

FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE MEETING

Radisson Hotel Sacramento

500 Leisure Lane

Sacramento, CA 95815

September 24, 2002

Members in Attendance:

Jon Olney – Kern County

Ralph Domanski - USFS

Alton McMillon – City of Sacramento

Greg West – Los Angeles Fire Department

Marv Moneymaker - Santa Barbara County

Tim Fike – Nevada County

Bob Praytor - OES

Bill Plough - CDF

Neil Honeycutt - OES

Steve Hutchison – CDF/SFM

Dave Stone – Los Angeles County

Jean Colyer - OES

Members Absent:

Mike La Plant – Ventura County

Mike Colgan – Orange County

Hal Chase – Santa Clara County

Meeting called to order 9:00 am

We welcomed new member Dave Stone, who will be taking Tony Marrone's place.

Add to agenda:

- Review of Joint Ops Minutes
- BOD minutes
- Annual Team Update,
- Letter from Teresa Romero address two different types of Form-226
- Strike Team Concept
- Marketing FIRESCOPE Products
- Report to the Board
- Plan of Work 2002

Minutes approved with corrections to:

Page 2 - Second paragraph strike first sentence.

Weather Specialist Group - Plough

Dry lightning definition. The Weather Specialist Group submitted a letter from the group addressing getting some type of uniformity in the prediction of a dry lightning event.

The definition would read:

Dry lightning event: A thunderstorm event that is not accompanied by enough precipitation to significantly wet the fuels.

Should this be taken to the operation person in each individual department? Should we take this to the Ops Team for input? Should this be added to the glossary in the 209?

Ralph Domanski – When they forecast, there are some criteria differences in the forecast that is different from the north and south.

Should we add the significant precipitation as defined as ranging from \geq ? The matrix is a little much for many in the field. All they want is the forecast.

Weather Station Standards – NWCG PMS 426/3 May 2000 - Bill Plough

The issue of maintenance to the weather stations went to CWCG. The lack of maintenance will cause them to give faulting readings. It is a rather lengthy document and would like tabled until the next meeting. They are only looking for the support of FIREScope. All weather stations are not federal station.

Action Item - A letter from the Task Force to the Board asking them to support consistent maintenance of weather stations. Put this on Ops Team as a need to support. PMS 426-3.

Weather Group will be meeting in Reno, October 22 & 23. Bill will be at the meeting and unable to attend the next Task Force meeting. They received a grant from the Desert Research Institute for a new computer system. This computer system will be for the new MM5 program and will reside at the California Desert Research Institute.

IT SPECIALIST GROUP & Web Site Maintenance – Bob Praytor

I had a meeting with the group to discuss the issues about getting the FIREScope web page a lot more dynamic than it is currently. Due to the lack luster of the current web page, we are receiving funds from the USFS to maintain a server for FIREScope. Maybe we could have some chat room ability on the web page. This will bring us into compliance with the mission statement. As a way to garner support, this needs to go to the Ops Team and the BOD.

Plough - The group has not met since last year regarding the issues of cooperation between IT and FIREScope. We would like to get the group re-established and occupied with people who are FIREScope savvy. There is the need to develop a plan for what we want because we are the keepers of the FIREScope web page.

We need something to go to the Ops Team. The goal is to get back to the way things were.

ICS 209 REVISIONS- Bill Plough

This is the time of year that we are accessing all the suggested changes that came throughout the year. Every single GACC in the United States is using this ICS 209.

We had a conference call with all the coordinators nationwide to discuss the slated changes.

Programming changes are basically time and money based. The programmer can only work so many hours, based on the dollars funded for the ICS 209 project.

Block 4 – Incident Number – This will make it user friendly. It will break it up by State, Unit, and Number in individual boxes.

Block 11 – State and Unit block will be the same format as Block 4.

Block 6 – Type of Incident – The new version (wf- wildland fire) will spell out what each abbreviation stands for and will pop up on the screen.

Block 31 – Resources pull down on agency type.

Verbiage boxes will bring up user guide info that is specific to the block location needed.

Most of the complaints are from those in the field. There is a communication problem, especially with finding a decent phone. Many believe it is the FAM Website, but is mostly with your IP provider.

Out of the 11 GACC's, we got five people to get on base with us. We wanted to have all the 2002 data in one acceptable format and not have to be changed to another format. We will have space on another server that will house identical program as the data site. This will be seamless to the user and it will not have to be converted at all. Each GACC will be the same for each year. There is also a proposal to enter all past fires since the inception of the 209. There are as some changes that have been recommended, and these will be address at the meeting in Maine with NWCG.

Add three more verbiage blocks: Describe the community affected and how are you going to use critical resources you requested in Block 37? This is information that the National MAC would like to have you justify the assignment of resources.

Domanski – This is very important when in preparedness level five. We have to sell it in the weekly report. They also ask how long is your incident going to last. The current timeline is 24, 48, and 72 hours because it is ingrained into the FMAG process. In California, they are suggesting 12, 24, and 48 hours.

Marketing of FIREScope Products -

Marketing FIREScope products – Why isn't FIREScope reaping the benefits from products developed. The State Fire Marshal adapts these products and they issue

certificates for the classes taught by a State Fire Marshal instructor. With the idea of getting the FIREScope name better known, we should be do this through FIREScope and receive the revenue for the programs to further our mission. This could be a way for us to become self-sufficient

Once courses are developed and turned over to State Fire Training, they no longer belong to FIREScope. We incur all the cost of developing the product, which they do not contribute to but they reap all the financial revenue.

You do not need State Fire Marshal to endorse our training in Forest Service. Our certificates say FIREScope.

The reason for having State Fire Marshal Training is that they are perceived as a disinterested third party. If there was some way to control of the curriculum and the fees, but due to the staffing issues this seems to be a drawback. With the issue of staff, maybe local university students could be an option for supporting the program.

If the person is qualified to be an instructor, does it make the person less able to teach the class if they are not listed in the State Fire Training database? In the courses that were developed earlier, it states in the preface that the courses can be ordered from the OCC.

Every time someone takes a course, that money goes into the fee-based budget of State Fire Training under California Fire and Arson Training (CFAT).

The Fire Line EMT course is one of the most requested courses. At least 100 requests came through South Ops alone this last year.

Many local agencies are not able to afford the cost of supplying cadre members. This leaves the state and federal agencies being the only one to supply personnel that can be on the cadres. The local governments that send their personnel to assist in the development of the curriculum cannot afford to send personnel to work on the specialist working groups. Many quality participants have been unable to attend because of travel and per diem costs. There should be some way to fund these types of support programs.

Action Item - Put on the October agenda for the Task Force – Let us look at a way to maintain ownership and control of the economic end of the curriculum that we develop.

Can we have a proposal prepared for the JOT in January? We will have to present this in a formal package, with options on marketing FIREScope.