

**FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING
MINUTES
July 13-14, 2006 (rev 10-10-06)**

July 13, 0910 hours

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDEES:

Ralph Alworth (CDF/CSR)	Mike LaPlant (VNC/TF Chair)
Andy Anderson (Quincy Fire)	Jim Little (Laytonville Fire)
Brad Darbro (Santa Clara Co.)	Jim Marquis (Grass Valley Fire/Reg. IV)
Bill Dean (ORC)	Jim Middleton (MPA)
Mike Dougherty (DHS/USFA)	Dave Pierce (ORC)
Dan Drake (ORC)	Darrell Ralston (VNC/Ops Team Chair)
Tom Drayer (CA/OES Fire)	Mario Rueda (LFD)
David Franklin (San Francisco Fire)	Mark Schmitt (SBC)
Jack Hickey (Davis Fire)	Blaine Shultz (Mariposa Co.)
Bill Holmes (CDF/AEU)	Tom Siragusa (San Francisco Fire)
Brian Kelly (San Mateo/Reg. II)	Del Walters (CDF/CNR)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING & AGENDA REVIEW

REVIEW OF JUNE 14 CONFERENCE CALL

- NFA Crosswalk Project – Ops Team reviewed and will advise at the July 12 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in Mather.
- CALSIEC National Radio Nomenclature Proposals
 - Eleven states have already reprogrammed their radios to a national standard naming convention.
 - Three separate standardization proposals are currently circulating.
 - Our understanding is that John Penido, the Cal Chiefs representative to CALSIEC, is going to attempt to get Cal Chiefs, USFS Comm Specs, CALSIEC, and the national group together to come to a consensus on a single plan. Penido will bring it back to the BOD in November.
- Field Operations Guide (FOG) Logo – verified no change would occur.
- The FIRESCOPE representative to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) will continue to be Ralph Alworth.
- Scott Vail (OES) and Bill Holmes (CDF) will take the lead on an adhoc committee to revitalize the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Committee with a focus on the “all hazard” environment and where we want to be in five years.

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- It was suggested that FIRESCOPE re-establish a Training Specialist Standing Committee to provide liaison with State Fire Training to address Incident Command System (ICS) position training curriculum.
- This would be led by the TF.
- Representation from State Fire Training is needed.
- **ACTION:** Del Walters will work to identify a person within CDF to take the lead on this project.

REVIEW OF JULY 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- OES Director Henry Renteria announced, by direction of the Governor, the formation of the "Emergency Operations Executive Council."
 - Includes members of Cabinet, OES and DHS under direction of Matt Bettenhausen, Director of DHS
 - Tasked with doing clean up work and reducing redundancy between OES and DHS
 - Adding positions to the State Warning Center
 - Improving notification process for warning and alerting systems with help available to local government
- State Fire Marshal's Report
 - The SFM's Office received Executive Order S10-06 from the Governor's Office to expand statewide firefighting efforts, and calls on Californians to take "Common Sense" fire prevention measures. This directs CDF to enhance staffing and resources to protect local communities from wildland fires, including accelerating the 100-foot clearance inspections. Also directs OES to assist CDF in that effort as fire threat conditions warrant.
 - Reorganization has occurred within CDF with consolidation of the CDF Regions.
 - ◆ Executive Staff
 - ◆ Northern Region – Chief Bill Hayman
 - ◆ Southern Region – Chief Candace Gregory
 - ◆ Chief of Fire Protection – Chief Ken McLean
 - ◆ Assistant Region Chiefs will be assigned to the North and South Regions with Unit Chiefs reporting to them.
- The SFM has been aggressively pursuing illegal fireworks.
- Funding has been allocated (\$7.5 million) to correct the salary inversion issue. A 72-hour work cycle with overtime based on a 56-hour workweek has contributed to the compaction and inversion situation.
- Pat Dennen, Fire Chief for San Bernardino County Fire, is the new Rep to the BOD for Fire Districts (South).
- The Board of Directors Chair and Vice-Chair asked the Board members to submit their top five priorities facing today's fire service. They also asked for an update from all Ops Team, TF, working groups and specialist groups on the status of the projects they are currently working on, and projected completion dates if possible. They intend to use this information at the August 15, 2006 Board of

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Directors "Summit Meeting" at the Burbank Airport that will re-focus on the FIRESCOPE mission, and on the "policy-driven issues" in which the members feel FIRESCOPE should participate.

NOTE: The Operations Team felt that it was prudent to compile a list of its own and submit it to the BOD for consideration at the Summit Meeting. This list was compiled by the Ops Team members at the Buck's Lake meeting and forwarded to Ops Team Chair, Chief Darrell Ralston, a few days following this meeting for submission to the BOD.

- John Skeels, from the national ROSS Coordinating Group gave an informative update on the progress of the ROSS implementation and roll out to local government.
- Chief Roper handed out a letter from the So Cal Reservation Fire Authority asking for representation on the FIRESOPE Board of Directors.
 - The question was asked: Should the BIA be the parent organization representing the Tribal Authorities, or at least consider the election of a single representative on behalf of the Tribal Authorities.
 - The BOD wants to review the language in 410-4 to determine how this request would fit.

NWCG REPORT – ALWORTH

- The Structure Protection Specialist Position Task Book is complete thanks to the Task Force. Final Draft was distributed to team members.
- Ralph handed out the new Chapter 6 (Urban Interface) addition to the Fireline Handbook.
- The ICS-209 update now includes a segment on predictive services information as an outlook addendum.
 - There is a critical need for a Task Force member to replace Bill Plough (retired) who was so instrumental in keeping ICS-209 reporting on track in terms of the help desk resource, and providing management of the 209s content by the IOS Working Team. Someone from within the FIRESCOPE family is preferred.
 - **ACTION:** Del Walters stated he would attempt to identify someone at North Ops to fill that need.
- I-420, a required course for Type 2 IMT Command and General Staff positions, is in need of revision.
 - It was suggested that using L-380 and L-381 should be considered as an alternative equivalency curriculum. It was reported that some regions are having difficulty conducting I-420 courses.
 - The website www.leadership.gov contains a listing of all approved leadership courses
- The Technical Specialist position has been removed from 310-1 and has become simply a specialist position similar to Training Specialist, Fire Behavior Specialist, etc. Former Tech Specs are looking for a place to be recognized.

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- The ICS-204 (Radio Frequency Plan) now has a column to designate whether it is a wide band or narrow band frequency. The form is available on the FIRESCOPE website.
 - Two 7-person NIMO Teams (National Incident Management Options) are being formed with an “all hazard” implication, focused on wildland response. USFS is to be the lead agency.
 - Rapid Deployment IMT (short teams)
 - Will work for National MAC
 - Multi-jurisdictional membership
 - Currently two teams with eventually seven teams
 - Potential for use in an SME/Training capacity
 - ICs should have been announced by now
 - Ralph handed out the NWCG’s “Advanced Wildland Fire Training for Fire Departments Implementation Plan.”
 - The plan crosswalks the training qualifications for rural and volunteer fire departments to developing Type 3 “Incident Management Organizations” (IMOs).
 - The USFA’s “Training Equivalencies Crosswalk Project” is an essential complimentary project.
 - BLM is the lead agency.
 - Designed for rural local Incident Management in the WUI, with Type 3 complexity. Several of these teams have been activated this fire season and reportedly, have performed well.
 - Funding comes from DOI, the Rural Fire Assistance Program and BLM.
 - Ralph suggested trying to access this funding stream through the CWCG or FIRESCOPE to assisting with similar training in California.
 - Ralph handed out typing changes for engines and water tenders.
 - The issue is the disparity in typing standards between FIRESCOPE, NWCG and NIMS.
 - The Task Force is wrestling with which standard to use for the 310-1 revision.
 - The IOS Working Team may be the catalyst to bring these standards together with FIRESCOPE and NWCG coming to consensus and pushing it to NIC.
 - The Task force has this item on their agenda with a short-term recommendation for the October BOD meeting.
 - Ralph asked the Task Force to review aircraft typing, especially Type 1 helicopters and Helitanker typing so he can take it to the IOS Working Team’s October meeting.
 - **ACTION:** Mike LaPlant stated the Task Force would attempt to develop a preliminary recommendation at their September meeting.
 - Mike Dougherty mentioned that Evergreen Corporation has received approval from the National Air Tanker Board for the operational testing of the Boeing 747 Super Tanker Program.
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BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON TOP PRIORITY ISSUES FACING TODAY'S CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE – ALL MEMBERS

- The group categorized a list for submission to the BOD prior to their August 15 Summit Meeting in Burbank.
NOTE: New USCG member, David Giordano, has expressed an interest in sitting on the FIRESCOPE Operations Team as their representative.

CAL CHIEFS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE – HICKEY

- Bylaws have been completed.
- Generally, the committee is discussing many of the same issues being discussed by the FIRESCOPE Ops Team. There is a feeling that their concerns are not being acknowledged in any other forum, therefore, Cal Chiefs has sanctioned the committee. Jack Hickey will continue to attend meetings and represent FIRESCOPE.

OES/CICCS UPDATE – DRAYER

- OES vacancies will not be filled until after fire season.
- Scott Vail is new OES Administrative Assistant Chief and FMAG Coordinator.
- Kurt Latipow has retired as Fire Chief of Ukiah Fire Department.
- The engine procurement process is experiencing decision delays that may cause the bids to expire soon.
 - 42 CDF engines (Rosenbauer-Central States awarded bid)
 - 15 OES engines (Placer Fire awarded bid)
 - 24 CDF crew transports
 - \$10.8 million in value
- OES is taking possession of a new Communications Unit for the City of Corona.
- Still wrestling with grandfathering-in “Structure Protection Specialist” qualifications due to the ending of the Historical Recognition period on December 5.
 - Still looking at the use of fire simulator training to maintain currency.
 - Considering developing a local “Operational Area” Red Card System, already being used in some Op Areas, as adequate documentation for position qualifications.
- OES Type 3 Program Committee has been formed.
 - Committee sending out surveys to interested departments describing qualifying criteria for equipment, training, including 4WD training for eligibility in the program.
 - Chief Zagaris will be contacting the Regions to determine assignment of Type 3 engines.

TASK FORCE REPORT – LAPLANT

- TF is looking at a “Fire Based” Ambulance Strike Team Leader training curriculum.

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- Trying to complete the FOG rewrite in an upcoming 3-day work session. This is a priority item.
 - Trying to determine descriptions of “Area Command” and “Structure Protection Specialist.”
- The FIRESCOPE Website is developing nicely.
- Trying to determine what organization to model equipment typing after. The closest match looks like NIMS typing.
 - A temporary patch has been created in ROSS typing, but needs a final decision to complete the 2007 FOG rewrite.
- Still dealing with TF vacancies. A vacancy report was submitted to Chief Zagaris.
 - **ACTION:** Chief LaPlant will submit the TF’s Plan of Work, which includes the Ops Team items to the BOD, prior to their Summit Meeting on August 15.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION REPORT – LITTLE

- Jim Little sent a letter to Chief Zagaris pointing out the lack of language in the BRC Report acknowledging the role volunteer departments played in the 2003 fire siege.
 - Volunteer engines were sent to the siege, as well as allowing CDF units to send resources by backfilling their Northern California stations.
 - The point was made: How can an accurate assessment of the State’s response to the siege be made without factoring in the contribution of the volunteer departments?
- The California fire service must understand the dynamics of the volunteer fire departments.
 - The true volunteers are a vanishing breed and the younger members only stay a couple of years in pursuit of a full-time paid position in the fire service. How will the California Fire Service deal with this declining trend?
NOTE: These two items were added to the list of “Priority Issues Facing Today’s California Fire Service,” developed by the Ops Team and submitted to the BOD for their Summit Meeting.

NATIONAL MUTUAL AID PROGRAM UPDATE – RUEDA

- Chief Bamatree attended an Interstate Mutual Aid Working Group meeting recently.
 - The working group is sponsored by the IAFC with Chief Zagaris participating.
 - The group will present a handbook on Interstate Mutual Aid.

ACTION:

- November 15, 2006, is Andy Anderson’s 50th Anniversary as the Fire Chief of Quincy Fire Department. He plans to retire that day, but stay on as the Fire Warden for the Quincy Fire Department.

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- It was suggested that the Operations Team plan for some type of award to present to Andy at the October meeting in Sacramento or another venue as determined by the team.
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AMBULANCE STRIKE TEAM UPDATE – KELLY

- Activation of an ambulance strike team is by page to a designated individual.
- Reimbursements would be accomplished through patient billings or emergency declaration reimbursement.
- The process for mobilization is still unclear at this point.
 - **ACTION:** Chief Drayer will follow up to clarify the mobilization process.
- It has become clear to all that the effort will continue to keep fire-based ambulance strike teams segregated from the private, for-profit system.

ROSS UPDATE – RALSTON

- The new Citrix server will speed the processing times for ROSS entries.
- The timelines for the numerous update versions have been benchmarked.
- It is clear that ROSS is here to stay and will expand to other federal agencies.

ELECTION OF NEW OPERATIONS TEAM CHAIR – RALSTON

- Chief Ralston suggested formalizing a process that provides for automatic succession from Secretary, to Vice-Chair, to Chair, with a two-year commitment in each position.
- This item will be put on the October agenda for further discussion.

REVIEW OF BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO FIRESCOPE

- The Ops Team has provided its comments back to the Board of Directors.
 - **ACTION:** Chief Drayer will check with Chief Zagaris to determine if any further action is required by the Operations Team.

CFAA UPDATE – RALSTON

- The CFAA committee is back in action and on task.
 - They are attempting to produce a draft policy to present to the BOD by their October meeting.
 - Agency legal minds need to get together in a single meeting to review the draft and come to a consensus on the issues of legality.
 - The concept is to use CFAA reimbursements as the single reimbursement rate regardless of the agreement mechanism.
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- It appears that local agreements and “Assistance by Hire” will remain the reimbursement mechanism within the Operational Areas, but any response by agencies outside their Op Areas would be reimbursed under the CFAA rate.
- Some questions remain relative to the reimbursements for Master Mutual Aid with some adjustment to the “free period.”
- The CFAA Committee is still awaiting response back to their proposal.
- Next committee meeting is scheduled for August 20.
 - **ACTION:** Discussed a different venue than Sacramento for the October 12, 2006 Operations Team meeting. Jack Hickey will attempt to arrange a location in San Francisco and report back.
 - **ACTION:** The group again approved the Shell Beach location for the January 25-26, 2007 meeting. Mark Schmitt will make these arrangements and report back.
 - **ACTION:** The group again approved the Bucks Lake location for the July 2007 meeting. Andy Anderson will make these arrangements and report back.

ROUND TABLE – ALL

- Blaine Shultz/Mariposa County – Blaine announced his pending retirement and thanked the team for a “good ride.” Jim Middleton will be Jim’s replacement on the team.
 - Jim reported that a landslide across Highway 140 is causing economic devastation for Yosemite Park with the potential of additional sliding that could block and dam the river. This would cause flooding upriver to El Portal where the Park Administrative Center is located.
- Brad Dorbro/Santa Clara County
 - CalOSHA cited the county for the Fire Captain fatality involving a downed power line noting inadequate notification and identification of the hazard area. This has created operational changes within the department.
- Bill Holmes/CDF
 - “Glad to be part of this group.”
- Ralph Alworth and Tom Drayer/CDF/OES/CSR
 - CDF staff is attempting to adjust to the recent reorganization.
 - There have been some staff enhancements at South Ops to accommodate the ROSS program implementation.
 - The organization is dealing with the salary compaction issue.
 - CDF sent strike teams into Mexico for the first time in its history.
 - There continues to be a massive shuffling at the Unit Chief level with use of retired annuitants.
 - The Rucker fatality on the Cedar Fire has resulted in a new CDF “Firing Operations” policy.
 - ◆ We now must have immediate supervisor approval to put fire on the ground.

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- Chief Bob Praytor is looking at retirement anytime between now and November.
- Jim Little/Laytonville Fire Department/Volunteer Departments (North)
 - A landslide on Highway 101 is impacting traffic. It is estimated to take up to three years for CalTrans to construct a bridge over the slide area.
 - Their attempts to secure Prop. 172 funding failed, as did a ½-cent sales tax initiative. They will try again.
- Brian Kelly/San Mateo Fire/Region 2
 - A landslide on Highway 1 near Half Moon Bay has created an emergency response problem for the area.
 - A recognizable loss of leadership will be noticed as a result of the retirement of a couple of area Fire Chiefs.
 - Pandemic flu preparation is a hot topic in the area.
- Andy Anderson/Quincy Fire Department
 - “Thanks for coming back to Bucks Lake.”
- Jack Hickey/City of Davis Fire Department
 - Lots of traffic congestion on I-80 is making emergency response difficult.
- Mike Dougherty/DHS/USFA
 - Their budget looks good for the fiscal year.
 - He plans on attending the October meeting.
- Mario Rueda/LAF
 - Two new Division Chief positions will be create to oversee the Airports and Ports Divisions.
 - ◆ Coordination is improving between the Airports and Ports Divisions.
 - LAF got \$80 million in UASI funding that they will split with Law Enforcement.
 - ◆ They will be replacing communications equipment with the money.
 - They recently survived a Human Resources audit.
 - They will be purchasing 16 American LaFrance ladder trucks.
 - All front-line engines are now equipped with thermal imaging cameras.
- Del Walters/CDF/CNR
 - The contract dispute with the fire retardant vendors has been settled.
 - CDF air tankers will be dropping gel this year with a plan to drop gel and long-term retardant next year.
 - ◆ Keep in mind that gels do not possess the holding capability of long-term retardants.
 - They are actively enforcing the 100-foot clearance rule on SRA lands.
 - They have a lot of new Unit Chiefs.
 - CDF (S2T) air tankers will be approved to land loaded this year.
 - The CDF replacement helicopter study is due out soon.
 - ◆ They are seriously looking at twin-engine, four-blade rotor systems to fulfill the “All Hazard” mission.
 - They received additional funding this year for infrastructure improvements.

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- Darrell Ralston/VNC/Team Chair
 - They developed new turnout specifications in cooperation with LFD and LAC. The cost has been established at \$1,500 per set.
 - ◆ The bid was awarded to Morning Pride and will be amortized over five years based on two sets per firefighter.
 - Hand crew members are finding full time employment in the fire service creating a large turnover of personnel and constant retraining.
 - They are spending \$5 million on a new Support Services facility.
 - They are spending \$15 million on a new Dispatch Center, which is six months behind schedule.
- Mark Schmitt/SBC
 - They are purchasing eight new Type I engines to beat the 2007 Clean Air Act legislation.
 - They are looking at what can be done to address a replacement program for the aging helicopter fleet.
 - November's county split vote went down in flames and is considered a dead issue for now.
 - County Administration has introduced "broad banding" as a new method of increasing promotional opportunity among managers and supervisors. Management does not see it that way as it effectively eliminates automatic step increases within a job class. The Management Association is considering organizing.
 - The Department has developed a "Duty Chief" position that has a 10-hour per day presence in the Sheriff's Public Safety Dispatch Center, and provides 24/7 ROSS implementation.
 - They hope to break ground in September on the relocation of Fire Station 51 in the Lompoc area.
 - Pandemic flu preparation is extremely time consuming.
- Bill Dean/ORC
 - Nothing new to report.
- Jim Marquis/Grass Valley Fire Department/Reg. IV
 - San Joaquin Dispatch Center is moving in with AMR Lifecom as the Operational Area Dispatch Center.
 - The Department is purchasing N95 masks for all safety personnel.
 - ◆ The low-risk mask will be purchased for all medical calls with a high-risk mask being purchased for 30% of medical calls.

NEXT MEETING

- October 12, 2006, location tentatively San Francisco
- **ACTION:** Chief Jack Hickey will coordinate and notify all.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Ralston adjourned the meeting at 1130 hours on July 14, 2006.

Thanks go to Chief Mark Schmitt for taking the minutes.