

FIRESCOPE
OPERATIONS TEAMS - NORTH AND SOUTH
JOINT MEETING - JULY 20 AND 21, 1989
QUINCY, CALIFORNIA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stan Lake, Chairman Operations Team North, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Mike Scherr, Chairman Operations Team South, Office of Emergency Services

OPERATIONS TEAM NORTH

Andy Anderson, Quincy Fire Department, Mutual Aid Region III
Merrill McMurray, Sacramento County Fire Department, Mutual Aid Region IV
Jack Hickey, San Francisco Fire Department
Jim Pennington, Rocklin Fire Department
Will Brock, Office of Emergency Services
Paul Beckstrom, Office of the State Fire Marshal

OPERATIONS TEAM SOUTH

Don Perry, Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Dick Wilson, Ventura County Fire Department
Bill Zason, Los Angeles County Fire Department
John Bryant, United States Forest Service
Greg Wayne, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

GUEST PRESENT

Bill Coates, Plumas County Board of Supervisors
Bill Maxfield, Contra Costa County Fire, Chairman, FIRESCOPE Board of Directors
Dick Ernest, Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
John Englund, Volunteer, USFS
Dick Barrows, Volunteer, USFS
Russ Richards, Stanislaus County Fire Department

OPENING REMARKS

Bill Coates, Plumas County Board of Supervisors, welcomed the group to Plumas County. He noted the importance of the FIRESCOPE Program to the rural counties of California. He stated he would be willing to assist the group whenever possible with the County Supervisors Association of California, of which he is the new President.

Andy Anderson welcomed the group to Quincy and said a dinner was planned at Buck's Lake that evening following a reception at his residence.

Dick Ernest thanked everyone for inviting him to the meeting. He stated that CDF would continue its support of the FIRESCOPE Program in spite of the position of the Department on SB27. He stated that he will continue to try to convince the Governor's Office to support this legislation.

FIRESCOPE LEGISLATION - SB 27 (Campbell)

Because of pressing matters in the Capital, Jerry Haleva and Blair Springer of Senator Campbell's Office were unable to attend. Stan Lake reported after passing virtually unopposed through the Senate and the first Assembly Committee, SB27 was placed in suspense on July 19, 1989, by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. The reasons for this move are unclear at this time.

Following comments on SB27 by Dick Barrows, **it was moved by Anderson and seconded by Hickey** that FIRESCOPE undertake a four part program to support SB27: 1) Start a letter writing campaign (see attached sample letter); 2) Make contacts with fire services organizations for renewed support; 3) Continue to work with Senator Campbell's Office; and 4) Establish a liaison with CSAC. **The motion passed without objection.**

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY AND ICS

Paul Beckstrom and Mike Scherr reported on developments at the national level with ICS. Two important things have occurred recently. First, the National Fire Academy is now developing training using California ICS. Second, the New York City Fire Department has decided to adopt ICS. After a brief discussion, the group watched a new video on ICS called "Out of Chaos".

ADVISORY COMMITTEE/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Maxfield reported on the June 14, 1989, meeting of the Fire and Rescue Service Advisory Committee/FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. The next meeting of the Board will be on September 13, 1989, in Sacramento.

NFPA 1561

The latest developments on NFPA 1561 were reported by Mike Scherr.

Chairman Maxfield stated Chief Coggan will attend an International Fire Chiefs Conference to represent FIRESCOPE in a non-confrontational debate. The group voted that Chief Coggan should represent the group at this meeting.

Chief Coggan feels that with the stand taken by the National Fire Academy, 1561 is not the threat it was, as long as FIRESCOPE is recognized within the standard.

Gary Togle suggested public comments be submitted encouraging the ICS course provided by NFA be included in the appendix of 1561. The public comment period is August 1-6, 1989.

Extensive discussion followed, with consensus that the comments submitted should have some continuity. Gary Togle is familiar with the NFPA process, and offered his assistance in developing a public comment format which could be distributed for use by the fire service.

The group moved to create a subcommittee consisting of Chief Coggan, Gary Togle, and Bob Neamy, for the purpose of developing guidelines for submitting appropriate public comments to NFPA. The guidelines will be distributed statewide and nationwide, soliciting support of FIRESCOPE and ICS. The committee will be chaired by Chief Coggan. If this committee wants to submit a technical comment on behalf of FIRESCOPE, Chief Coggan offered his assistance in preparing it, under signature of Chairman Maxfield. Chairman Maxfield agreed.

FREQUENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Russ Richards reported on the last meeting of the Frequency Coordination Committee. The committee is moving along well. There is good participation, and the group is gathering information for a Statewide Communications Plan.

FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE

The following progress items were reported by Mike Scherr:

- HAZMAT Module
- National Impact
- Evacuation
- New Field Operations Guide

HAZMAT SPECIALIST GROUP

With the progress on the ICS Hazmat Module, it was felt that both wider and quicker acceptance would be made if Northern California could participate in the process. It was decided that a Hazmat Specialist Group North would be formed. Jack Hickey will coordinate the formation of the group with Mac McMurray. Suggested members included Jim O'Donnell (South Santa Clara), San Francisco Fire, Sacramento Fire, and Fresno Fire Departments.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

There is a need to form an Urban Search and Rescue Specialist Group (North/South) to address the ICS module for that issue. Mike Scherr noted that we have a list of trained people. It was also noted that on the Federal side the U.S. Army has the responsibility for S & R. Mike will develop some draft objectives for the Ops Team to review.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative update handout was briefly reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

John Englund reported that he had spoken with Blair Spring on SB27. Although no one is sure about what will happen next, Blair expressed some optimism that SB27 would weather the political storm, and that we should continue our efforts.

The subject of the OES Mapping Program was quite brief. The open position will hopefully be filled by this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The next joint meeting of the Operations Teams will be held in San Luis Obispo in January or February, 1990. Exact dates to be announced. Each Team will hold an individual meeting sometime following the September Board of Directors Meeting.