

North County Zone Operations & Training Officers
San Marcos Training Facility
Minutes for July 12, 2006

Members Present:

Camp Pendleton Fire – William Frankel
Carlsbad Fire – Chris Heiser, Mike McFadden
Encinitas Fire – Joe Bunn, Darrin Ward
Escondido Fire – Scott Alvord, Mike Calhoun
North County Fire – Dan Goldberg, Randy Meers, Kathy Ford-Brodersen
North County JPA Dispatch – Denny Neville
Rancho Santa Fe Fire – Tony Michel
San Marcos Fire – Dave Schloss, Rick Vogt
Vista Fire – Randy Terich, Jeff Hahn

Call to Order:

Scott Alvord called the meeting to order at 13:05 hours.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were disseminated by email prior to the meeting and were reviewed by the members. Scott Alvord made a request to edit Scott Henry's roundtable comments to reflect that Darrin Ward would be replacing Mark Muir in Zone Ops.

Motion: Denny Neville made a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2006 as corrected. Randy Terich seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Equipment

Scott Alvord noted that several agencies equipment coordinators have contacted him as requested at the last meeting. They are hoping to include other items besides turnouts on the county purchasing list. This would increase the purchasing power. Scott will get direction on this issue from Fire Chief Reed and take it to Zone Chiefs as a discussion item.

Regional Training

Randy Meers reported that this month's zone hose drills are going well. Agencies closer to Rancho Santa Fe will conduct their drills at the Rancho Santa Fe tower.

The following dates have been set:

- September Zone Training (date TBA) – Hose combo drills
- End of Third Quarter (date TBA) – MCI drill at Legoland
- October 30, 31 & November 1 – High Rise drill

Randy noted that the Search & Rescue Policy is complete and will be forwarded to Rick Vogt for website posting. The training officers group suggested putting

Zone Ops/Training Minutes
July 12, 2006

together guidelines on flagging. This will go to the Zone Ops Working Group for review.

Randy reminded the agencies who are sending apparatus and operators to the Palomar Academy that they are responsible for finding coverage for their scheduled time if they are not able to attend.

Communications

Bendix-King Fleet Map – Pete Lawrence distributed the proposed Bendix-King fleet map. They received input from numerous in-zone agencies on this project. They also received information from agencies outside the county. There is still much debate over “locking down” frequencies. In referencing the fleet map, frequencies with an “R” designation at the end are not locked down and the tone may be changed.

Motion: Randy Terich made a motion to accept the new Bendix-King fleet map. Bill Frankel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pete Lawrence will email a file to all agencies to complete the radio downloads. He plans on finalizing the training in the next couple of weeks.

800 Fleet Map – Denny Neville distributed the revised Countywide Version 7c 800MHz fleet map and discussed the changes. He noted that San Diego would be using FIREMARS as the conventional mode. As the transition begins, a cheater chart should be developed for use until all county agencies have converted to the new version of the fleet map.

He reported that Oceanside Fire would be joining the NCDJPA in January 2007. He suggested that Oceanside’s talkgroups on the fleet map be split between NCDJPA and Escondido dispatch.

Denny reminded the group that the administration channel should be reserved for outbound communications from dispatch only. When inbound traffic occurs on this channel it can interrupt the outgoing dispatch. He also reminded the group that the emergency radio button would activate the emergency tone in the dispatch center running the incident.

Motion: Denny Neville made a motion to accept the Countywide Version 7c 800 MHz fleet map as distributed, but assigning the Zone 02 talk groups to NCDJPA and Escondido dispatch; Modes 9, 10 & 11 to Escondido dispatch, Modes 12, 13 & 14 to NCDJPA. Pete Lawrence seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Denny Neville discussed the re-banding efforts. No timeline has yet been set. Negotiations are still going on with Mexico. This should probably be complete by 2007.

Zone Ops/Training Minutes
July 12, 2006

Command/TAC Use Model – Denny Neville distributed Heartland’s radio usage guidelines, and discussed the Command vs. TAC radio usage issue. Scott Alvord referred to the North Zone EOM policy on the subject that is based on NIMS guidelines. After a short discussion, the group agreed that the IC and Division Group Sups should stay on Command. Below the Division Group Sups units will also remain on command until assigned at which time they will switch to tac. Division Group Sups would monitor both command and tac channels once assignments are made. Denny will suggest to the NCDJPA dispatchers that they do not “police” the command channels and the IC will have discretion over channel usage and assignments. If a concern arises on a call, a communication report should be completed and a review of the incident will occur.

Zone Qualifications

Rick Vogt discussed the current Sawtooth Complex incident. He reminded the group to send in your CICCIS packets when complete to the area committee.

Regional Blending

No report.

County Operations Group

Scott Alvord and Dan Goldberg attended the recent County Operations Group meeting. Ken Kremenski has been elected chairperson of the group. Scott and Dan encouraged the newly formed group to review the North Zone website since their goal is to accomplish what the North Zone already has, but at a regional level. The group determined that Firescope would be the basis of the high-rise plan. The County Operations Group will meet the first Wednesday of each month.

Old Business:

STL Policy Review

The group discussed a former decision on the In-Zone STL Policy. Denny Neville reminded the group that all engines need to notify dispatch when arriving on scene. He also reminded them that everyone needs to strive for a five-minute en route time. If an engine were out of quarters, it would be up to the company officer to determine if that engine can return to quarters and go en route within a reasonable time. This shall be managed at the agency level.

Scott Alvord led a discussion regarding STL Trainees. He suggested that the STL and their Trainee communicate in advance and set a meeting point so they could travel in the same vehicle to the incident. The group realized that this might not always be possible, depending on the circumstances. Denny Neville discussed how Trainees would be notified if they did not have a personal four-digit designator. He reminded the STL and Trainees that it is their responsibility to contact dispatch if they are unable to fulfill their scheduled shift.

A discussion pursued regarding days when no STL’s were on the schedule. In this circumstance, an all chief’s page would go out in the morning to find any available STL’s. The same would occur if there were a drawdown on STL’s or

Trainees during the day. A tertiary STL would take his own trainee if a zone trainee were not available.

Due to some confusion in the weekly scheduling process Dan Goldberg offered to draft a modification of the existing STL Rotational policy pertaining to the filling of this schedule. They will bring the draft back to the next meeting.

New Business:

The group had no new business to discuss.

Roundtable:

Randy Terich, Vista Fire –He thanked the group for moving today’s meeting time to accommodate their training at the Avo Theater.

Jeff Hahn, Vista Fire – He is in the process of drafting a heat stress policy for his department. Scott Alvord offered to send him a copy of Escondido’s policy.

Randy Meers, North County Fire – New Generation fire shelters have been purchased and received. Department training for the new fire shelters will be completed by the end of August.

Tony Michel, Rancho Santa Fe Fire – He requested a copy of the County equipment specification list. Scott Alvord offered to send him the information.

Bill Frankel, Camp Pendleton Fire – They have ordered two (2) type 3 engines from Pierce. He thanked everyone who helped in their recent fires. He reminded everyone to pay attention to clouds to the east that has had an effect on fire conditions.

Pete Lawrence, Oceanside Fire – His department has just completed construction of an inoperability trailer that was designed for rapid response. The trailer is configured for all radio types. It can be set up in less than seven (7) minutes. The trailer was funded by Freeway Safe Post and will be available as a zone resource by August 1st. There will be training available soon for those who wish to be certified in its use.

He announced to the group that he is working on a plan for multi-victim incidents with County EMS. This plan was originally proposed in the 1990’s, but never got off the ground. It would speed up the time to clear patients faster on a large incident, allowing providers to transport one immediate and one delayed patient to area hospitals without waiting for a bed count. He will bring more information to the group as it develops.

Zone Ops/Training Minutes
July 12, 2006

Denny Neville, NCDJPA – Oceanside Fire has joined the NCDJPA and will be live the second week of January 2007. They will be hiring six (6) new dispatchers.

He also reported that retired Encinitas Fire Chief Don Heiser is now Deputy Chief of Elfin Forest Fire. He will be focusing his efforts on training.

Darrin Ward, Encinitas Fire – He told the group that his department would be short on Strike Team Leaders on their upcoming assigned week.

Scott Alvord, Escondido Fire – He discussed the status of the County Decon and MCI trailers. He and Dave Schloss are working on an MOU for these resources. Please contact him if your department is interested in hosting either of these vehicles as they are looking for a home.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 15:45.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2006, 0900 hours at the San Marcos Safety Center.

Minutes submitted by:

Kathy Ford-Broderson
North County Fire
Operations Assistant