

FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2006
OES Headquarters
Mather, CA.

I. Call to order

Chief Darrell Ralston called to order the regular meeting of the **FIRESCOPE Operations Team** at **0910** on **October 12, 2006** at OES Headquarters, **Mather, CA.**

II. Welcome, Introductions and Logistics

Chief Ralston conducted an introduction of attendees. The following persons were present: Mike LaPlant (VNC/TF Chair), Jim Middleton (MPA), Ralph Domanski (USFS), Ralph Alworth (CDF/CSR), Brian Kelly (San Mateo/Reg.II), Jim Little (Laytonville Fire), Tom Drayer (CA/OES Fire), Pat O'Bannon (CA/OES Fire) Jack Hickey (City of Davis Fire), Greg West (LFD), John Tripp (LAC), Darrell Ralston (VNC/Ops. Team Chair), Mark Schmitt (SBC)

NOTE: Brian Zolner (CDF) will be taking Del Walter's place on the Ops Team, representing CDF, Northern Region. Chief Walters will be representing same on the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting-All

- a) Chief Ralston requested approval of the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as revised on 10/10/06. Visit www.firescope.org to view the new FIRESCOPE website.
- b) Agenda Review revealed no changes or additions

IV. Review of Board of Directors July 12th meeting- Ralston

- a) Notes from 10/11/06 BOD meeting
 - EMAC is set to sunset in 2007, local government unions raising issues of legality and liability. Looking for legislation to continue program and address liability issues:
 - OES Report: Kurt Latipow, now a retired annuitant, will work on acquisition and allocation of new OES equipment (heavy rescue rigs, usar trailers, engines, swift water rigs in his new position under DHS. Reviewing and testing of interoperable gateway radio systems is

underway. Directive SO-406 “Continuity of Government Planning” is underway.

- CDF/SFM Director’s Report – Grijalva: CDF reorganization involving statewide manager’s meetings this week. CDF firefighters ratifying new contract. Increasing number of engines ordered by 30%. Salary inversion issue settled with 12% PERSable pay increase, 22K/yr. retention bonus for next three years, then stops. Region Chiefs get 5% increase. Evaluation of DC-10 effectiveness will be conducted. 2yr. work plans for all CDF projects available on-line. Governor signed bill to refer to CDF as “ Cal Fire” effective 1/07 with committee working of possible logo change. Re-evaluation of CDF mission being conducted as it relates to the “all hazard” operations
- FIRESCOPE Summit Summary: August 15, 2006 meeting at Burbank Airport resulted in **Immediate Summary Action Items** that should include effort to integrate ICS into NIMS, not NIMS into ICS; BRC recommendations need more top-level attention and direction; CFAA needs attention with better understanding of proposed changes; Interoperability/Interdisciplinary communication, training and equipment issues addressed; Refocus/Restructure/Revamp FIRESCOPE to meet future fire service needs and changing environment. **Generally Agreed Changes** include annual work plan summit meetings; conduct conference calls prior to BOD meetings to brief on agenda topics with the possibility of pre-meetings on day of regularly scheduled BOD meetings; conduct post-fire season meetings; each board member to select a formal alternate prepared to act on their behalf; do not schedule return flights prior to 1630 on BOD meeting days; draft new BOD member orientation package; written reports for consideration of BOD will be distributed by 1st of month in which BOD meeting will be held; BOD sub-committees will enhance policy decisions and associated research; meeting structure will change to generate more discussion, input and policy interaction relative to OES and FIRESCOPE business matters; BOD agenda will be revamped to limit informational reports but retain the OES Director and Ops Team informational reports. **Principles of Operation** were suggested that include embracing the value of lessons learned at local, state and national level; provide input and adopt national standardization efforts; develop and embrace mutually beneficial solutions to challenges at local, state and national levels; recognize and respect differing roles and responsibilities of member agencies.
- End State (Purpose): FIRESCOPE represents the California Fire/Emergency Management Community, and serves as a catalyst for improving inter-departmental cooperation, interoperability and efficiency.

- The BOD members also conducted a Brainstorming Session on Desired FIRESCOPE changes which included: Smaller Board meetings, focused agenda, less parochial viewpoints, better issue ID process, translated NIMS into ICS/FS, tap into new talent, market FIRESCOPE, represent respective agencies, open the club, Board member commitment/engage, policy-based agenda with advanced notice, lively discussion, work plan, mechanism to engage Board members, get out of rut, improve all risk forms, ID Board, Ops and TF expectations and who they represent, consider Board sub-groups, Board liaison to Ops/TF, plain text, reconsider format of Board meetings, provide intent and principles for goals/obj. to work groups and allow them to work, enhanced engagement of Ops/TF, provide Ops/TF more direction, more Board support to OES in depth of resources and leadership.
- The BOD members also conducted Summit Expectations and National Items for FIRESCOPE Brainstorming Sessions resulting in a separate list for each.
- ✚ **ACTION: All members were asked to review the handout of the BOD Summit meeting and return comments to Chief Ralston prior to the next BOD meeting on January 10, 2007**
- The CICCIS Committee, headed by Scott Vail, representing FIRESCOPE'S interest, and Bill Holmes, representing CDF's interests, has been reactivated, is on track and headed in the right direction, including addressing all hazard operations. CDF has made it clear that they will not be participating in CICCIS as they will be creating a parallel program or look at the IQS database created in ROSS.

V. NWCG/IOSWT Update – Alworth

- a) Chief Alworth feels that NIMS may take over the training of some existing NWCG ICS courses. It is vital that NWCG and FIRESCOPE stay involved in the transition.
- b) It is time again for the rewrite of the Fireline Handbook
- c) Chief Alworth reported minor changes for aviation typing of Super Tankers and Helitankers to align the standards between FOG and NWCG.
- d) Chief Alworth handed out equipment typing charts that compare FOG, NWCG and FEMA typing standards.

- e) Chief Alworth provided a handout of proposed engine typing standards that simplifies components into TYPE I (Structural), TYPE II (Wildland Interface) and TYPE III (Wildland “Highest Standard”). These standards included required equipment standards such as, mobile pumps, PPE and SCBA. Water Tenders would be classified as “TACTICAL” TYPE I or II, and “NON TACTICAL” TYPE I, II or III.
 - Chief LaPlant offered that as resource typing begins to be influenced nationally by NIMS, our California FOG needs addendums that reference state-specific requirements such as mobile pumps, PPE, etc.
- f) Chief Alworth is looking for input from FIREScope in anticipation of the rewrite of the Fireline Handbook as it is being addressed by the Fire Equipment Working Group.
- g) Chief LaPlant commented that the TF will look toward NIMS typing for the 2010 FOG rewrite as “minimum” standards with the understanding that the CA FOG will include our state-specific requirements by addendum.
- h) Chief Alworth asked if the “Wildland Fire Investigator” position already approved by NWCG should be included in the FOG and 310-1 as we have with Structure Protection Specialist and GIS Specialist.
 - ✚ **ACTION:** The Ops Team recommended to Chief Alworth that “Wildland Fire Investigator” does not need to reside in the FOG. The members expressed the opinion that position descriptions in the FOG should be evaluated only after that position is described in 310- 1, approved by NWCG
 - ✚ **ACTIOIN:** Chief Alworth was directed by the Ops Team to work with the Fire Equipment Working Group to continue to bring order to the equipment typing issues for engines and water tenders keeping simplicity in mind.
- j) Chief Zagaris mentioned the National Typing Committee (DHS,FEMA) is also working on equipment typing and has FIREScope representation from Zagaris, Gage and Dougherty.

VI. Cal Chiefs Operations Section Update – Hickey

- a) All Cal Chiefs Ops Committee officers approved/installed in meeting in Riverside.
- b) Meetings are every two months in the Northern Region. Trying to recruit members for the Southern Region group formation

VII. Ambulance Strike Teams Update - Kelley

- a) No significant changes since July's meeting
- b) Goal is to have ability to move 25 ambulance strike teams up and down the state
- c) State EMSA is establishing an AST Coordinator in each Operational Area
- d) State EMSA received federal funding to purchase AST Vehicles for emergency response
- e) There has been renewed interest in reviving the MMRS (Metropolitan Medical Response System) Teams

✚ **ACTION:** Brian Kelley will follow up with BOD members Zagaris, Freeman and Cherry to get direction for the Task Force

VIII. Election of Operations Team Chair –Ralston

- a) Vice Chair, Del Walter's promotion took him off the Operations Team. He has been replaced by CDF's Brian Zolner
- b) Darrell suggested e-mailing him nominations and conducting a conference call to discuss the nominations
- c) Darrell's position as the Ops Team chair times out in January 2007.

IX. Task Force Report - LaPlant/Drayer

✚ **ACTION:** A draft of the FOG Manual (310-1) will be sent to the BOD in time for review at their January meeting. Tom will burn a CD with the '07 revisions for review by the Ops Team

✚ **ACTION:** Ops Team members to review revisions of FOG as they are produced and return comments to Darrell

- a) WMD, Area Command, Hazmat, Highrise and some new mnemonics are areas that still need some work. April or May is target date for getting FOG's out to the field
- b) Tom distributed handouts of revisions to date
- c) The TF will continue working on revisions at their Nov. and Dec. meetings and forward changed to the Ops Team for reviews and approvals prior to the Jan. 10th BOD meeting.
- d) Bids for printing will take two months

- e) An issue was raised about position codes that need to be created for new positions added to ROSS. California mnemonics position codes are managed by NWCG/IOSWT.

X. Hazard Zone Markings – West

- a) “THREE STRIPES AND YOU’RE OUT” is the slogan being used relative to hazard zone markings. It reflects the three strands of barrier tape used to designate an all hazard life threat hazard zone
- b) Team reviewed the draft “Identification of Life Hazard Zones” developed by the NWCG Safety and Health Specialist Group
- c) The Ops Team supports the draft document

✚ **ACTION: Greg West will request the Safety and Health Specialist Group forward the recommendation to Ralph Alworth c/o the NWCG/IOSWT with a notification to the BOD of our actions.**

XI. Fireline EMT/Paramedic White Paper – Ralston

- a) Darrell reviewed the recommendations listed on the white paper distributed at the BOD meeting
- b) A fifth recommendation was suggested by the Ops Team to coordinate NWCG Safety and Health Specialist Group and the Regional USAR Task Force to compare the position description being developed with the position description already developed for the USAR Medic position.

✚ **ACTION: Darrell will give recommendation #1, “Develop FIRESCOPE position description for Fireline Medic,” to his EMS Battalion Chief to draft a position description based on existing Fireline EMT description**

XII. I-620 vs. Area Command – Ralston

- a) Darrell discussed the BOD’S request that the Ops Team look at access to the I-620 training curriculum and compare it with the description of Area Command. The IMS Consortium’s Website has documents thoroughly describing Area Command.

XIII. Miscellaneous Information – All

- a) The next Operations Team meeting is confirmed on February 1-2, 2007 at the Shore Cliff Lodge in Shell Beach, immediately following the Task Force meetings.
- b) Andy Anderson’s retirement was scheduled in Quincy, CA on November 11, 2006. The group donated to send Andy and his wife on a train trip to

Colorado. This gesture was to be arranged and financed by Jack Hickey. Jack will be reimbursed by the Ops Team members. Ralph Domanski donated a FIRESCOPE coffee mug for the occasion.

- c) Tom Drayer informed the group on the availability of FIRESCOPE polo shirts with our logo from HOT THREADS. Tom distributed a handout with the information.

XIV. Round Table – All

- a) OES – Drayer: Referred to BOD OES Director’s report. Engine procurement moving ahead. OES wants to promote ROSS training to local government. They are now attending on the agency’s dime @ \$300 per head for tuition. Four vacancies still exist.
- b) USFS – Domanski: Thanked all participating agencies for their help on the Day Fire. North Ops position vacant. Many vacancies still exist region wide. Keeping aircraft on for now using \$7 million on severity funding. Two helitankers on through Oct. 7 heavy air tankers on in So. Cal through Dec. 5 heavy air tankers on in Nor Cal through Dec. 2 type II helicopters on through Dec.
- c) LAC – John Tripp: Two new 412’s added to fleet for total of 8 helicopters. Added a Type I crew this year with availability state wide. Ordering 96 KME Engines, 8 Tiller Quints and 21 crew carriers to beat the Jan. ’07 diesel emissions standards. Two new stations being constructed.
- d) SBC – Schmitt: Purchasing 8 new KME Type I Engines prior to Jan ’07 emissions stds. Deadline. Hope to have a redundant Fire/EMS dispatch incorporated into a proposed \$7 million EOC possibly located at the Santa Ynez airport.
- e) LFD – West: DROP Program is ending and causing the retirement of approx. 600 personnel. Dept. is hiring 45 firefighters every 17days.
- f) N. Volunteer Depts. – Little: Had opportunity to get out on most of the significant incidents this season. Currently having issues maintaining ALS services in the region.
- g) CDF – Alworth: Still looking for a replacement for Bill Plough who recently retired from South Ops and ROSS liaison. Reorganization has created two regions, CNR/CSR. Succession is still a big problem. Criminal charges filed against a Riverside Engineer for the ejection death of his firefighter. OV-10 crash is still under investigation.
- h) Mariposa (MPA) Middleton: Hy 140 still impacted by landslide with temp bridge. Four new Type 4 Engines by next fire season. Dec. 3rd is Blain Shultz’s going away party in Mariposa.

- i) VNC – Ralston: Flood impacts in the Santa Clara River Drainage due to Day Fire are a major concern.
- j) Davis FD – Hickey: Also ordering rolling stock to beat the '07 deadline. Had some major wind events in area that made controlling some fires a significant challenge.

**NOTE: Please contact Darrell Ralston @ 805.377
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805.681.5533/mark.schmitt@sbcfire.com with changes, additions or
deletions to these minutes**