



# FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING SHELL BEACH

January 27-28, 2011



**Date: January 27-28, 2011**

**Time: 0900 Hrs.**

**Attendees:**

|                 |                   |                    |                  |                |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Mario Rueda X   | Jim Little X      | Marty Scheuerman X | Christie Neill X | George Maier   |
| Jim Middleton X | Darrell Ralston X | Dave Franklin X    | Kelley Gouette X | Jim Troehler   |
| Mark Schmitt X  | Jack Hickey X     | David Rocha X      |                  | David Giordano |
| Tom Drayer X    | John Tripp X      | Bob Neamy X        |                  | Cesar Partida  |
| Dave Pierce X   | Aitor Bidaburu X  | Mike Miller X      |                  |                |

**Additional Attendees Present:**

|                  |                    |                |              |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Dave Stone X     | Jack Froggatt X    | Mike LaPlant X | Pat O'Bannon |
| Charles Butler X | Romero Rodriguez X | Brad Darbro X  |              |
| Dan Drake X      | David Brinsfield X | Ron Rusten X   |              |

**Adoption of Previous Minutes: Minutes of Conference Call approved by Operations Team**

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| Motion: Bob Neamy     |
| Second: Dave Franklin |

**Agenda Items:**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Agenda Review and Additions: M/S/P</b>             |
| <b>Added Agenda Items:</b>                            |
| Ambulance Strike Teams Update—No Action from Ops Team |
| Chief Roper requests to address the group             |

**Discussion Notes:**

- Welcome, Introductions and Logistics—Rueda/Schmitt
- Non-Agenda Topics—All
  - None
- FIREScope Board of Directors Update—Drayer
  - Secretary Bettenhausen has moved into the private sector leaving Mike Dayton as acting
  - All cooperative agreements with USFS extended until June 1<sup>st</sup> while new agreements are being drafted
  - New CFAA rate structure has been approved and will be used to calculate admin rates going to this fire season
    - Rate calculation methodology has been standardized for agencies opting to use calculation formula. Agencies choosing not to calculate admin rates will default to a 10% admin rate
    - For support personnel to qualify for portal to portal reimbursement, agencies must have an MOU in place showing they pay their personnel portal to portal
  - Reimbursements from EMAC for emergency agency's responses to major disasters are excessively lengthy and are being investigated
  - Lou Paulson has retired from Contra Costa County FD but will stay on as CPF President
  - EMS update: 1797.201-- prior to 1980 ambulance transports is being looked at. 2013 deadline for review of who will and who won't be a 201 agency
  - 1797.201 will be rewritten as 1797.224
  - Discussion about continuing to allow State EMSA to be a stand-alone agency or put under Cal EMA. Also questioning why Director position needs to be a physician
  - BRC: Sheldon. Gilbert in discussion with governor's office, agree to maintain the BRC TF as the entity to make statewide recommendations on California Fire Service operations
  - Statewide survey shows negative impacts on Mutual Aid System completed and shared with legislators
  - Another survey is planned for this year.
  - IAFC Cohesive Strategy Report given by Chief Roper
    - Planning, Framework and Implementation are the three phases of the rollout
    - Country divided into 3 Regions in the plan
  - Chief Roper and Chief Dyer elected to BOD Chair and Vice-Chair respectively
  - Full IMT IC meetings will not happen this year due to budget problem
  - Chief Roper will hold a meeting, likely in April, to discuss the future of FIREScope, possible as part of the next BOD meeting
  - Cal Fire Director Del Walters has retired and Chief Pimlot is interim
    - Chief Pimlot discussed how the governor's office is asking Cal Fire to review their responsibilities to determine if the agency is taking on responsibilities that are not necessarily part of their mission.
  - SRA fee is back on the table.
  - The realignment of SRA lands to LRA would have to show a shift from 3 houses/acre to 21 houses/acre to represent any substantial savings to the state.
    - Governor's office still wants redefine and realign study completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Cal Fire will not be purchasing any new apparatus next FY
  - Cal Fire was hit with a 20% reduction in Information Technology budget
  - A 1% salary savings affecting Cal Fire will be passed on to Contract Counties
  - AVL/MDC rollout was tied to ERI and is now on hold
  - Bill Homes and Dale Hutchinson are new Cal Fire Region Chiefs north and south

respectively

- Pat O'Bannon has reinstated with Cal EMA and has become new R-3 Chief
- Cal EMA will move forward with 25-30 Type 1 engine replacements to satisfy BRC recommendation
- Ken Wagner (Roseville Chief) has retired. His position on the BOD representing cities (north) will have to be filled
  - Bill Metcalf represents Cities (south)
- It's rumored that North Tree Fire is going out of business
  
- State Fire Training Update – Romero Rodriguez
  - CICCS Task Force wants to report directly to the State Board of Fire Services
    - Romero has suggested to Chief Zagaris that they instead report to the State CICCS Certification Board with their recommendations
  - Blue Print 20/20 has set short and long-term goals for State Fire Training
    - Instructor Training Cert now requires completion of Instructor 1A, B, C and successfully passing the “Capstone Testing Process”
  - SFT is currently developing a Maritime Firefighting Academy
    - Cooperative effort between Cal EMA, SFT and Ca. Maritime Academy
    - Will include an Open Water Academy
    - Workshops are being scheduled to develop curriculum
  - LAC, LFD, ORC currently being accredited through SFT and CSTI as Regional Hazmat Training Centers
  - SFT is partnering with LA Area Chiefs to develop standardized training using UASI Grant funds
  
- FIRESCOPE Decision Process Review -- Drayer
  - The process in place works well
  - Emphasized the responsibility Ops Team and TF members have to identify views expressed as either being personal opinion or issues that reflect the views of those they represent.
  - Also discussed the responsibility to bring information back to their respective agency administration that accurately reflects the consensus of the FIRESCOPE groups and coordinates and integrates with the different levels of the FIRESCOPE organization
  - Succession Planning is important and a responsibility of each member to plan for their replacement to ensure continuity of the organization
    - There appears to be a lack of marketing the work being done by FIRESCOPE. We need to communicate better with other fire service organizations and social network sites to promote FIRESCOPE, our products and the work we do
  - Bob Neamy talked about the NIMS Consortium's involvement in creating model procedure guides for IFSTA, relating it to FIRESCOPE's obligation to represent their agencies when agreeing to these procedure guides as another example of responsibilities placed on the FIRESCOPE membership.
  - FIRESCOPE is a consensus-based decision-making body that must carry this process through all levels of the organization
  
- Jesusita Fire Burnover Review – Kevin Gains, (Cal Fire lead investigator of Jesusita SART)
  - Kevin presented an overview of the Jesusita Fire Executive Board of Review
  - Spot Wx report in IAP gave predicted wind conditions for the previous day, not the Wednesday of the actual surfacing of the sundowner winds
  - At the Spyglass Ridge accident site, temperatures were estimated at 450-500 degrees

- making survivability unlikely without the use of SCBA by VNC E-54 crew
- Is use of SCBA a policy consideration, if so what about double layering vs. single layering
- Is structure defense being properly evaluated
- Power lines down, narrow roads, conflicting vehicle traffic, unexpected fire behavior, poor visibility, inadequate or inaccessible safety zones all contributed to the multiple injuries on the Jesusita Fire
- Total of 3 burn injuries and 7 smoke inhalation injuries
  
- Jesusita Fire “Executive Board of Review” Recommendations -- All
  - BOD wants Ops Team to review recommendations and report back on any actions appropriate within the scope of FIREScope
  - Recommendation # **2e**
    - ❖ Group discussed the importance of identifying a local Type 3 Incident Management Organization to manage rapidly expanding incidents until a Type 1 or 2 IMT can be mobilized and deployed on the incident
      - Cal Fire IMT ordered for Jesusita came from NorCal
    - ❖ NFA has established guidelines that identify the requirements and qualifications for the development of a Type 3 Organization, and Type 4 and 5, but were never adopted
    - ❖ Encourage Cal EMA to identify Type 3 IMOs that can be ordered through the Region while Type 1 or 2 IMTs can be mobilized
    - ❖ **ACTION:** Direct the Task Force to take action on recommendation 2e by developing a mechanism encouraging the use of contingency plans to assist with Incident Planning and Management
  - Recommendation # **3a**
    - ❖ **ACTION:** Direct the Task Force to devise a mechanism for distributing fire behavior safety alerts when criteria reaches the high risk category
  - Recommendation # **4a,b**
    - ❖ Discussed the difficulty on more complex incidents with Branch Directors coordinating functional groups (Structure Defense/Protection Groups). A new concept, and one being embraced by Cal Fire as an optional strategy, is to keep all assets (perimeter control resources and structure defense groups) under the control of the geographical manager (Division Supervisor or Branch Director)
    - ❖ LAC and LFD are also leaning in this direction
    - ❖ **ACTION 4a:** The Task Force will look into Chapter 12 of the FOG manual where examples of how to organize functionally and geographically could accommodate incorporating this strategy as an option
    - ❖ **ACTION 4b:** Direct the Task Force to precede the WUI Guidelines, Structure Protection Guidelines documents and the FOG (Ch 14) manual with a statement of “Leaders Intent.” This statement would emphasize risk management and acknowledge the authority of companies engaged in geographical or functional fire suppression assignments to disengage when fire behavior or predictions indicate the risk to firefighter safety is too extreme
  - Recommendation # **5c,d**
    - ❖ **ACTION:** Ops Team will continue to work with the NWCG to refine the definition of Safety Zones to consider language that includes the designation of Temp Refuge Areas (TRA) as alternatives when a Safety Zone is not practical or becomes compromised. This must also include a training component by including it in the Fire Command 1C rewrite and post it as a

companion document on the FIRESCOPE website

- Recommendation # **8b,c,d**
  - ❖ Most agreed if you are pre-positioning SCBA to survive a structure defense assignment, you should have, or plan to pull out to a safety zone
  - ❖ Use of SCBA should only be used as a last resort to escape an untenable environment
  - ❖ **ACTION:** The Task Force will craft language for the WUI document that addresses the intended use of structural PPE in structure defense assignments and adds more clarity to the distinction between Safety Zones and Temporary Refuge Areas (TRA)
- Recommendation # **12a,b,c**
  - ❖ **ACTION:** The Task force will craft language for the WUI document that addresses the recommendations on the use of camera and cell phones during fire suppression operations
- *The Ops Team felt that the remaining Executive Board of Review recommendations assigned to the FIRESCOPE BOD for review have already been adequately addressed in documents or in commonly recognized practices utilized by the California Fire Service and require no further action by FIRESCOPE*
- Presentation on the future of the FIRESCOPE meeting proposal—Chief Roper
  - Chief Roper is suggesting that as the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIRESCOPE approaches the BOD will conduct a two-day meeting in April and have a discussion on where FIRESCOPE should go with the organization into the future
    - Incorporate tenants of Cohesive Strategy Report
    - Provide better communication and coordination with NWCG, CWCG and other decision-making organizations and the efforts of FIRESCOPE
    - Develop statutory authority that makes decisions made by FIRESCOPE effective policy with some clout
- WUI Structure Protection Guidelines / WUI Placards -- Goutte
  - Chief Gouette reviewed placard symbology with group
  - This placing of placards would be done as an assignment ahead of the deployment of structure defense resources
  - **ACTION:** Chief Rueda will add this item to the conference call in preparation for the April BOD meeting
- Chief Tripp shared what LAC has done post-Station Fire burnover to address awareness within their department
  - Created training courses concentrating on fire behavior and appropriate response
  - **ACTION:** Chief Tripp will forward course material to Chief Drayer for posting to the FIRESCOPE website
- NIMS Consortium Report --Chief Neamy
  - Chief Neamy shared that the NIMS Consortium is working on a Model Procedures Guidelines Manual for Public Works which is an all-hazard procedures manual
  - They intend to do the same for Law Enforcement once funding is identified
- **Meeting day one adjourned 1615 hrs.**

## Start Day Two 0800 hrs.

- NIMS/OWDC Update -- Bidaburu
  - 5 year training plan for NIMS has been published and is out for public consumption
  - Interagency Serious Accident Investigation Guidance Document is being worked on by NWCG. It's out for review by federal fire management personnel
    - Developed by the Federal Risk Management Committee
  - Incident Management Working Group (IMWG) and Operations Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) are meeting jointly for the first time in an attempt to reduce redundancy and leverage each other's resources
  - A new Crew Performance Form has been developed and has received good feedback from the hotshot community. Expect to see these on fires this year
  
  - IMT Succession
    - Sue Hassari (NPS) is leading a group addressing IMT succession
    - Recruitment and retention is identified as a problem, how do we provide incentive to recruit and retain team members
    - A draft plan is due out in the near future on the NWCG website. NWCG is looking for input to the draft plan
      - ❖ Looking for a May deadline for input
      - ❖ The scope is Type 1 and 2 Teams
  - All Hazard Response Team Initiative
    - A single platform for all hazard response being developed incorporating IQCS and ROSS qualified position
    - Considerable effort by DOI on this initiative
    - Looking at forming an all hazard working group to work with states to develop all hazard response teams
    - US Fire Administration has put together an all hazard response course as a tool for accomplishing this
    - FQS is a new FEMA product for activation and mobilization to all hazard response that has IQCS and ROSS based qualified positions
  
  - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
    - Credentialing Model being worked on by ICHIEFS for fire and aviation national mobilization
    - Itor has been assigned oversight responsibility for this developing program
    - Staying with 310-1 qualification for national mobilization outside one's jurisdiction
    - Only address up to Engine Boss level at this point
  - Corporate University
    - NWCG internal reorganization effort to broaden scope of training within NWCG in 100-400 level courses
  
- Situational Awareness Presentation – Dargan/Hollingsworth
  - Applying technology to fire service operations
  - Kate's company is called Interra focused on developing and consolidating applied technology and introducing it into the fire service
  - Gut feeling vs. Incident technology
  - Combining various GIS and Intelligence tools and consolidating them in a single tool box
  - Eliminates need for a GIS Specialist to utilize these tools

- Tools can be selected as needed
  - Can be used at agency level to show EOC managers situational awareness and decision support from a scientific foundation or use the information to brief GACCs and incoming IMTs
  - Attempting to bring all groups together who are currently working in various arenas of Standards, GIS and Intel gathering groups
  - Common Operational Picture (COP) brings together the various GIS based platforms of geo-spatial orientation, demographics, weather, etc. into a single viewing space
  - Allows one to look at incidents globally or to drill down to a specific incident in your jurisdiction and get specific incident data (209s, WFDA, IR Imagery, demographics, etc.)
  - Integrates the simplicity of Google Earth with the complexity of ARC GIS
  - NWCG is very interested in the products Interra is making available
  - Any device that sends out a signal can be integrated into these products (e.g. AVL/MDC)
- Task Force Update – Stone
    - Election of Officers (Dave Stone will be transitioned out, replaced by Jim Crawford from LAC)
      - Drake, Froggatt, Darbro will assume Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary respectively
    - Worked on Chapters 1-13 of the FOG
    - Looking at Chapter 14 (WUI) next month with help from Gouette's WUI group
    - Protective Actions Guideline reviewed, and provided in our packet
      - TF will look at AARs from recent fires and attempt to integrate lessons learned and terminology into the PAG document
    - Resource Typing
      - NIMS has a Fire and Rescue Working Group – Zagaris is chair
      - TF wants to coordinate with this group to integrate resource typing before moving this forward to the Ops Team
    - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – Schmitt
      - **ACTION: Schmitt and Gouette will collaborate to develop an issue paper for the TF outlining the existing issues causing inaction on this topic**
    - Marijuana Response Guidelines
      - TF has reviewed documents in packets and are tasking the Safety Specialist Group and the Hazmat Specialist Group to develop response recommendations and turn it back to the TF by April
      - Booby traps, hazmats and electrical fires are the primary issues associated with marijuana and meth operations
    - TF is looking for a Cal Fire rep to replace Jim Hollingsworth who also was FIREScope's rep to the NWCG and (OWDC) Operations Workforce Development Committee
    - Currently no FIREScope rep on the EMS Specialist Group
      - Chief Woody Enos has agreed to fill this position
      - Andy Parr is the other rep and needs to be replaced
- FIREScope Specialist Groups Discussion -- All
    - Should we expand the role of the GIS Specialist Group to incorporate the technologies that were discussed during Kate Dargan's presentation
    - Jim Hollingsworth filled the gap between the GIS Specialist Group and the Predictive Services Specialist Group
    - Should GIS and Intel Groups combine
    - No further action was taken on this item

- CFAA Update --Ralston
  - Ken Wagner, northern rep, has retired. Looking for a replacement
  - The final agreement with rate methodology has been posted to the Cal EMA website
  - Tactical water tenders are modeled after type 3 equipment to differentiate between agency and private water tenders
  - Only safety members can claim portal to portal, civilians claim only actual hours worked.
  - Standard calculation methodology to set admin rates has been agreed upon.
  - Agencies electing not to use the standard methodology will default to a 10% admin rate
  
- Old Business -- Rueda
  - Protective Action Guidelines already discussed
  - Comm. Specialist Group is researching and active in frequency coordination
  - Tactical Response to Law Enforcement was tasked to the Safety Specialist Group to work on procedural integration of fire personnel into LE operations
  - 410-1 is still primarily a wildland document and needs to be looked at from an all hazard perspective
    - A NIMS group is looking 410-1 and associated forms to make it all hazard relevant
  - Coast Guard is looking at an intermediate Area Command Structure to reduce the span of control of the National Area Commander across several states. This is a direct result of the Deep Water Horizon Incident. Does FIRESCOPE want to look into this
  - Currently, the NIMS Incident Management Working Group is discussing this with FIRESCOPE participation by the NIMS/IMWG liaison
  - This is conceptual and the TF will keep the Ops Team informed
  
- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIRESCOPE ideas – All
  - Modify cover of FOG
  - Mint a challenge coin
  - July's meeting would be in Burbank
  - Considering a 2-day meeting with a BBQ at the Burbank FD Training Center
  - LA City Hodgkins Center as possible venue
  - ???
  - More discussion during the conference call
  
- Dave Pierce (ORC) and former Ops Team Chair are retiring and attended his last FIRESCOPE meeting.
- Ralph Domanski will retire January 31<sup>st</sup> but will stay on to work on specialized assignments
- The Ops Team will attempt to identify an opportunity to give Chiefs Pierce and Domanski a proper send off
  
- FIRESCOPE 2011—The year in review—Drayer (handout)
  
- Round Table:
  - VNC: Trying to let a helitanker contract and is looking for any information to help with the process
  - DOI: No budget but being extended with less toward fuels. Preparedness budget looks grim. Check the NWCG website for documents on reorg.
  - LAC: Still waiting for a new Chief, down to three (Osby, Bennett, Tripp)
  - Santa Clara: Chief retired but still on contract till June
  - SBC: 7.5 M budget deficit
  - LFD: 67M budget deficit



Next meeting in San Francisco in June 9-10, 2011 with TF meeting the two days prior.  
A conference call will occur to set the agenda for this meeting.

**Meeting day two adjourned 1130 hrs.**