

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING OF JUNE 1, 1988
OES SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

John W. Englund, Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department
Don Manning, 1st Vice Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department
R.G. Barrows, Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Loren Pettis, Chief - Montclair Fire Department
Larry Holms, Chief - Orange County Fire Department
Rich Peterson, Chief - Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Randy Coggan, Chief - Ventura County Fire Protection District
Kenton Clark, Asst. Regional Forester, A&FM - U.S. Forest Service
Dick Day, Deputy Director - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

William Maxfield, 2nd Vice Chairman - Chief, Contra Costa CCFD
Ray Charles, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department
Ken Brown, Chief - Rio Linda Elverta Fire Protection District
Jim Brannon, Chief - Linda Fire Protection District
James McMullen - State Fire Marshal
Chris Cameron - National Park Service
Pat Kidder - U.S. Department of Interior

SPECIAL ADVISORS PRESENT

Harry Steimer - California State Firemen's Association

SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT

Brian Hatch - California Professional Fire Fighters

OTHERS PRESENT

William Imboden, CDF Region I - Mutual Aid Region II
Michael Dacy, Chief - Rancho Cordova FPD - Mutual Aid Region IV
Bill Teie - Calif. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection
Richard Wilson, Deputy Chief - Ventura County Fire Protection District
Andy Anderson, Chief - Quincy Fire Department
Stan Lake - Calif. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection
R. Blair Springer - Senator William Campbell's Office
Bill Medigovich, Director - OES

OTHERS PRESENT (Cont'd)

Don Irwin, Deputy Director - OES
John Passerello, Asst. Director Response and Recovery - OES
John Eastman, Budget Officer - OES
Dick Starr, Asst. Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Will Brock, Asst. Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Kim Zagaris, Asst. Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Rich Aronson, Asst. Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division
Dianne Wirth - OES Fire and Rescue Division

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Englund called the meeting to order at 0930 hours. Self-introductions were made, and Chief Randy Coggan, Ventura County FPD, was welcomed as a member, replacing Chief Wes Kilcrease.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

At the request of John Passerello, the March 3, 1988 minutes were corrected as follows:

Page 6, bottom paragraph should read: "John Passerello stated that wording needs to be removed from current legislation and that OES would put forth an Issue Paper for submittal to the Governor's Office."

IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MANNING, SECONDED BY CHIEF HOLMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 1988 MEETING AS CORRECTED.

FIRESCOPE 5-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Operations Team North - Stan Lake reported 100% attendance and enthusiasm at the recent Operations Team North meeting in Sacramento (May 18). He distributed copies of the minutes and reviewed discussion topics such as conducting a pilot seminar in one mutual aid region for the purpose of familiarizing local emergency services officials with the duties and responsibilities of Region and Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinators.

Operations Team South - On May 25, the Operations Team South met at L.A. County Camp 2. The essence of discussion at both Operations Teams meetings surrounded the FIRESCOPE 5-Year Implementation Plan, and an April 25, 1988 letter to Chairman Englund from OES Director Bill Medigovich regarding acceptance of the Plan in its entirety. Both Operations Teams feel the Plan should not be fragmented, and directed a letter to Chairman Englund on May 26, 1988, reaffirming unanimous support for the concepts expressed in the Five Year Plan and requesting the Advisory Committee examine their concerns at today's meeting.

Stan Lake mentioned the July 14-15 joint Operations Teams meeting to be held in Quincy, and extended an invitation to Committee members. Andy Anderson reported Senators Campbell and Doolittle, and Assemblyman Statham will be in attendance. Also, Mike Scherr will make a presentation on ICS.

Blair Springer also attended the Operations Team South meeting. With reference to legislation for the FIRESCOPE 5-Year Plan, he stated his previous comments were interpreted by OES that Senator Campbell would not support legislation unless it was supported by the Administration. His intent was that it would be helpful if OES would assume leadership in support, and provide some direction and guidance to Administration.

The Senator feels since FIRESCOPE has been in existence since 1972, it deserves at least review at legislative level. Although it would be helpful to have OES and Administration support, Senator Campbell will still proceed with implementing legislation and will move ahead with the 5-Year Plan. He will be working with both Operations Teams and this Committee to develop strategies.

Chairman Englund introduced OES Director Bill Medigovich, who thanked both Operations Teams for their efforts to date. He explained his comments regarding the 5-Year Plan were due to its lack of specificity. Apparently his comments were misconstrued, and some considered him to be an obstructionist to the progress and implementation of the Plan.

Mr. Medigovich pledged to move forward with the Plan whether as part of the OES budget or through legislation.

With reference to his comments to work with other local and state agencies to share some FIRESCOPE programs, Mr. Medigovich does not intend to damage the integrity of the Program or cannibalize its elements (i.e., mapping program). His intent is to enhance the program, not take away from the fire service.

Mr. Medigovich introduced John Eastman, OES Budget Officer, who described what is needed to go through the budget process; i.e., exact numbers, what is the impact, is this a duplication of effort, etc. OES can support the program, but Administration will have to address it fiscally.

Mr. Medigovich expressed concern over the 5-Year Plan Policy Statement regarding expanding FIRESCOPE nationwide. Chairman Englund stated Program expansion statewide is intended for the California Fire Service. There is no reference in the 5-Year Plan to nationwide expansion. The products should be finished and systems in place to better serve the California Fire Service. The Program could have future potential to assist the fire services nationally, but at present we are only concerned with improving the response capabilities of the California Fire Service. Mr. Kenton Clark agreed that observations of the Program in California would provide a model for all-risk emergency management and its potential to expand nationwide.

Blair Springer interjected the 5-Year plan was a concept with perceived dollar figures to serve as a picture of where we want the Program to go. He feels the first step to achieve success is a public policy statement of acceptance of the Program statewide, to include:

- * Why FIRESCOPE was developed
- * What it does
- * Why does the fire service want it
- * What are the benefits to locals
- * What are the benefits to the state

Mr. Springer feels the cost factors contained in the 5-Year Plan detracted from its intent -- everyone looked at the money.

Chairman Englund requested both Operations Teams, CDF, USFS and State Fire Marshal representatives work with OES staff to clarify the Policy and Concept statement for the 5-Year Plan.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the FIREScope Program and its elements as a single entity. Chairman Englund interjected statewide acceptance and support are needed to 1) maintain the system; 2) provide products; and 3) finish the program -- since 1972, this support has not existed.

Mr. Medigovich noted that in the past, OES has been a neutral agency. Perhaps he should look into the possibility of obtaining funds from other agencies (i.e., CDF, State Fire Marshal) to support the Program. Chairman Englund does not want agencies to associate acceptance of the 5-Year Plan with cuts to their budget. The dollars can be worked out; what is needed now is total acceptance to move ahead with the program.

Mr. Medigovich emphatically stated "We are going to do it -- FIREScope will go on." He will put together a group to work with both Operations Teams.

Blair Springer asked Mr. Medigovich if he could say that OES wants to move this program forward. Mr. Medigovich answered yes. Mr. Springer then asked Mr. Medigovich if he could work with him as far as assistance in going through the legislative process. Mr. Medigovich answered yes.

ICS Training - Chairman Englund reiterated the importance of Regions and Areas contacting local entities for the purpose of ICS training. Also, the importance of using SBFS-approved training documents.

Mr. Medigovich recently had a meeting of the working sub-committee of the Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Council to look at ICS model for other agencies and to address their concerns. They are attempting to address ICS as a policy/philosophy rather than an operational plan.

Chief Peterson mentioned his recent letter to Governor Deukmejian. The intent was not to take on OES, but to reflect frustration in the slowness of implementing ICS.

Chairman Englund mentioned the proclamation of the Governor of Colorado adopting ICS statewide. He feels this should have been the case with California. Mr. Medigovich stated that even though the Colorado governor made this proclamation, not all counties are using ICS. He feels a proclamation is not needed -- the way ICS is being implemented now is working; not quickly, but preferable to mandating its adoption. He further stated it is not within the Governor's nature to mandate programs like ICS. He would rather have agencies accept it on their own. Also, don't impose a program on state government if local government has not initiated it at their level. Chairman Englund reminded Mr. Medigovich of this Committee's recommendation request to include ICS in multi-hazard planning guidance, citing there are many local entities without such plans who will use this document -- ICS should be incorporated in the planning guidance.

Chief Holms asked Mr. Medigovich to become more visible in his role as leader of emergency preparedness and coordination for the state.

Chief Peterson requested/suggested a statement from the Governor advocating the adoption and use of ICS rather than a mandate. Mr. Medigovich answered he will look into it.

FIRESCOPE ORIENTATION VIDEO

Chief Barrows provided an update on efforts to date. He feels the project cannot be completed until a position on FIRESCOPE is established with OES and the state. General discussion ensued regarding grant funding from FEMA, other sources of funding, and the paperwork and administrative charges involved in spending grant money.

REVISED FIRE SERVICE AND RESCUE MUTUAL AID PLAN

A copy of the final draft of the above document was distributed to Committee members. Chairman Englund asked members to review the draft and submit their comments in writing to Chief Barrows no later than June 30, 1988 so the final document can be prepared by the next meeting (September).

Chief Barrows highlighted the most significant changes to the document, and suggested establishing a periodic review process to keep the plan current.

DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - SB-1095

Chairman Englund introduced Charles Wynne, Chief of Disaster Assistance Division, who distributed and reviewed draft instructions for financial assistance to local agencies from the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account. These draft regulations have been sent to the Department of Finance and the law enforcement community for their comments, and comments from this Committee are also requested.

Chairman Englund referenced the new forms included in the package of draft regulations. He mentioned the OES Form F-42 as an attempt to standardize emergency activity reporting. He would like to simplify the paperwork process as much as possible.

Extensive discussion followed regarding forms and paperwork, and training of agencies who may use the forms to request financial assistance. Mr. Wynne requested all comments/concerns be submitted in writing to his office.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OES Assistant Director John Passerello briefed the Committee on the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and their efforts to use California as a West Coast response corridor for disaster assistance operations in Mexico, Central America, North and South America.

After some discussion, Chairman Englund stated if this will involve California's mutual aid system, the matter should be brought to the attention of this Committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Linda Tonai reviewed the contents of the May 27, 1988 legislative update.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Chief Don Manning presented a video tape prepared by First Interstate Bank of the recent high-rise fire in the 62-story facility. The video included footage of the fire as well as pre-suppression, management and post-emergency operations.

OLD BUSINESS

September 1987 reimbursement - Asst. Chief Dick Starr reports all invoices submitted to OES have been processed and forwarded to the appropriate Forest Agency for payment.

Senate Bills 1095 and 1568 - Chairman Englund asked about this Committee's previous request to Senator Campbell to expand the concept of mutual aid reimbursement to support operations during local proclaimed emergencies. Blair Springer replied the bill states that assistance is available when it is in the best interest of state and local government. Mr. Passerello reported no changes are proposed.

Ryland Research Meeting - Since the 5-Year plan has been initially completed, it was agreed such a meeting is unnecessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Barrows announced he postponed his retirement from June 1, 1988 to December 31, 1988.

NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 1988, in Sacramento. Exact location and agenda are forthcoming.

CLOSING REMARKS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.