

FIREScope JOINT OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING
Morro Bay
January 22 & 23, 1998

ATTENDEES:

Neil Honeycutt, OES
Will Brock, OES
Dave Festerling
Ralph Alworth, CDF
Pat Cooney, OES
Mike Dougherty, USFS
Chris Wurzell, CDF
Ed Wristen, CDF
Alice Forbes, USFS
Mike Colgan, ORC

Andy Anderson, Quincy FD
Darrell Higuchi, LAC
Cary Eckerd, KRN
Steve Vittum, SBC
Jim Radley, ORC
Bob Neamy, LFD
George Ewan, USFS
Gary Pavusko, OES
Keith Larkin, CDF/SFM
Dan Turner, CDF-SLO

January 22, 1998

OES ENGINE STUDY

Jim Radley began to explain the OES Engine Study. Actually Neil did most of the explanation and handed out the documents that were distributed at the recent BOD meeting. Neil spoke about the issue of timely replacement of OES fire apparatus. A BCP for immediate replacement of part of the fleet is needed, as well as a continuing process for continued funding for future replacement. The Bob Roper Report "OES Engine Funding" has some mis-statements, including the naming of OES as wanting the change. The Roper report included a one page letter from Neil. Neil indicated that the OES fleet consists of Type I and Type II Fire Engines. Distribution is based among other things, on the ability to assembly strike teams in a rapid manner, which community best serves the local and statewide needs, etc. There is a need to fill the apparatus gap regarding medium rescue. There are over 900 F.D.'s in the state, and only 100 OES Engines available for distribution, so not every F.D. will receive an OES Engine. Nine new OES Engines (Type II) are being built now. This will be the last of the Type II's, all future contracts will be for Type I's. Mike Dougherty asked if 4 person engine staffing (Type I) was still realistic with declining budgets. Are all F.D.'s still staffing with four people? A group discussion developed, which indicated that four person cabs are much more realistic. Neil emphasized that the nine Type II's being built now, permitted the available dollars to be spread to the point of acquiring nine new engines, rather than just seven. I think it was Bob Neamy who said that NFPA 1500 Standards now contain reference to the "2 in - 2 out" policy. The thought is that even budget limitations can not dilute "2 in - 2 out". Engine staffing will probably be a minimum of four.

TERRORISM

Darrell Higuchi spoke about terrorism. He indicated that Los Angeles has developed a core group of several local F.D.'s, P.D.'s, Sheriff's Departments, medical establishments, coroners, etc., with task assignments working in groups and committees. One example is the MMST (Metropolitan Medical Strike Team), which is being developed to provide back-up support to conventional "first responders". Darrell was looking for some way to develop a FIREScope process dealing with terrorism. He was not sure how to share and organize the Los Angeles process, an OSD, task force of some kind, working group? The FBI has responsibility for management of terrorism incidents. Neil indicated that the "State Standing Committee on Terrorism" (SSCOT) meets in Sacramento to develop and share information. SSCOT is chaired by OES. Alice asked, how does the Federal Response Plan tie into what local government is doing? That is, how do local and federal governments blend? Alice also asked about the Western Disaster Coordination Center that is being developed at Moffitt Field. No one had an answer as to what this location was about. Darrell said that Presidential Directive #39 establishes that the federal government will be in charge. The Los Angeles MMST will be functional in 15 months. It will consist of three teams (with equipment for two teams). Darrell wants to develop a way of folding the LA-MMST into the Master Mutual Aid Plan, to be prepared to handle requests for assistance from outside of the Los Angeles area. LAC has purchased a bunch (I missed the number) of "Quick Masks" (@ \$65- each), for initial protection of first responders. Training and SOP's are being developed. The group consensus was that Darrell will chair a group (with help from his guest Ron Watson), requesting participation from the MMST group, maybe the FBI and consider the Federal Response Plan. The question was what should this group be, working, or specialist? Group decision was to make it the Terrorist Working Group. Apparently another agency moving progressively forward with terrorism pre-planning is ORC. Question, should the OES Law Branch be part of this new Working Group? No answer. Also should include the SFM Office (Arson-Bomb) be included? No answer.

BOD MEETING 1/14/98

The BOD meeting agenda held at Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside County on January 14th was discussed. Plans for the development of the new training center include a swift water rescue facility, an SCE electrical pole farm for training. Mike Dougherty reviewed Dr. Andrews letter of response to the FIREScope FIMS recommendation from the Information Technology Specialist Group. Chris Wurzell will set up a meeting with the IT Group, to include Neil and John Bowles (OES I.T. Branch Chief), to discuss where we go from here. Mike Dougherty deferred discussion of the Federal Fire Policy until the second day so that he could get an overhead projector to present his information. Neil said that he is hearing from Cal-Chiefs that no one understands the USFS position on the Federal Fire Policy. Mike mentioned that the 5-Party Agreement has eroded the Master Mutual Aid Agreement. There is also an expectation for FEMA reimbursement in non-wildland fire responses. USFS has requested a meeting of the 5-Party Agreement members, Neil and Mike will agree on a meeting date. Neil indicated that the OES Fire Branch had received the results of an

internal audit, and would be changing some ways of doing business. The SFM Internet Website was highlighted. Neil said that he thought that the SFM had recently produced a list of all fire service websites and/or e-mail address's. The letter from the State of Washington was reviewed. The suggestion was to develop some bullet statements for inclusion by Chief Costamagna in a letter of response. No bullet statements were developed at this meeting.

SWIFT WATER RESCUE OSD

Swift Water Rescue (an OSD developed outside of the FIREScope Decision Process) was distributed and discussed. Neil will give George Ewan a list of the members of the OES Swift Water Group. George talked about receiving a letter from a member of Sacramento F.D. requesting a computer disk copy of some FIREScope document information. The Task Force recommended reactivating the US&R Working Group to deal with this since Swift Water Rescue is a component of US&R. No one seems to know the origin of the "OES Swift Water OSD", or who numbered it, etc. The Operations Teams decided that George's past refusal to release FIREScope publication information on computer disks was appropriate, and that future requests should also be denied. If someone outside the system wants to develop something, they need to introduce the topic into the FIREScope Decision Process for consideration and assignment. This is the FIREScope Decision Process.

OPERATIONS TEAMS MEETINGS

George brought up the subject of the Operations Teams meeting frequency and timing. Lots of discussion developed concerning Operations Team "doings". Mike brought the meeting back on the agenda, citing the Annual Work Plan. He suggests that the Ops Team(s) try to follow the intent of MACS 410-4 and meet four times each year. A suggestion was to meet this obligation with the two annual Joint Ops meetings (Morro Bay and Buck's Lake), plus at least twice annually with telephone conference calls. The Task Force will develop a draft annual Work Plan for approval by the Ops Team. Mike talked about scheduling the Ops Team conference calls prior to the next BOD meeting. Back to the Annual Work Plan, the Task Force will rough out the plan for Ops Team approval. Ops Team will have final approval, the Task Force will do the bulk of the staff work. It was confirmed that new ideas/projects may be introduced for consideration at any level of the FIREScope Decision Process. The Ops Team decided that the Task Force needs to develop a FIREScope Orientation Package for distribution to new FIREScope members, at any and all levels. Research some of the older FIREScope documents (including process flow charts, Alice and Rachel may be helpful) to include in the Orientation Packages.

OPERATIONS TEAM NORTH

Andy Anderson stated that he wanted to get the Ops Team-North more active/involved with more frequent communication with each other. He would like to conduct conference calls on the OES phone number. Pat passed out and discussed a handout outlining the project of developing a Public Information and Education (North) group. The proposal was well received. Pat requested suggestions of membership in this Specialist Group from the Operations Team.

TASK FORCE REPORT

George gave the Task Force Report. Chris talked about the need to develop a ICS Technical Specialist, Damage Assessment. He handed out a paper outlining the idea. Neil asked Gary to check with OES Disaster Assistance people to see if they may have someone who could assist. Someone asked "Do we really want to do this?" Answer, the BOD has already approved it. The OCC sponsored FIREScope Internet Website was discussed (positively), Neil asked Gary to find a way for OES to pay for the Website (its currently on a commercial server). Alice suggested that the Boise Daily Fire Report be linked to the FIREScope Site. Ralph gave his NWCG report. NWCG's newest edition of the Fireline Handbook should be available for purchase "around February 1998", the modifications are not major. Ralph suggests providing the modifications or additions as "camera ready" products for users to duplicate and distribute to their users, instead of buying complete new handbooks. A completely new, revised, updated, all-risk re-write of the Fireline Handbook is scheduled for 1999. Ralph also passed out and discussed the NWCG 310-1 update and Federal Wildland Policy Action Item 52A Interface Training Group. Ralph indicated that NFPA is leaning toward adopting a 310-1 type policy/document. Ralph also passed out a "Position Task Book Review Timetable". In addition, he passed out 2 documents dealing with Engine Typing. One is a letter from Cyndie Hogg to Denny Truesdale and a two page 11th Annual Meeting Issues Paper and meeting minutes.

January 23, 1998

Dan Turner was introduced as the new CDF Fire Chief in San Luis Obispo County.

STATIONARY

Gary proposed developing Operations Team letterhead stationary (he passed out samples of the BOD stationary). Someone pointed out that the address on the BOD letterhead was OES Sacramento HQ. Ralph indicated that historically the Riverside OCC is the FIREScope address. Gary said that could be changed. Alice suggested that in addition to displaying the individual names and agencies of members that it would be appropriate to also indicate their FIREScope function, i.e. representing volunteer F.D.'s, etc. Ralph also suggested adding the FIREScope Website address to the heading. Also, someone suggested adding Dr. Andrews as a member. During a discussion regarding the timely distribution of the BOD meeting minutes, Ralph suggested mailing them out on the Internet.

FEDERAL FIRE POLICY AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS

Mike Dougherty discussed the Federal Fire Policy and Reimbursement of Costs. He indicated that the way the Federal Fire Policy was written, it dealt mostly with pre-fire planning, not activities during the fire. The USFS Manual has not yet been rewritten to reflect the new policy, so specific direction on how to apply the Policy is lacking. Alice indicated that the protection of USFS type Federal structures is the responsibility of the

local fire agency. She also said that the USFS has responsibility to provide external structure protection, but cannot go into an interior attack. Mike passed out a 2 page document titled "Payment of Structure Protection". This is a product of C.A.T. (Cost Apportionment Team) people, and C.O.G. (Cost Oversight Group) people. Mike showed (overhead projection), and discussed the various scenarios that he had presented at the BOD. meeting. At the request of the Joint Ops Teams, the Task Force will utilize Mike's scenarios as a basis for an informational handout or reference for Fire Chief's that explains the difference between the 5-Party Agreement and Master Mutual Aid Plan, etc. A draft of this document is due to the Ops Team by the end of February for review.

NEXT MEETING

The Buck's Lake Joint Ops meeting is scheduled for July 9 and 10, 1998. The next Joint Ops meeting will be conducted as a conference call at 1300 on March 4, 1998

ROUND ROBIN

The Joint Ops Team meeting concluded with a round-robin of agency up-dates. ORC, with a new Chief, the department is busy doing an internal management audit. They have added a fourth field division. The helicopter program now has 3 flyable helicopters, this will probably soon trim down to two. These aircraft are tanked, Super Huey's. ORC has hired a helicopter mechanic (rather than contract), and is close to hiring two fire pilots.

LAC, Jay Corbett is now the CL-215 coordinator. The F.D. is leaning more toward quints now. On 2-24-98 LAC will absorb the City of Covina, then El Monte, negotiations are underway to absorb Inglewood, Arcadia and Gardenia.

LFD, has recently replaced 9 out of 15 A/C's, promotion of new B/C's will occur next week. Have recently purchased 21 new rescue ambulances with dual wheels., there are 21 more on order. Also are buying two new US&R vehicles, and several engines and trucks.

VNC, the budget is stable. Will have a Super Huey with fixed tank and snorkel up soon.

SBC, recently hosted several Russian emergency planners. The department is in negotiation to absorb the City of Lompoc.

KRN, John Olney is off of his cancer treatment, hopes to be on light duty soon. The department is in the process of receiving 27 new fire engines (Pierce) and a quint. The troops are looking forward to taking the new apparatus on strike team assignments. KRN recently completed billing invoices for \$1.4 million in reimbursement for 1997. They ended 1997 by rolling over a water tender.

CDF, FY 98/99 looks like a healthy budget. Three person staffing has been approved via a BCP. Helitack crews are now training in Short-haul Rescue Operations. California National Guard will continue to provide 10 Blackhawk and 5 Chinook Helicopters for the upcoming fire season. The department is going to review the future of their air tanker program. Two S-2 turbo air tankers will be ready for use this year. A table top exercise for the 12 CDF IMT's will occur on March 2-6 in Southern California, and the following week in Northern California. The training props are being provided by a national vendor.

OES, working on revising the F-42 and upgrading other reimbursement issues. Still looking to fill the Southern California FIREScope A/C toward springtime.

USFS, just filled the Regional Fire Safety Officer. Equipment should remain the same, planning on 213 fire engines in the Region. Budget up about \$4.5 million, up considerably in fuels management next year. Nationally up another 1/3 to 1/2 in fuels for FY 99.

QUI, still waiting for El Nino.

Dan Turner (SLO County CDF) said that the LPF and CDF-SLO would soon open a joint ECC together, located in San Luis Obispo. Also, indicated that Cal Poly may soon begin a four year degree program in wildland fire control and emergency management. A first ever, joint CDF - USFS Type I IMT meeting is planned for March in Sacramento.

Notes By:

Pat Cooney, Assistant Chief, OES Fire & Rescue Branch