



FIRESCOPE

OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING CENTER



June 09-10, 2010

Date: June 09-10, 2010

Time: 0900 Hrs.

Attendees:

Mario Rueda	Cesar Partida	David Rocha X	Darrell Ralston X	Paul Bannister
Dave Pierce	John Hickey	Dave Franklin X	Jim Troehler	Bob Neamy
Mark Schmitt X	Dan Drake X	Ralph Domanski	Steve Maier	Nick Dunn
John Tripp	Romero Rodriguez X	Andy Anderson	Jim Middleton X	Jim Little X
Tom Drayer X	Aitor Bidaburu	Joe Millar X	Jack Hickey X	David Giordano

Additional Attendees Present:

Bob Praytor	Pat O'Bannon	Jack Froggatt X	Mike Miller X
George Maier	Marty Scheueman X	Brad Darbro X	Gerry Kuras X
Greg West	Chuck Butler X	Tim Fike X	Jim Hollingsworth X

Welcome: Dave Franklin

Introductions: Jim Middleton for Mario Rueda

Adoption of Previous Minutes:

Motion: Jack Hickey
Second: Mark Schmitt

Agenda Items:

Agenda Review and Additions
<i>Added Agenda Items:</i> Joe Millar on Australia/New Zealand request for FIRESCOPE assistance on fire operations and policy perspectives in the WUI

Discussion Notes:

- **May 27, 2010 Board of Director's Meeting Review**—Chiefs Tom Drayer/Jim Middleton
 - Pat Dennen will replace Bob Praytor as Chief of Operations at Cal EMA
 - Kelley Gouette will replace Cesar Partida on the Ops Team for Cal Fire
 - Partial shift of Cal Fire E-Fund appropriations into Base Budget (\$2 Million)
 - Base Budget to backfill \$76 Million proposed ERI reductions
 - Budget impacts noticeably affecting smaller and volunteer departments
 - CA State Fire Marshal to pull out of the EMT 1 FS Cert Program as of July 1st
 - Sheldon Gilbert working on Mutual Aid Survey for CA fire service to assess the ability to provide/support M.M.A. System
 - 410-1 (MACS Procedures Guide) 410-3 Red Flag Guidelines approved by BOD. 410-3 now appendix to NWS Annual Operating Plan
 - Cal Fire does not support “Hold and Engage” terminology recommended at Shell Beach meeting. Chief Rueda agreed to return to “Fire Front Following” terminology as it applies to Structure Protection Guidelines document
 - Temporary Refuge Areas (TRA) language in Structure Protection Guidelines stays, but in conjunction with Safety Zones using the “and” language indicating that both can be assessed and identified as separate areas. Summarizing, A TRA is a place of temporary refuge firefighters can retreat to when fire behavior exceeds expectation and the means of egress to the Safety Zone has been compromised. A new appendix was incorporated into the document at the request of Chief Ed Hollingshead, to include USFS doctrine as it relates to structure protection
 - Scott Vail discussed statewide workshops and CICC changes proposed, mainly surrounding pack test vs. wellness programs and proposal to move level 1 & 2 positions up to a level 3 peer review process. 2 more meetings to come. This item led to considerable discussion amongst the group
 - Tom Drayer discussed the results of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) meeting that was held the day following the BOD meeting that work-shopped the Cohesive Strategy Plan due to Congress by October 2010, albeit probably only a basic framework document to start with. The Plan will use the previously developed Quadrennial Fire Report as the base document
 - Monica Seiverson, from DHS, made a presentation on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN); a web-based information sharing program available for free to the fire service
 - So. Ops Intel Section is test driving this program and suggests it has widespread potential to link all hazard incident and law enforcement intel together to better manage large scale or multiple incidents
 - Identified as a beneficial product for use during MACS activations
 - Can be scaled from Op Area use through to a national level function based upon permissions and user defined “community” (agency) access rights
 - Can host video conferencing, power point, video downlink, virtual whiteboard and other multi-media platforms
- **Structure Protection Guidelines**—Chief Tom Drayer/All
 - Discussed document relative to Safety Zones and Temporary Refuge Areas (TRA)
 - **Action: Tom Drayer needs final comments back by June 15th to get it back to the BOD for approval with the goal of getting the document into the 2011 FOG and published on the FIRESCOPE website as well as e-mail distribution.**
 - Chief Millar suggested the Structure Protection Document get buy-in by CWCG as a

mechanism to bridge the gap between that group and FIREScope (BOD, Ops Team, Task Force)

- **Questions from the BOD to the Task Force--Chief Dave Stone**
 - Discussed the handout of a list of questions from Chief Roper seeking Task Force input regarding the TF's impression of the continuity, or lack of, between the three levels of FIREScope (BOD, Ops Team, Task Force) and how FIREScope regains the position of authority as a leader in California fire service influence
 - The BOD needs to set direction and objectives
 - TF feels that recommendations that are approved by the BOD are not being followed through, even when BOD members preside on committees where documents are being approved that are contrary to FIREScope's position
 - No resolution to conflicts between FIREScope, NWCG, CAL CHIEFS, NIMS, SBFS, ICHIEFS, and there should be an environment of coordination, not competition
 - Always keep the tenets of FIREScope in mind when promoting ideas to other fire service groups
 - Working and Specialist Group will become more important as issues facing the fire service become more complex
 - The joint group had considerable discussion on the "Future of FIREScope" with the following discussion points
 - Rules/standards
 - Advocacy vs. Authority
 - Definition of Authority
 - Re-define areas of jurisdiction
 - Identification/Recognition
 - Develop and improve lines of communication for Distribution of Documents and Products
 - Bridging and Commitment
 - Established Authority vs. Regulatory Body
 - Another question discussed; What can the Board do to assist the TF?
 - Review of 4 Strategic Goals developed by BOD contained in 410-4 (FIREScope Articles of Organization)
 - Diversity of representation statewide
 - Review and update Strategic Plan
 - Re-define goals and objectives of the organization
 - **Action: Chief Stone will package the above items discussed and submit them to the TF to be forwarded to the Operations Team for review and ultimately forward to the BOD for discussion**
 - **Firefighting Aircraft Decontamination (invasive species) Update**—Chief Mark Schmitt
 - Aviation Specialist Group is working on this item
 - A sub-committee has been formed to target this single issue but has yet to meet
 - Greg Helsel, USFS Fire and Aviation Chief, is putting together a summary document with the purpose of simplifying existing USFS procedures and to bring a sense of practicality to the process of helicopter Decon in the dynamic fire environment
 - Cal Fire has taken the position that they do not intend to implement helicopter Decon procedures until a qualified authority approaches them to identify an invasive species actually exists in a given body of water being used as a water dipping source
 - There appears to be a significant level of interest at the BOD level to have this item move forward in a timelier manner.

- **Action: Chief Schmitt will take this concern to the Aviation Specialist Group Chair to get a status report for the Task Force report to the BOD in July**
- **Federal Communications Plan**—Chiefs Schmitt/LaPlant
 - A Fire Aviation issue paper was discussed. Drafted by John Finnerty, on behalf of the FIRESCOPE Aviation Specialist Group, in cooperation with the FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group, the paper identifies frequency problems unique to fire aviation. The discussion that followed, identified the need to coordinate this effort with the need for a comprehensive Federal Communications Plan for all hazard incidents
 - Frequencies currently assigned out of Boise are random and are not contained in existing agency frequency plans
 - Pilots must program their radios on the ground creating delays in response and programming errors, or “on the fly” creating safety concerns as they enter the Fire Traffic Area (FTA)
 - The recommendation asks for 30 additional frequencies to be allocated to the fire service for all hazard incident management
 - The Issue Paper has been reviewed by the FAA with interest, and has gained some traction.
 - Interim solutions include:
 - Teaching pilots how to quickly program sophisticated fire radios
 - Teaching mechanics to clone with laptop program technology
 - Make Incident radio techs available to clone aviation fire radios at the helibase
 - **Action: FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group, with coordination from John Finnerty from the Aviation Specialist Group, will repackage the issue paper to better identify the recommendation(s) and submit the paper to the Task Force**
- **NIMS/Incident Management Working Group**—Chiefs Jim Hollingsworth and Dave Stone
 - Gave group a status check on NIMS all hazard documents and the progress that has been made in recent months at the national level. Suffice to say they are trying to maintain a FIRESCOPE presence on the IMWG while being sensitive to the desire of this group to “de-smoke” their documents
- **Australia/New Zealand Project**—Chief Joe Millar advised the group that he volunteered his, and FIRESCOPE’S services to assist Australia/New Zealand with the development of guidelines for operation in the WUI. Joe may be asking for our assistance as this project develops
- **CFAA Update**—Chief Darrell Ralston
 - A finance and operational team will be assembled to develop methodology for common calculations for determining the Administrative/Indirect Rates that justify the 16% rate in place now. It was agreed that existing agreement will stay in place through this fire season
- **NWCG Update**—Chief Jim Hollingsworth
 - Made a determination that trainees cannot supervise trainees
 - Challenge is to determine how to best maintain a pool of qualified position
 - Crosswalking of positions is considered
 - Suggestion to remove the Operational requirements was suggested and consequently rejected by our FIRESCOPE liaisons.
- **NIMS Consortium**—Chief Dan Drake
 - No report, an agreement was made to meet annually, but has not occurred to date

- **Cal Chiefs Report**—Chief Jack Hickey
 - Leadership Conference occurred and went well
 - Axel weight issue went to Senate and was approved
- **Task Force Report**—Chief Dave Stone
 - August will look at all edits and updates of the FOG
 - Jan 2011 is targeted for taking updated FOG to the BOD
 - Reviewed Structure Protection Guidelines
 - MACS Orientation in North GACC was a success
 - Included a review of their Operation Plan
 - So Ops orientation scheduled for July 15th
 - Safety Specialist Group—draft white paper for update on FF Accountability Guideline for the FOG
 - Haz Mat Specialist Group—updating Protective Action and Evacuation Guidelines
- MEETING ADJOURNED @ 1500 HRS

- **DAY TWO**

- **FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group**—Chief Mike LaPlant

- The Communications Specialist Group, through the Task Force, has asked the Ops Team to push the concept of creating a Communication Unit Leader (COML) and Communications Technician (COMT) positions in 310-1
- The idea has unanimous consensus of Communications Specialist Group
- **Action: It was recommended that this proposal be vetted through the Geographic Area Training Representatives (GATR) at both GACC's being represented by Karen Kufra at N.Ops and Bob Bell at S.Ops**
- **Plan of Work Review**—All
 - Question was asked about Cal MAC's role in FIRESCOPE
 - 410-1 does define Cal MAC's and N-MACS role in the process, but not regularly exercised
 - Group questioned how to best engage Cal MAC so when they do need to engage during North and South activations, it's not foreign to regular operations
 - **Action: Add Cal MAC to North and South MACS exercise tasks**
 - **Action: Ask TF to look at the possibility of adding a piece to the Plan of Work under the ICS 900 Task, that addresses common terminology as it relates to Emergency Traffic, Priority Traffic and Mayday as defined by FIRESCOPE. Does this need to be a published document made available on the FIRESCOPE website.**
 - **Action: Add Tactical Law Enforcement Response Standards as another task item to better integrate LE activities into existing FIRESCOPE tenets**
 - **Action: TF to consider adding a task to expand the role of the GIS Specialist Group to look at opportunities for applying "Information Technology" within their scope of work. Possibly by adding an IT Working Group to the Plan of Work**
 - **Further develop the MACS 410-1 to incorporate the "All Hazard" concept**
 - **Consider adding to Protective Acton Guidelines (definitions of Safety Zone, WUI Safety Zone, TRA) and Structure Fire Guidelines to the "Review FIRESCOPE Product Currency Task**

- **Old Business**—All
 - None
- **New Business**—All
 - Next year is the 40th anniversary of FIRESCOPE. Do we want to have reunion of past and present members.
 - **Action: Chief Rueda bring the framework for a 40th anniversary to the BOD**
- **ROUND TABLE:**
 - OES/Cal EMA: Trying to fill vacancies with budget. The word is that no CNG helicopters will be available next fire season due to the war effort.
 - Cal Fire: 7 million this year and 21 million reductions next year in personnel will result in stations not coming out of winter closure. Still waiting to see impacts of inmate crew program from CDCR. Bidding out contract for Very Large Airtanker Program between evergreen and 10 Tanker. Working on Advanced All incident Management Course (equivalent to 520 course) will be made available to all departments nationally. Letting out a structural PPE contract that others may be able to piggy-back on if the specs are desirable. Also looking at new specifications for wildland PPE.
 - Mariposa: TOT is doing well in Yosemite causing only a 5% reduction to budget. Building three new stations from stimulus money. Placed in service 12 engines and 4 new water tenders from a tax assessment initiative. The slide is sliding again, but realignment of the bridges has helped traffic flow to and from the park. Concessionaire in Yosemite Valley is calling it quits eliminating ALS services and ambulance service.
 - Davis: Jack is staying on with Davis Fire along with some others eligible for retirement. Some departments having to brown out due to budget problems
 - USFA/NFA/NWCG:
 - South Lake Tahoe: Marty Scheueman thanked group for bringing him onto the Ops Team
 - VNC. Starting a new station soon in Semi Valley and rebuilding another
 - SBC: Attempting to reconcile issues with the Sheriff's Dept. over keeping air programs separate. Submitting cuts to make up a \$6.2M budget deficit for FY 10/11. County @ \$37M deficit, but constructing \$7M EOC adjacent to Fire HQ. Fiscal outlook is worse next year. Continue to work through issues preventing the signing of a new local agreement with the Los Padres Forest, recent events look promising.
 - LAC: 15 Companies browned out each day, along with a Division Chief and two hazmat squads,
 - Home grown terrorism is on the rise in the LA area

- Down to one HM squad
- ORC: 1.3 million dollar shortfall in next year's budget
- Cal Fire: won't be seeing the resource commitment coming from Region II
- SFR: Made the meeting happen, and willing to do it again. Prop F sponsored by union guarantees no firehouse will be dark. Taking over the Presidio National Park under a 25 year contract
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- Cal EMA: Great meeting. Main issues are budget related. Possibly big admin changes in store. Question if Matt Bettenhausen will stay. Furloughs end June 30th. 5% reduction in work force, 5% pay cut, 5% contribution to retirement, 5% contribution to medical benefits. Last two OES Engines have been assigned and continuing with 5 per year going forward
 - NWCG/NFA: Don Grant is Deputy Director of NICC. December 2010 is target for inputs on the NIMS document. Budget problems will make it challenging to move forward at NIFC. Only one NWCG member sits on the NFPA 1900 Standards Committee, consequently the standards on engines is heavily weighted toward industry.
- USFS:
 - Contracts for aircraft have been let
 - No reduction of FF resources
 - Large exodus of personnel due to retirements
 - Commitment from upper levels to work out relationships with local gov't.
 - Joe explained that the National Forest System will be
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- KRN:
- DOI:
- Next meeting will be in fall via conference call
- **Meeting Adjourned: 1200 hrs.**