

FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2006
OES Headquarters
Mather, CA.

I. Call to order

Chief Darrell Ralston called to order the regular meeting of the **FIRESCOPE Operations Team** at 0930 on April 13, 2006 in OES Headquarters, Mather, CA.

II. Introductions

Chief Ralston conducted an introduction of attendees. The following persons were present:

OES – Praytor, O’Bannon, Drayer, Vail

Task Force – LaPlant, Stone, Drake, West

Ops Team – Ralston, Schmitt, Anderson, Walters, Franklin, Hickey, Little, Holmes, Middleton, Pierce

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Chief Ralston requested approval of the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as published.

- One addition to today’s meeting’s agenda was noted. Chief Dave Pierce (ORC) requested a discussion on the use of USAR terminology such as ISP’s and IMP’s to clarify their consistency with accepted ICS terminology. *NOTE: This item was not discussed during the course of the meeting and should be added to July’s meeting agenda*

IV. Review/Discussion of April 12, 2006 BOD meeting-OES Headquarters –Ralston

NOTE: MANY OF THE ITEMS PRESENTED IN THIS SECTION CONTAIN INFORMATION DISCUSSED AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND ARE COMBINED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING DAY AT THE OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING.

- a) OES Director’s Report – Renteria
 - Seven counties in N. CA. have declared a State of Emergency due to flooding.
 - The Emergency Council is being reactivated under the authority of the Emergency Response Act...More to come.
 - Pandemic Flu preparation is focus, along with the West Nile Virus due to the amount of standing water from winter storms.
 - Scott Vail has filled the Administrative Deputy Chief Position. There are still three vacant Assistant Chief positions.

- NIMS Training Compliance Guidance Matrix for courses is available on the OES website, with copies being mailed out to all Operational Areas. Compliance will be a prerequisite for eligibility for FY06 federal grant money. Level 300 and 400 training are FY07 requirements
 - CalOSHA, as a result of the Rucker Fire fatality, is proposing to create regulations on Backfire and Burning Operations. This proposal will be closely watched by OES.
- b) DHS Report –Director of DHS
- Grant funding totals cut last year by one half (\$1 billion to \$500 million) with more cuts this year to all Homeland Security Grants, including Assistance to Firefighters Grant. \$800 million being proposed for FY07. FY06 will be a semi-competitive, needs/risk-based awarding process instead of the traditional formula-based system. We will not know allocation amount until June, with June 30th set as the application deadline for the states to submit to the feds. Release of grant funds to the states is expected by the end of June or beginning of July.
 - California joined the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) this year which would benefit nationwide response efforts similar to Hurricane Responses and will benefit California in the event of a statewide disaster. Activation requires a Governor’s Disaster Declaration.
 - One pinch point is liability concerns by the California Professional Firefighters (CPF) whereby sending agencies are subject to the tort laws of the receiving agency.
 - It was noted that the Civil Defense Interstate Compact is still in affect.
- c) NIMS Update - Zagaris
- Distributed copy of a quick-reference matrix to assist emergency agencies in identifying the levels of NIMS training required by the various levels of response, supervision and management within the organization
 - Praytor and O’Bannon part of brainstorming session on May 9th in Kentucky, looking at the possibility of a NIMS Field Operations Guide (FOG). It could be based upon an existing Coast Guard FOG.
- d) Ambulance Strike Team Status Update - Zagaris
- State EMSA is working with Allan Hancock College and Nat’l Assoc. of Ambulance Providers to develop a Train the Trainer curriculum and form training cadres.
 - Mednet and Calcord are possible frequency options rather than CDF/OES freqs.
 - Fire-based ambulances and personnel will remain in the fire and rescue mutual aid system, with the AST Program strictly for private, non-profit ambulance groups.
 - FIRESCOPE is maintaining a presence by regularly attending meetings
 - Questions still remain relative to how AST’s are ordered and reimbursed
- e) OES Engine Procurement Status - Zagaris

- Conducted pre-bid in conjunction with CDF for fifteen type three engines with the bids due May 9th. Good opportunities exist for local government to piggyback on bids. CDF also going out to bid on approx. 14 crew carrier vehicles.
- f) ROSS Briefing Update – O’Bannon/Applegate (Committee Chair)
- Resource Ordering and Statusing System (ROSS) currently being used by Federal Fire Agencies and in use nationwide for approx. three years. Sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).
 - CDF, OES and Contract Counties will go live April 15, 2006 with statewide implementation by July 1, 2006.
 - ROSS predecessor, Multi-Incident Resource Procurement System (MIRPS) will be put into “sleep mode,” continuing to run in the background for archiving reference. Viewable software will be made available.
 - A new version of ROSS will be available on Monday, April 17th, containing an Aircraft Screen not available on the current version. Another version is scheduled to be rolled out in October that will have the ability to be interfaced with certain Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems, such as “WILDCAD,” used by the Forest Service.
 - Only half the training goal of 1000 personnel statewide has been met to date.
 - The system is slower, and not as user-friendly as MIRPS, however the database and reporting (data drilling) system is significantly more robust with database queries in excel and access. ROSS is a web-based product that can be accessed with an internet connection. Vince Cohee, OES at South Ops provides access rights at all levels to local government. The California ROSS Implementation Team (CRIT) was established to oversee ROSS implementation, address problems, work on solutions and establish business practices. The Primary contacts are as follows:
 - Federal Agencies – Julie Bowman
 - CDF – Ed Applegate
 - OES/Local Gov’t. – Pat O’Bannon
 - FIRESCOPE resource typing is sometimes different from the ROSS naming conventions. For this reason, there is a FIRESCOPE tab within the ROSS program that allows for entry of FIRESCOPE typing conventions.
 - Discussion continued around the differences between FIRESCOPE vs. NWCG resource typing conventions, particularly when typing engines and water tenders. Enough interest in this issue was generated that Chief Roper asked that this item be placed on the July BOD agenda.
- ***ACTION ITEM:***
- ***THE FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE WILL PREPARE A BRIEFING PAPER WITH ATTACHED MATRIX, DETAILING THE DISPARITIES BETWEEN FIRESCOPE AND NWCG NAMING CONVENTIONS FOR THE BOARD TO DISCUSS AT THEIR JULY 12TH MEETING.***

- g) Radio Interoperability Update – Savage/CDF Communications Committee
 - CALSEIC at www.calseic.org for website information
 - Developing standardized frequency naming conventions for common statewide frequencies (e.g. OES White 1 becomes 1 FIR 7/ OES White 2 becomes 1 FIR 8)
 - VHF 700 and 800MHz will not be included, although the CHP is requesting funding of \$500 million to rename its 700MHz frequencies.
 - CDF will stay with wide banding until 2010.
 - In January 2007, The Forest Travel Net will be reassigned to Dept. of Justice (DOJ) and no longer available as a travel frequency. OES is working on a Statewide Travel Net as a replacement.
- h) The Crosswalk Project
 - The US Fire Administration Training Equivalencies Crosswalk Project
 - The objective is to recommend to the NWCG, the State Fire Training Agencies, and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) a standardized crosswalk of equivalent training or potential reciprocity between training provided to structural firefighters and training provided to wildland firefighters. The Training Equivalency Crosswalk project was created to identify fire suppression training equivalencies within states for training structural firefighters, rural and volunteer departments, in particular, to effectively function as wildland firefighters when required.
- **ACTION ITEM:**
 - The FIRESCOPE Operations Team has been tasked by the BOD to review and make recommendations to the Crosswalk Project Report
 - Chief Ralston has scheduled a conference call of the FIRESCOPE Operations Team members on **June 14, 2006 at 1400 hrs.** to discuss our recommendations that we intend to present to the Board at their July meeting.
 - Conference call phone number is **951.782.4210**
- i) CFAA Rewrite Negotiations – Roper/Zagaris
 - There have been six meetings to date
 - Considering the use of the CFAA agreement as the primary ordering agreement statewide. Would replace the myriad local agreements between forest agencies and local government agencies.
 - The disparity between the reimbursement rates for Local Agreements (Assistance by Hire) and the CFAA agreement has been acknowledged and has a role in the negotiations effort
 - The current proposal keeps the 12 hour free period in place
 - The possibility of using the CFAA as an “all hazard” agreement is also being discussed
 - The CFAA is the agreement that allows the Forest Agencies to access local government resources. The question being discussed is can the agreement work in reverse as well, with local government. being allowed to access Forest Agency resources.

- The Forest Agencies are currently reviewing the proposal
- j) CICCS Update – McCammon
- 310-1 qualifications is creating a shortage of qualified personnel going out of county or region for incident support. This includes Incident Management Teams (IMT's).
 - The physical fitness requirements in the new 310-1 concerns some labor groups, even though the fitness requirements are agency-specific and can be certified by the agency administrator (Fire Chief).
 - The consensus of the group was that the CICCS Committee needs to reconvene and address the concerns being presented
- k) Flu Preparedness Update
- The plan for the health and medical aspects of a pandemic flu outbreak is available on the Department of Health Services website
 - The Department of Food and Agriculture is responsible for developing an inspection plan of the poultry industry.
 - The Department of Fish and Game is expecting to have documents developed by June on the disposal process of avian carcasses in the event of a pandemic.
 - State OES preparedness is addressing the emergency management aspect of a potential pandemic.
 - Local guidance documents are being prepared
 - A May 8th meeting will reveal a conceptual plan
 - An OES website portal is being developed to address communication and public information
 - Liaison with the private sector is ongoing.
 - Surveys with state and local agencies are being conducted
 - A series of workshops and exercises are being planned with information forthcoming.
 - Chief Marquis, Fire Chief of Grass Valley has a draft first responder plan for local response to a pandemic flu event.
- l) Line of Duty Deaths – Zagaris
- The Governor's Office has exhibited a particular interest in being part of the notification process in the event of a Line of Duty Death occurrence. The flow chart in the handout was somewhat confusing, as it depicts notification of the Governor's Office, through the OES Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator, who then notifies the Next of Kin. Many felt that this responsibility lies with the local fire agency, not the Governor's Office. In reality, there would probably be a parallel notification process with the Governor's Office simply making contact with the Next of Kin as a courtesy contact.
 - A 45 yr. old Oceanside firefighter recently died at home from an apparent cardiac related incident. The funeral is on Monday 4.17.06.
 - A 38 yr. old Ventura County firefighter/paramedic also died recently. The funeral was today, Thursday, 4.13.06.

- m) Region Coordinator's Report
 - R-1 – Going live with ROSS on April 15th
 - R-2 – One 400 level applicant
 - R-3 – No report
 - R-4 – Dodging Weather for now
 - R-5 – Minor flooding; new Op Area Coordinators for Fresno and Tulare
 - R-6 – All 400 level Applications processed; **Retiring BDU Chief, Larry Webb received a big thank you, congratulations and a very nice plaque from the BOD. Chief Webb will be replaced by Chief Todd Newman from San Marcos Fire Department**
- n) USFS Report – Quintanar
 - Cost share/Cost apportionment documents are being finalized; Chief Quintanar will be attending a “Mega Fires Avoidance” meeting on April 27th. Contact Ray for details if interested.
- o) CDF Report – Wright
 - Rain delay is helping with the budget deficit
 - 3% at 50 in affect for rank and file, supervisors and managers is creating large scale retirements within the organization, coupled with salary inversion issue, CDF presently has only 48% of their positions covered. They will only be able to field 9 IMT's this season
 - The year around staffing of So Cal units is being looked at by the Legislative Analysts Office (LAO)
 - Helicopter study is approximately one month from completion
- p) SB 1837 – Bamattre
 - Chief Bamattre announced the introduction of Senate Bill 1837 that increases brush clearance to 200 feet.
 - Chief Roper announced that he is commissioning a USFS Research Team to conduct work on quantifying the 100 foot clearance ordinance in affect in Ventura County for several years, and to use the research results to justify a brush clearance increase to 200 feet.

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12, 2006 AT OES FIRE RESCUE HEADQUARTERS.

V. General Discussion - All

- a) Ralph Alworth
 - Discussed Ralph Alworth's continued participation as the FIRESCOPE representative to NWCG. Ralph may be forced into retirement, but could return as a retired annuitant. O'Bannister and Miller are the only two nominees for the position.
 - **ACTION ITEM:**
 - Add item to July Ops Team meeting agenda.
- b) FIRESCOPE and CICCS
 - Discussed FIRESCOPE's role in managing initial and recurrent training for compliance with CICCS.

- Discussed the use of the “Wildland 3D Simulator” demonstrated by Ralph Domanski at the last Ops Team meeting as an alternative, or supplemental to initial and recurrent training requirements for CICC compliance requirements. There must be alternatives to “on incident” requirements of the Position Task Books (PTB’s) that allow simulated training experience for initial and recurrent training due to the fact that there are simply not enough opportunities to get trainees the “on incident” experience to become qualified.
 - What is FIRESCOPE’s role in recommending simulator training or with the CICC compliance issue in general?
 - **ACTION ITEM:**
 - Chief Bill Holmes (CDF/Amador-El Dorado) offered to draft a White Paper FOR Ops Team to send to BOD for State Fire Training to encourage them into action to address the following topics of concern:
 1. Clarify and reinforce that Fire Chiefs have the authority to certify their members through the 200 level position qualifications.
 2. Address the issue of certification of volunteer and Paid Call Firefighters (PCF) fire departments.
 3. Consider the use of fire simulators to satisfy certain initial and recurrent training in compliance with CICC requirements.
 4. Determine the role of CICC in “All Hazard” position certification.
- c) Bucks Lake
- The Bucks Lake venue is still a “GO” for the July Operations Team meeting
 - Chief Andy Anderson (Quincy FD) has already made the arrangements
- d) Ambulance Strike Team Update - -West
- Chief West mentioned that the Task Force can present the fire-based ambulance ordering model to the State EMSA and essentially leave the ball in their court as a suggestion that they may want to mirror a program already in existence.
- e) Fire Mechanics Typing Issue – La Plant
- The Task Force recommends typing of mechanic’s service units only, with the assumption that, when ordered, it will come with a qualified mechanic. The mechanic qualifications would be designated by NWCG in 310-1 if that is their desire.
 - Service units should be specified with an Appendix listing a minimum standard inventory of tools and equipment.
 - Type 1 Service Unit – Heavy Equipment Repair
 - Type 2 Service Unit – Light Equipment Repair
 - A discussion about fireline qualifications and PPE for mechanics who had to conduct repairs on the line suggested that there is some reluctance from FIRESCOPE to go down that road.

f) National Mutual Aid Program – West

- This effort was presented to the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) in Reno by Chief Bamattre. Good progress being made outside the EMAC process with considerable input that is moving the concept forward.
- The parent group is meeting in Las Vegas next month to discuss ideas on best practices that have been presented.
- The major chapters of the proposed system include:
 - Points of contact-10 geographical areas that coincide with the FEMA Regions
 - Management and Coordination
 - Typing and Communications
 - Movement and Deployment
 - Eligibility for Entry into the System
 - Links to Other Services
 - Marketing Plan
 - Monitoring, Support and Upgrades
- The parent group is attempting to distill varying opinions from across the nation and combine them with existing best practices.
- Chief West will report on the system's status at the July Operations Team meeting.

g) California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) Update – Ralston (Southern Local Gov't. Rep.)

- The proposal is designed to coincide with the rewrite of the new CFAA agreement that expires at the end of the year.
- The proposal is to consider combining all existing local agreements into a single CFAA agreement.
- Next meeting in May. There have been six meetings to date.
- Chief Praytor has been attending the meetings and states that the big issue of concern is the disparity in the reimbursement rates compared to the Local Agreements that are reimbursed on an "Assistance by Hire" rate that may be up to 50% higher, based upon one model run by Ventura County Fire Department. The comparisons are significant depending upon the number of resources committed by a given department.
- The Feds are running different models to determine how the reimbursement dollars would look.
- Currently, the tendency is to keep the 12 hour free period the same with the exception of the volunteer departments who travel out of Region.
- There is also an attempt to include Dept. of Defense (DOD) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the agreement, and address the "All Hazard" Incident.
- A training component was attached to this effort to educate agencies on the modified CFAA agreement and to clarify the intent of Master Mutual Aid (MMA).

h) OES Type 3 Recipient Qualifications Committee – Praytor

- Chief Praytor asked the Team for participation on a committee being formed to set the criteria for assigning the 15 Type 3 OES engines to qualifying agencies.
- i) Roundtable – All
- OES – Praytor/Drayer
 - Ray Manzo is leaving OES in July. Ray was instrumental in creating the wire charts in each edition of the FOG Manual.
 - **ACTION ITEM:**
 - Need to check on the status of Neil Honneycut
 - Merced – Jim Middleton
 - Chief Shultz will be retired by December 16, 2006.
 - Cal Chiefs/Rural North – Jack Hickey (David FD)
 - EVERYTHING IS WET!!
 - Quincy Fire Dept. – Andy Anderson
 - Dispatch Center is in service
 - Nor Cal Volunteer Depts. – Jim Little (Laytonville FD)
 - Battling over Prop. 172 issue. Asking for only incremental increases until reaching 25% of total revenue
 - ORC – Dave Pierce
 - Academies @ 30 each, and promotional exams scheduled from May thru Sept. to keep up with retirement vacancies
 - Just trying to plug the holes
 - CDF/N. Region – Del Walters
 - Running out of dollars and people
 - Considering pushing back full staffing until July 1st
 - Initiating a new CDF Schedule ‘A’ contract with Placer Consolidated with the integration of 15 personnel
 - SBC – Mark Schmitt
 - Purchasing 9 new Type 1 engines to beat the ’07 Clean Air regulations
 - County split going to voters in June
 - Attempting to become an independent Fire/EMS dispatch center separate from the current Sheriff Public Safety Dispatch Center that would provide redundancy, command and control, ROSS management and better accountability
 - Currently conducting pre-fire season training
 - LAC – Dave Stone
 - Pre-fire season meeting scheduled for mid-May
 - Purchasing 70 engines and 8 Trucks
 - LFD – Greg West
 - \$450 million shortfall next year will eliminate apparatus purchases
 - Losing ~ 450 members next year due to the Drop Program that requires mandatory retirement after 5 yrs in program
 - SFO – David Franklin
 - Planning for ’06 Earthquake Centennial with the Fire Department’s celebration this weekend

- CDF/Amador-El Dorado – Bill Holmes
 - In training mode with four over-lapping Engineer Academies this year
 - VNC – Darrell Ralston
 - Purchasing 3 engines to beat '07 Clean Air regulations
 - Hosted S-420 recently and were able to get lots of VNC folks trained
- j) **THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 13-14, 2006 AT BUCKS LAKE.**

V. CONGRATULATIONS:

ANDY ANDERSON, FIRE CHIEF OF THE QUINCY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR FIFTY YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF QUINCY CALIFORNIA, AN ADVOCATE OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE AND FOREVER A SPECIAL FRIEND TO FIRESCOPE AND ITS PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS. CONGRATULATIONS ANDY!!!

Chief Ralston adjourned the meeting at 1400 hours.

Minutes submitted by: Mark Schmitt

Minutes approved by: Darrell Ralston