

STATEMENT OF INTENT
PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT OF FIRESCOPE PROGRAM
CALIF. DEPT. OF FORESTRY, STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE, OES

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this document to assure that ongoing research and development activities of the FIRESCOPE Program continue to generate planned program elements; and modify as necessary, established policies to the point that implementation of Program segments may occur as planned. To this extent, this statement of intent affirms the desire of the

California Department of Forestry,
Office of the State Fire Marshal, and
Office of Emergency Services

to mutually encourage utilization of state resources and funding in support of the FIRESCOPE Program.

RATIONALE

The FIRESCOPE Program, from its inception, offered the fire service of the State of California an opportunity to plan cooperatively an improved system for multi-agency/multi-incident resource utilization, and the promise of an ability to effectively manage major emergency operations with significant reduction in emergency fire expenditures.

The research and development phases of the program have defined the concept and functional requirements for

1. An Incident Command System (ICS) which applies the functions of command, suppression and rescue, planning, logistics and finance elements uniformly to any emergency.
2. A Multi-agency Coordination System (MACS) to ensure a commonality of terminology and procedures facilitating management, utilization and status-keeping of resources; maintenance of the common ICS organization; and development of standards and checklists which are uniform and predictable.
3. An Operations Coordination Center (OCC) which, when fully functioning, will have the capability to provide major assistance to fire protection agencies in regional resource planning and allocation and in support of major individual or multiple incidents.

Experience shows that management of emergencies is becoming increasingly more complex and can be magnified by the basic differences in the agencies involved. The need to reduce this complexity grows more important because budgets, resources and manpower remain static or are declining.

COPY

Recent experience has demonstrated that the various elements of the FIREScope Program designed to strengthen command and control of major incidents, coordinate utilization of limited and costly response forces, and utilize a common incident management framework do, in fact, provide the ability to achieve desired fire service goals. It is now apparent that the FIREScope concepts may be applied to fire emergency operations nationwide and to federal, state and local government response to natural or man-caused disasters other than fire.

CURRENT STATUS

To reach this point, the FIREScope partner agencies have committed administrative support, operational support personnel, equipment and other resources to ICS, MACS and OCC. Significant expenditures have been required to fulfill these commitments and will necessarily continue to be required to develop full operational system capabilities which will include dynamic supporting information systems, such as

- Regional data bases
- Regional resource status
- Regional situation assessment
- Information transfer
- Data processing including planning aids
- Common mapping products.

Because of the inter-related nature of these supporting systems, it is most efficient that the day-to-day input and maintenance be accomplished by a single entity. The FIREScope partner agencies have executed a formal statement of intent which charges the Fire and Rescue Division of the California Office of Emergency Services with this responsibility. Such continuing support of the FIREScope Program at the existing level of activity and escalation of efforts to meet projected future expansion of the project will require dedication of additional personnel, resources and financial expenditure.

COST BENEFIT

The fiscal premises of the FIREScope Program indicate that despite the rising costs of public protection services brought about by a galloping inflation and unrelenting rural/urban population growth, the acceptance and implementation of FIREScope concepts and techniques will permit emergency management organizations to meet their responsibilities more efficiently. Although the cost of providing these services cannot be reduced, it will increase at a lesser rate than would otherwise be expected.

Now in the third year of implementation, the Program is already yielding benefits in the form of reduced urban/wildland fire suppression cost and resource loss. Current projections indicate that such emergency fire

expenditure savings will exceed costs significantly over the next two decades. Throughout California and in other states there is demonstrated interest in the FIREScope Program. Implementation of the Program, as it is projected for expansion and improvement, offers an exceptional opportunity for California to serve as an outstanding example to the rest of the nation.

ACTION

The potential value of the FIREScope Program to the State of California, with respect to increased operational capabilities and cost benefit, dictates that the major state fire protection and suppression agencies fully commit themselves to the full accomplishment of program goals. Specifically, the California Department of Forestry, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Office of Emergency Services may utilize existing personnel and funding to

- Participate actively in further research, development and implementation of the FIREScope Program.
- Train and educate their personnel in the concepts and philosophies of commonality inherent in the ICS, MACS and OCC.
- Include such indoctrination in public education programs.

It should also be understood that the projected magnitude of FIREScope operational capabilities and sphere of influence may require more formal and extensive commitments. In this regard, the major state agencies may

- Find it beneficial to their mission and/or the goals of the FIREScope Program to dedicate additional personnel and resources to specific areas of development or implementation of the FIREScope Program.
- Provide enthusiastic support and assistance to expansion of MACS/OCC capabilities.
- Foster and assist with the application of FIREScope principles and procedures throughout the State of California.
- Modify existing planning and/or generate contingency plans to include utilization of the ICS organization, the MACS principles and the facility and resources of the OCC in the management of incidents involving hazardous materials, seismic disturbances and nuclear accident wind tracking.
- Adopt and extend the orthophoto mapping process to all areas of the state.
- Expand both internal and public training and education programs in support of program goals and enhancement.

- Initiate necessary budgetary proposals or legislative processes required to assure project accomplishment, if the magnitude of involvement warrants.
- Work in concert with the other major state fire agencies to support their negotiations for added personnel and resources necessary to accomplish FIREScope Program goals.

Alex R. Cunningham
Director

Office of Emergency Services

Jan 19, 1981
Date

[Signature]
California Department of Forestry

Jan 23, 1981
Date

[Signature]
State Fire Marshal

Jan 29, 1981
Date