zollner, representing Cal Fire, was involved in a fatal single vehicle accident this morning, enroute to a Dispatcher's Workshop in Lassen County. Bryan will be sorely missed by his fire service family. Our heartfelt wishes go out to Bryan's family and friends who are grieving this recent and unexpected loss.

- **ACTION: FLAGS AT ALL CALFIRE STATIONS WILL BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE FIRESCOPE OPS TEAM WILL SEND CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY.**
- **A memorial fund has been established in Bryan's name. If you wish to make a contribution the address is Bryan Zollner Firefighter Scholarship Fund c/o Washington Mutual Bank 974 Dana Dr. Redding, Ca. 96003**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REVIEW- Kelly

- OES Director Report was delivered by Frank McCartney
- AB-38 legislation to combine DHS and OES into a single agency is being supported by the governor and will occur sometime this year. Bettenhouser or Renteria to lead the consolidation.
- OES has purchased communications trailers with satellite and internet downlink capability. One to be assigned to each region.
- 1.3 million shortfall on OES engine purchases is being overcome with seven units/yr. being acquired.
- **CALFIRE REPORT**-from Grajalva and Gregory
 - Initiating upstaffing as personnel become available with air assets coming on early
 - DC-10 will be in the game this year. Will attempt to apply for "greenhouse gasses" credit to help offset costs.
 - It is reported that Evergreen has dumped its 747 "Super Tanker" project
- **OPERATIONS TEAM/TASK FORCE REPORTS**-Kelly/West
 - BOD approved nomination of Jim Hollingsworth to the Ops Team
 - BOD authorized the TF to monitor, review and respond to issues at the federal level that impact FIRESCOPE'S concerns in order to allow a timely response to FIRESCOPE-critical issues requiring immediate attention.
 - TF will put together a process in their plan of work detailing how they will make immediate contact with the BOD on time-critical issues.

- Chief Larry Fry, Eldorado Hills Unit is asking for a response from the BOD on the status of Fireline Paramedics. A White Paper was issued on the subject last year
- Tim Fike and Woody Enos from the TF will work on the OSD with the EMS Working Group soon to be formed.
- **ACTION: Greg West was asked to send a letter to the BOD inquiring on the status of the Fireline Paramedic Program.**
- Reported that the FOG has been completed and will be going to print soon
- Three Stripes and You're Out Document
 - BOD was provided a historical description of how it got on the Plan of Work. There were no follow up questions from the BOD.
- Covered NWCG Typing issues
- Informed on the 3-C's real-time audio/video downlink project being implemented in San Diego
- BRC is done per Director Grajalva, with Ad Hoc groups, in conjunction with Cal Chiefs, staying active to address some of the remaining issues.
 - Kate Dargan to monitor
 - Ops Team directed to stand-down from any further action
 - **ACTION: Ask BOD to comment on the status of the Aviation Specialist Group who is still working on the BRC recommendations with impacts on fire aviation. Greg West asked the question, but this action item was not assigned to anyone in particular.**
- Kate Dargan gave an informative 20-minute presentation on the new definition of fire severity maps. SRA designations are in the public hearing phase with the LRA maps going to local gov't. for review, including ember dispersion models. An attempt is being made to have the maps reflect a more scientific approach to their depictions
- CFAA DISCUSSION-Ken Wagner
 - Sue Hasari represented the Federal side of the negotiations stating that they were committed to working through the issues.
 - It was accepted by all participants that a lack of continuity of personnel attending the meetings has hampered the progress of the discussions. All parties have committed to correct that situation in future meetings.
 - A suggestion was made to involve a third-party facilitator to assist with the process
 - All discussions appear to be cost-driven
 - Feds proposed a 5% increase with local gov't. proposing a 48% increase from existing CFAA rates. This was based upon a formula that averages the Fed base rate for a basic firefighter with that of a Cal Fire base rate emergency worker, and adding 5%.
 - There is currently no formula standard for local gov't. or volunteers
- TYPE III OES ENGINE ASSIGNEE CRITERIA
 - Approved by BOD with minor language changes
- AMBULANCE STRIKE TEAM ISSUE
 - Chief Zagaris' objective is to keep EMSA AST's a separate ordering and tracking system from the fire-based system.
 - Currently working on a 4-letter identification system preceded by the alpha 'M' to indicate medic.
 - Issues remain regarding logistical support
 - Chiefs Drayer and Zacaris will continue on a liaison role with that group.
 - Next meeting is scheduled for May 5th.

- MAFFS
 - Eight MAFFS platforms will be available this season nation-wide. However, the two units assigned to California will be moved to North Carolina.
 - The change from the H to the J model C-130 has created a retrofit problem that will probably result in zero availability of MAFFS units for California.
- State LAO wants to implement SRA fees. However Cal Fire does not because of the good relationships it has with local government.
- A new FIRESCOPE EMS Specialist Group is being formed to address the Fireline Paramedic and Ambulance Strike Team issues.
- A new GIS Specialist Group is being formed as well with oversight being provided to both new specialist groups by FIRESCOPE Task Force liaisons.
- Chief Greg West will be taking a presentation on the road to inform various agencies and organizations of our FIRESCOPE Products.
- INCIDENT COMMANDER LIABILITY ISSUES
 - A working group of NWCG and NFAEB members are working on liability issues, down to, but not including the Type III level, whereby 50% of a Type I and II IC's liability insurance will be paid by the federal employee's agency.
 - Lessons learned indicate that After Action Reviews would not be subjected to liability claims.
- ACTION: The July 12, 13th meeting will once again be held at Bucks Lake. Our group will decide at that meeting the fate of future July meeting venues based on the reality that fire season demands might dictate we have better communication with our home units.
- ACTION: A conference call will be scheduled in late May or early June to catch up on new and pending issues.