



FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING BUCKS LAKE

June 11-12, 2008



Date: June 11-12, 2008

Time: 0915 Hrs.

Attendees:

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| | Mario Rueda X | Darrel Ralston X | Paul Bannister | George Maier X |
| Dave Pierce X | Dave Franklin | Jim Troehler | Michael Dougherty X | Bob Neamy X |
| Mark Schmitt X | Ralph Domanski | Del Walters | Nick Dunn | |
| John Tripp X | Andy Anderson X | Jim Middleton X | Jim Little X | |
| Tom Drayer X | Joe Millar | Jack Hickey X | David Giordano | |

Additional Attendees Present:

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| Cesar Partida X | | Pat O'Bannon X | Jack Froggatt X | |
| Dan Drake X | Greg West X | Deneen Philips X | | |

Adoption of Previous Minutes: Minutes of October conference call approved by team

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| Motion Schmitt |
| Second Hickey |

Agenda Items:

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| Added Agenda Items: |
| Cross Walk Program-Dougherty |
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Discussion Notes:

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| <p>April 9th BOD meeting at Sacramento Airport, (Next meeting July 9th)-Drayer/Pierce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OES Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10% across board cuts requested by Governor, only 100K for fire from Operations ○ On track with engine replacement cycle with 10 assigned to date, mostly in So Cal. ○ AB 38, combines State OES with OHS, passed Assembly, now goes to Senate and to Gov's. Office by mid June and will create a cabinet level position for director with more political clout and access to additional funding. ○ SRA fee proposal has almost died on the vine. Difficulty selling to urban areas. ○ Emergency Response Initiative (insurance fee) has been revised by governor. New proposal emphasizes all hazard emergency. ○ Cal Fire is now completely engaged in fire season preparedness. ○ OES legal council rendered opinion that private insurance firefighting agencies can be allowed on a case-by-case basis based upon the liability vs. political outfall of that decision. |
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Each agency should establish individual policy in terms of using private companies, as well as incorporating the use of foam and go operations into their tactical considerations. **OES legal determined that it's OK to disallow them entry into your emergency incident based upon liability concerns.** Chief Freeman has asked agencies with a policy on this issue forward the policy to Chief Zagaris. Some insurance companies are pushing this nationally through NWCG. Cal Fire is researching using these private companies as a component of their EERA (Emergency Equip. Rental Agreements). This could be developed as a statewide template to set a standard in an effort to get a handle this growing issue that will not be going away. The BOS will be looking at this issue in July, which may come to the Ops Team as a task. Group discussed FIREScope develop this standardization template.

- **Action: Dave will bring a proposal to the BOD at their July meeting that FIREScope get ahead of this issue to develop a model of suggested policy that deals with the use of private insurance fire companies on emergency incidents.**
- CFAA update: Agreement is now a 7-party agreement. Only waiting for USFS signature. Now accepted as an all hazard pay document. Reimbursement rates have changed, primarily for water tenders, base rates unchanged. Can now be used by agencies without existing local agreements as the structured rate for reimbursement. Existing local agreements will stay in place. Still only includes engines, water tenders and overhead orders. Ralph Domanski committed to ensuring that local forest agreements would not be used to circumvent the CFAA ordering process.
- Tribal Fire Department's incorporation into the MMA: Chief Dennen has explained that using Tribal Fire Departments in the San Diego County has worked well, however, there are current liability issues pending. Currently, no court of adjudication exists to determine the legality of tribal agreements and associated liability issues.
- The pilot program that allows a county to go to a **single** adjacent Operational Area for up to 5 strike teams of engines is in place and is authorized by the BOD.
- ROSS Update – Drayer
- John Skills gave a report to the BOD on updates to ROSS. The report was disappointing in the respect that it emphasized education and training, rather than functional issues with the system. John explained that 50% of last year's problems were training related. Director Grajalva testified at a congressional hearing about the problems experienced during the 2007siege, essentially demanding a solution to the problems. Training versions have always been at least two versions behind the latest working version. CRIT is now referred to as the California ROSS Group under the authority of CWCG. OES is involved because Chief Zagaris sits on the CWCG. Pat O'Bannon has committed to take on ROSS training at the local level, but he needs help from local gov't. to provide training centers to handle 20-30 students and local gov't. instructors. OES is able to offer the training for about \$260.00 per student. OHS has indicated ROSS training fits their criteria for training grant funding. Pat O'Bannon explained that all FIREScope resource are now typed to NWCG/NIMS standards with the exception of Type I water tenders.
- FIREScope Ops Team Relationships – Drayer/Pierce
 - Blue Ribbon Task Force 2007 recommendations – Drayer
 - FIREScope tasked to review both 2004 and 2007 recommendations and report status to the July BOD meeting.
 - BOD has tasked the Ops team to report on the MACS 410-1 revision recommendations at the July meeting.
 - Technology working group (Dargan, Roper, Dennen, Richter, etc.) is scheduling another conference call to update information to be presented to the BOD in July.
 - Task Force Representation at the national level – Pierce
 - TF looking for assistance when FIREScope's position is requested on issues

requiring quick turn around decisions in which the TF is participating at the national level.

- The BOD supports the TF making decisions on behalf of FIREScope with the caveat that the Ops Team chair is notified on issues requiring FIREScope's signature, who will bring the item to Chief Zagaris. Kim will serve as the single point of contact for BOD direction and will make contact with the BOD members for consensus issues when necessary.
- CWCG Action Update – Froggatt
 - Jack Froggatt, as the TF representative, attended a CWCG Operations Team meeting where the group developed a charter for the creation of a CWCG Operations Team. FIREScope was offered a non-voting position. A total of 8 persons on committee plus the FIREScope representative. The group began discussing creating many of the same working groups and specialist groups that currently exist in FIREScope. The obvious concern is that this group may duplicate the efforts of FIREScope, of which many members were not very familiar.
 - **Action: The FIREScope Operations Team will provide a representative who will serve as liaison to the CWCG Operations Team to support Jack Froggatt from the TF and Kevin Johnston from OES. Dave Pierce will send out a request for nomination prior to the next CWCG meeting in October.**
- Fireline Paramedic Update – West
 - Greg is working with the FIREScope EMS Specialist Group to develop criteria and process for a Fire Paramedic, Line Qualified position. Craig Vangerswaag, EMS Specialist Group Chair, is working with MSAC, MDAC, and the State EMS Medical Director for approvals with the goal of making this position available for this fire season. A ROSS identifier currently exists for a Fire Paramedic. A pending issue involves cross county/cross state credentialing. State EMS Agency will likely allow a paramedic to work within his/her scope of practice regardless of the county or state in which he/she works. When base station contact is required, that medic will make contact with his/her base station physician for approvals.
- Aviation Specialist Group Update – Schmitt
 - Mark gave the group a status update where the FIREScope Aviation Specialist Group is in terms of presenting the requested BRC products to the BOD at their July meeting. Additionally, he commented on what would happen following the BOD meeting in terms of posting information to the FIREScope website and archiving the remainder of their work in the FIREScope library to be updated annually.
- Southern California Multi Agency Coordinating Group/2007 Fire Siege – Drake
 - Dan reviewed the status of the recommendations document from the group that worked in the MACS Coordination Center during the 2007 Fire Siege.
 - The group was tasked with identifying what Facility, Staffing Technological and Procedural elements of the MACS could be changed to make a more effective and efficient process, assuming money was no object. The recommendations were broken down by **Policy Issues, Facilities Issues and Operational Issues.**
 - It was suggested that the MAC Group should be a stand-alone group who represent the affected agency administrators, with a core membership and their own charter, who operate under the process and procedures established by FIREScope.
 - **Action: Dan Drake will rework the draft document and include the suggestions from the Ops Team, present it to the BOD at the July meeting, and get further direction to bring back to the Ops Team.**
- BRC Status of Action Items – Pierce /Drake
 - Group reviewed the recommendations from the 2004 BRC to determine which

recommendations are still pertinent to the FIRESCOPE Organization and the associated status of each item that does involve FIRESCOPE action.

- Discussion about the lack of cost apportionment education and training for local government agencies and the need to address this issue. No further action taken by the group.

- **DAY TWO**

- Task Force Report-West (I missed most of Greg's presentation...get notes from Deneen)
 - Greg gave a thorough report on the status of all specialist and working groups
 - IMWG(Incident Management Working Group) is following ICS core competencies for all hazard qualifications, and the fact that they are veteran public safety employees with many years of emergency management service.
 - Discussion to reactivate the USAR Working Group.
 - Action: Greg West will have the TF develop a plan of work that will go to Zagaris for approval.
 - Greg handed out a draft document (ICS 910) on Firefighter Incident Safety and Accountability Guidelines that will be reformatted by Deneen Philips and submitted to the BOD for their July meeting.
- Bob Neamy suggested that we acknowledge former Ops Team members who have passed away.
- Group discussed the need to follow up on a replacement for Geoff Wilford on the NWCGI

- **ROUND TABLE:**

- OES: Trying to fill various vacancies within the organization.
- Cal Fire: DC-7 on contract out of Chico. Placing two engines in Tahoe Basin. Super Tanker back on contract this fire season.
- Mariposa: Replacing rolling stock mainly through grant funding.
- Davis: Some budget issues, otherwise no issues. Region is fairly active early in season.
- USFA/NFA/NWCG: Executive position is vacant and looking for a candidate. Course development section moved back to NFA. Mike Dourghty will have a successor by October 1st. NWCG going through a reorganization by consolidating their working teams. NWCG changed crew typing by removing Type 3 designator.
- Laytonville: Los Alamos and Livermore doing studies and on fire modeling and psychology of evacuation. Looking for funding to bring modeling from super computer to PC level. Large fire potential modeling is occurring around the country. Jim Little is working with legislature on the SRA fees bill. Passed House and (SB 1617) and going to Senate. Assessment is on dwellings with a COP. This is considered a fire prevention fee. CICCIS query found some Op Areas had individuals with multiple task books open simultaneously, in violation of 310-1. Cannot have a task book open that is a prerequisite for another task book that's open. Scott Vail has agreed to stay on as the State Board of Fire Services Rep.
- VNC: Terra Torch has been upgraded as well as the helitorch. Wildland heat issues are being addressed by a committee of SoCal member agencies, looking at single layering, hydration, climate effects. Product may be brought to FIRESCOPE.

- SBC:
- LAF: Lost 9 Captain Positions. Fire and Sheriff working on evacuation planning. Remodeling some fire stations. May be able to provided space for ROSS training New 206 being outfitted for command ship. 2 Augusta helicoptes on order capable for water, hoist, crew, due in July.
- ORC: (2) 412 helicopters due in Jan and Feb. Ordering 5 hybrid (model 24) engines on piggyback order with Cal Fire. Sales Tax exemption has saved 1.6 million on the purchase of their helicopters Staffing up several wildland engines to 4.0 staffing.
- Chief Jim Marquist is moving to another department which will create a vacancy for volunteer depts.on the BOC.
- Closing comments: Meeting ended with a moment of memory for Claud Creasy, Neil Honneycut, and Pat Conney.
- Meeting adjourned 1115.:
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- NWCG Training Working Team: Geoff Wilford
 - Field Managers Course Guide not always being followed. It's updated quarterly and available on the website
 - The Instructors qualifications has just been updated and will also be used by DHS
 - Intechangable courses use the same SME's and are different than equivalency courses
 - ICS for Executives has been eliminated
 - Position Task Books have been converted, and competencies have been updated
 - Trying to eliminate overlaps and gaps between courses
 - Kim Zagaris sits on the Competency Change Management Board and is the clearing house for curriculum change
 - I-420 does not work as it was intended with overload in some positions and vacancies in other positions. It works best in California, but fails the further east you go.
 - Skills Crosswalk with NFA and NWCG is working and courses will be maintained by Training Working Team (TWT)
 - Waiting for final NIMS 5-year training plan. Now that the National Response Framework (NRF) is out, it will be incorporated into the NIMS 5-yr training plan.
 - Fed Grant teleconference occurred today. UASI funding has added 14 new cities and municipalities. Will be posted on the internet today
 - Geoff will be staying with the TWT through 2008, then retires...but looking for replacement
 - NWCG courses must be taught by a NWCG qualified instructor, using the Field Managers Course Guide, and only NWCG member agencies can use the NWCG certificate. Non NWCG agencies must use agency specific certificates which currently are not accepted by State Fire Training. This disconnect is being worked on by NWCG and State Fire Training.
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- CICCIS Update: Little
 - Skills Crosswalk was reviewed by the CICCIS TF an came to the conclusion that skills equivalencies were being met

- Old Business:
 - Discussed the letter to ICHIEFS on the term Mayday
 - The term Mayday becomes a permissive term to use to follow the hailer for radio silence “emergency traffic” as a firefighter/responder is known to be down and need of rescue.

- Time, Date and Place of next meeting
 - Bucks Lake will be planned in June
 - Dates will be evaluated by Tom Drayer and Dave Pierce will schedule a conference call to discuss

- Round Table:
 - VNC- No special problems so far with rains in the burn areas
 - Jack Hickey- Lots of rain and wind
 - Jim Little- Nothing to report
 - LFD- Struggling with budget
 - Neamy-
 - BLM/DOI- rumors of reduced budget, but agencies may be spared. Engine staffing at 7 day level for 08 season
 - North Ops- rain and snow. Lots of federal employees migrating to state jobs. Conducting DPA review
 - ORC- moving to 20 year contracts with consolidated agencies
 - KRN- building up second Super 205 helicopter. Turbo Aero Commander being purchased and will be used as Air Attack platform by this fire season. Just completed academy and planning another, working toward full 3.0 staffing. Getting Battalion 5 back. Broken ground on new EOC.
 - USFS/South Ops- Operating under 2006 budget numbers. Planning to staff all equip. 35 helicopters on contract nationally with 16 stationed in CA. Co. Officers migrating to Cal Fire.
 - SBC
 - OES- 10% funding cut across the board, looking at contracting with Cal Fire for dispatching services. Scott Vail planning to retire. If Insurance Initiative goes through OES will purchase 130 additional engines, took delivery of 3 type 3 engines

- Ralph Domanski and USFS thanked for their continuing financial support of the Ops Team meetings in Shell Beach

- Meeting adjourned @ 1030 hrs.

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