

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

**MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1988 - OES SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS**

**M I N U T E S   O F   M E E T I N G**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

John W. Englund, Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Don Manning, 1st Vice Chairman - Chief, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
William Maxfield, 2nd Vice Chairman - Chief, Contra Costa CCFD  
R.G. Barrows, Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Ken Brown, Chief - Rio Linda-Elverta Fire Protection District  
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  
Jim Brannon, Chief - Linda Fire Protection District  
James McMullen - State Fire Marshal  
Chris Cameron - National Park Service  
Pat Kidder - U.S. Department of Interior  
Kenton Clark, Asst. Regional Forester, A&FM - U.S. Forest Service  
Bill Teie for Dick Day, Deputy Director - California Department of Forestry  
and Fire Protection

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ray Charles, Chief - Sacramento City Fire Department

**SPECIAL ADVISORS ABSENT**

Brian Hatch - California Professional Fire Fighters  
Harry Steimer - California State Firemen's Association

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bill Hoehman - CDF Region II - Mutual Aid Region III  
Merrill McMurray - Rancho Cordova FPD - Mutual Aid Region IV  
Stan Lake - Calif. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Gary Selig - CDF - Davis Equipment Facility  
William Zeason - Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Martin Barrows - U.S. Forest Service, South Zone  
R. Blair Springer - Senator William Campbell's Office  
Kathy Keefer - Senator John Doolittle's Office  
Dave Breninger - City of Grass Valley  
Corey Smith - Grass Valley Fire Department  
Don Irwin, Deputy Director - OES  
John Passerello, Asst. Director Response and Recovery - OES  
Bill Wirth, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Mike Scherr, Deputy Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Dick Starr, Asst. Chief - OES Fire and Rescue Division  
Will Brock, 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 0915 hours, welcoming members and introducing guests from Senator Doolittle's Office and the City of Grass Valley.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MANNING, SECONDED BY CHIEF PETERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 1988 MEETING.

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## REIMBURSEMENT - VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Before introducing David Breninger, City Administrator for Grass Valley, Chief Barrows briefly reviewed the problem experienced with Grass Valley and a meeting which ensued in Senator Doolittle's Office regarding payment to volunteer fire fighters.

Mr. Breninger then explained that when reimbursement is provided to the local department for volunteer firefighters, the agency incurs additional costs for the employer's contributions to unemployment insurance, worker's compensation, and employer's share of FICA. Reimbursement to the City of Grass Valley Fire Department for the 1987 fire siege resulted in additional "employer" costs of \$5,615.49.

Grass Valley feels an exception should be made by the State to these mandated contributions when volunteers are involved wherein the requirement is waived. If not, the extra costs incurred should be reimbursed back to the local agency by the State.

Chief Barrows read an internal policy for reimbursement which was adopted in 1985 by Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department. General discussion ensued with the consensus that the State cannot establish policy for employer/employee relationships.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MAXFIELD, SECONDED BY CHIEF BROWN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THIS MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE REIMBURSEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES RATHER THAN SET POLICY.

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## FIRE SERVICE AND RESCUE EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID PLAN

The final draft Plan was distributed to members, with Chairman Englund noting that all changes and suggestions submitted were reviewed, considered, and incorporated into the Plan.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF BRANNON, SECONDED BY CHIEF MCMULLEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADOPT THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE AND RESCUE EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID PLAN WITH MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE OES DIRECTOR. THESE CHANGES WILL NOT ALTER THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DOCUMENT.

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#### FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAMS - JOINT MEETING OF JULY 14-15, 1988

Chairman Englund reported the joint meeting was well-attended, not only by members of the Operations Teams and this Committee, but by representatives of city and county government. Also, Senator's Doolittle and Campbell attended.

He observed no separation between North and South on the issues of concern, and the legislative members present showed enthusiasm and willingness to assist California fire services in promoting the FIRESCOPE Program.

Stan Lake stated a follow-up meeting was held to move forward with legislation to implement the FIRESCOPE Program. A meeting was also held with OES Director Medigovich, State Fire Marshal McMullen, and CDF Director Partain wherein it was agreed these directors should go forward to the Governor's Office to show united support for the FIRESCOPE Program to move forward through the legislative process.

Chairman Englund, on behalf of this Committee, will send a letter of appreciation to Chief Andy Anderson for his efforts in making the arrangements for the joint meeting.

#### FIRESCOPE 5-YEAR PLAN

##### State Sub-Committee Report

OES Asst. Director John Passerello reported on the August 4, 1988 sub-committee meeting. Members of the sub-committee agreed the legislative process is the best method for obtaining funding for FIRESCOPE implementation. It was also agreed the three directors (OES/CDF/SFM) would prepare an issue paper for presentation to the Governor before the first of next year. OES will prepare the draft paper for review by CDF and SFM. Chairman Englund directed Operations Teams North and South meet with Blair Springer as soon as possible to prepare a legislative outline of a bill, to be presented to the three members of the State Sub-Committee for their use in preparing the issue paper. Stan Lake agreed to schedule the meeting.

Blair Springer interjected that Senator Campbell would like to hold a hearing on FIRESCOPE as a prelude to introducing legislation. Draft legislation will be available for review at the hearing, which will be conducted in November. The Senator would like to submit a bill on the first possible day in December, 1988. This will allow for early review and a policy hearing as early as January 1989.

Chairman Englund requested the issue paper prepared by the State Sub-Committee be made available to this Committee before Senator Campbell's November hearing. Mr. Passerello concurred.

Chairman Englund directed the FIREScope Sub-Committee set a meeting in October for the purpose of preparing a policy statement to be completed prior to Senator Campbell's hearing in November. Further, Operations Teams North and South are to work with Blair Springer on preparing draft legislation.

Discussion ensued regarding the best location (north or south) for a hearing, and the importance of contacting all elements of the fire service for their attendance and support at the hearing. Chairman Englund stated the State Board of Fire Services, State Board of Forestry and So. California Watershed Fire Council are among several fire service entities which should be advised of the hearing.

#### OCC FACILITY NEEDS

Chief Barrows explained the space problems currently existing at the facility housing the FIREScope OCC which must be resolved as soon as possible. Extensive discussion ensued regarding plans for a potential State Southern California EOC. Since this project is nowhere in the near future. Kenton Clark stated that OES, CDF and USFS can resolve short-term space needs, but the role of this Committee would be to reaffirm the need for and concept of the OCC/MACS facility.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF HOLMS, SECONDED BY CHIEF MAXFIELD AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO REAFFIRM THE NEED FOR THE FIREScope OCC/MACS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, WITH COOPERATION FROM OES, CDF AND USFS.

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#### ASSEMBLY BILL 1284 - REPORT

OES Consultant, Chuck Hill, distributed draft regulations and the Statement of Reasons to Committee members. He recapped the intent of the legislation and efforts to date. The draft regulations have been submitted to the Office of Administrative Law with two revisions proposed by OES, but opposed by the AB-1284 Sub-Committee. He now presents the two revisions/exceptions to the draft regulations to this Committee for their consideration and disposition.

1. Section 2820(h) - This proposed exception to the application process allows a local agency to receive a resale contract without filing an application, provided the agency meets the criteria set forth in the regulation (i.e., a department with only one fire engine loses the engine through uncontrollable circumstances).

Discussion ensued with consensus agreement that these instances will be infrequent.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MAXFIELD, SECONDED BY CHIEF HOLMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO INCLUDE THE EXCEPTION IN SECTION 2820(h) OF THE FINAL REGULATIONS.

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2. Section 2835(c) - This proposed regulation allows a local agency to defer up to 50% of the downpayment required for a maximum of 30 days. Transfer of the vehicle is subject to satisfaction of the deferred balance.

Again, it was generally agreed these instances would be infrequent.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MAXFIELD, SECONDED BY CHIEF BROWN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO INCLUDE THE EXCEPTION IN SECTION 2835(c) OF THE FINAL REGULATIONS.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF BROWN, SECONDED BY CHIEF MAXFIELD AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADOPT THE DRAFT REGULATIONS WITH THE TWO EXCEPTIONS NOTED ABOVE.

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Chief Coggan questioned the exclusion of breathing apparatus, stating it is standard fire engine equipment. Bill Wirth replied that since AB-1284 deals in used equipment, breathing apparatus was specifically excluded because of safety standards and liability.

Chuck Hill advised that any substantive changes to the regulations will be brought before this Committee.

Chairman Englund commended the Sub-Committee and OES staff for their efforts in producing the draft regulations.

#### **SUB-COMMITTEE TO REVIEW FIRE AND RESCUE DIVISION EQUIPMENT NEEDS**

Chief Barrows requested Chief Englund establish a sub-committee to examine all OES-owned apparatus and equipment (engines, heavy rescue/fire units, SHARPS unit, aluminum pipe, communications units, etc.). He explained the intent of OES is to provide equipment which is not normally found in all departments (i.e.: aluminum pipe, heavy rescue vehicles). Criteria is needed on which to base justifications for future budget requests.

After some discussion, it was agreed Chairman Englund will appoint a sub-committee to submit recommendations as to what should be provided on OES-owned equipment.

#### **NFPA 1500 COMMITTEE - ICS**

Chairman Englund provided a brief synopsis of NFPA 1500, Chapter 6, which states, in part, that "...an Incident Command System shall be established..." Chief Englund sent letters to NFPA and the National Wildfire Coordinating Council, questioning the need to create this system when FIRESCOPE ICS is a proven system, and already in place. To date, he has not received a reply from these letters.

Chief Zeason attended a NFPA Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health Committee meeting in San Diego on August 11 and 12, 1988. The purpose of the



meeting was to receive input from West Coast departments relating to Incident Command Systems within the fire service. Unanimous consensus was that FIREScope ICS is proven and in place, and that NFPA is basically reinventing the wheel.

NFPA argued that FIREScope ICS wouldn't be accepted on the East Coast because it is a West Coast product, for wildland incidents. Further, that the East Coast has its own "philosophy." Chief Zeason explained in detail that FIREScope ICS is an all-risk system; but felt "they listened, but didn't hear."

Martin Barrows attended a follow-up meeting on the East Coast, stating that Chief Englund's letters were presented at the meeting, and they were somewhat shocked. Apparently NFPA felt that by meeting in San Diego, they had fulfilled their requirement to obtain input from the West Coast.

It was decided the NFPA document will not be called ICS. Rather, it will be a Fireground Management System of an organization -- generically -- to cover command operations, logistics and finance in the text of fireman safety and welfare. Nothing which conflicts with FIREScope ICS will be written in the standard, and pure ICS will become an appendix to the document.

Chief Coggan has attended NFPA meetings in Washington, D.C. to express his concerns, but felt it made no difference.

Another meeting is scheduled for October 3 and 4, 1988 in San Diego to review the revised document.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MANNING, SECONDED BY CHIEF HOLMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THIS COMMITTEE QUESTION THE NEED FOR NFPA TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER STANDARD RATHER THAN SUPPORT THE TIME-PROVEN ICS DEVELOPED BY THE FIREScope PROGRAM, AND BEING USED NATIONALLY; AND THAT APPROPRIATE FIRE SERVICE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS BE CONTACTED AND URGED TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION.

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#### 1987 FIRES - REIMBURSEMENT

Dick Starr reported the majority of claims submitted for last year's fire siege have been paid. He described some minor problems with processing, but stated the most serious problems are errors on the Form 42's received from the field, delayed payments from the forest agency, and excessive time required by OES staff in follow up.

In an effort to resolve some of these problems in the future, OES has been conducting strike team leader training which includes proper completion of the Form 42. Also, Dick Starr has been working with forest agency finance officials in creating an invoice tracking system. Also, the computerized invoice program is being adjusted and fine tuned as necessary.

#### OUT OF STATE ASSISTANCE - YELLOWSTONE

Chief Barrows reviewed the events leading up to the request for OES engines by BIFC through the Governor of Montana. Sixteen departments were surveyed as to

whether they would go, and how they wanted to be reimbursed. All 16 agreed they would go, and the majority felt reimbursement must be full cost. A cost factor of approximately \$20,000 per day per strike team was relayed to the National Park Service, to which they replied, "It's a go." The engines are now deployed near Yellowstone Lake (in Wyoming).

Since this instance will help set precedence for future, Chief Barrows asked for input and possibly guidelines for sending personnel and equipment out of state.

Extensive discussion ensued with the Committee agreeing these circumstances should be dealt with on a special basis. It would be difficult to establish procedures for out of state response, except that such response would be on the basis that reimbursement will be reciprocal.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIR REPLACEMENT

With the upcoming retirement of Chairman Englund, Chief Manning thanked him for his outstanding leadership during his tenure as Chairman. He suggested waiting until the L.A. County Fire Department Chief position is filled before selecting a new Committee chair.

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IT WAS MOVED BY CHIEF MANNING, SECONDED BY CHIEF MAXFIELD AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO DELAY RECOMMENDATION OF A COMMITTEE CHAIR REPLACEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE L.A. CO. F.D. CHIEF VACANCY HAS BEEN FILLED.

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#### NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Committee meeting is December 7, 1988, at OES Headquarters.