



NORTH COUNTY ZONE

OPERATIONS & TRAINING OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for November 14, 2007 *San Marcos Training Facility*

Members Present

Camp Pendleton Fire – Bill Frankel

Carlsbad Fire – Chris Heiser

Escondido Fire – Scott Alvord, Mike Lowry

North County Fire – Dan Goldberg, Gary Lane, Kathy Ford-Brodersen, Keith McReynolds

NCDJPA – Freddy Bejar

Oceanside Fire – Mike Mathai, Darryl Hebert

Rancho Santa Fe Fire – Tony Michel

San Marcos Fire – Chief Newman, Chuck Morton, Rick Vogt, Dave Schloss, Brett VanWey

San Onofre Fire – Jeffery Klante

Solana Beach/Del Mar Fire – Dismas Abelman

Vista Fire – Randy Terich, Rick Minnick, Pat Murphy

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Goldberg called the meeting to order at 09:35 hours.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 10, 2007 meeting were disseminated by e-mail prior to the meeting and were reviewed by the members.

Motion: Chuck Morton made a motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2007. Mike Lowry seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Standing Reports

The following Standing Report was moved from the regular position on the agenda to accommodate the representative's request.

NCDJPA – Freddy Bejar reported that the Sprint connectivity for the MDC's went down at midnight last night. The technicians are working on it.

He reported that Vista purchased 25 additional Net Motion licenses for the MDC's, we were short licenses and some MDC's were not able to go online. If any user's see an error message, "Error 72, System in Quarantine", contact North Comm. Solana Beach & Del Mar will be getting their MDC's by the beginning of December.

North Comm will be interviewing eight (8) candidates in the final phase of the IT position recruitment. They also have two (2) full-time and one (1) part-time dispatcher positions open and will also be interviewing for these vacancies.

North Comm will be getting a new version of CAD on November 27th. This version will solve the logging in problems that some agencies are experiencing.

Everything is moving forward on the Live Move-Up Module. They are anticipating having a demo ready by December 7th or soon thereafter. Freddy would like to meet with all agencies to determine what your move up criteria and rules will be. Dan Goldberg suggested that an ad-hoc committee be formed to discuss and coordinate the move-up criteria with all zone agencies. The group agreed - Dan will coordinate and set up a meeting. (11-A)

Standing Committee Reports

Communications – Dave Schloss distributed a copy of the new fleetmap draft. He will also email this to the group. This map is a temporary solution prior to the rebanding process that is still on schedule. He reviewed the fleetmap draft and noted that the North Zone has 32 talkgroups available, 19 are for North Comm JPA. The current fleetmap draft was needed because San Diego is now using Cal Fire for some of their local contracts and Cal Fire will need the 800MHz frequencies to communicate with local government. They will still use VHF on SRA incidents. When this draft is approved, it will take about six (6) months to complete the reprogramming of county radios. Cheat cards (cross matrix) will be provided during the transition process.

He mentioned that the RIC working group headed by Encinitas Captain Mejia, had requested a designated RIC TAC channel; it will be next to the emergency channel and could be designated for this use if requested by the incident. He also reminded the group that emergency channel communications will now go directly to the dispatch center where you are located, not your home dispatch center.

Dave discussed the issue of radio time-outs during the recent San Diego firestorms. They are reviewing the busy reports and infrastructure capabilities to determine how to minimize and/or eliminate them entirely.

He stated that a sub-group is meeting to discuss the North Zone's mutual threat zones and the need to develop pre-incident communication plans with CAL Fire.

Don Stevens is chairing a group to develop a VHF redundancy system for the North Zone in the event of an RCS catastrophic failure. There is currently a VHF network on a repeater available to our zone. They are currently evaluating/working on placing more repeaters throughout our zone to ensure all North Zone fire agencies can access the system.

Motion: Chuck Morton made a motion to approve the distributed draft of fleetmap Version 9D, with the minor noted changes captured by Dave Schloss. Scott Alvord seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The approved draft will be forwarded to the County Chiefs for final approval.

Dave Schloss distributed the EOM Guideline 203.01 that addresses communication with the Sheriff's Department.

Motion: Randy Terich made a motion to approve the EOM Guideline 203.01, Use of Law Enforcement Talkgroups. Chris Heiser seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

EOM Guidelines - No further business to discuss.

Equipment – Scott Alvord reported that the committee met yesterday. They are currently working on a list of zone equipment specialists and will email it to the group. He reported that Jeff Hahn will be taking his place as chair of the North Zone Equipment Committee next year.

Emergency Response Directory – Rick Vogt reported that the committee met and discussed agency reps for the zone. They will continue to work on this matter; the North Zone Fire Chiefs wanted them to consider the following:

- What will the delegated authority be from each individual agency?
- What will the training and experience qualifying criteria be?
- What will the launch criteria be?
- Each Fire Chief will approve his own agencies rep, but who will determine the zone rep?
- How would costs be shared by North Zone agencies?

The committee will be discussing these items during future meetings.

Rick Vogt distributed the 2008 Strike Team Leader rotation schedule. Dan Goldberg noted that the North Zone Fire Chiefs wanted to make sure that the positions are consistently filled with an equal opportunity to all fire agencies and in compliance with existing procedures. All agencies should make every attempt possible to fill their prescribed assignments. Fire Chief Newman reiterated this discussion and added that it is imperative that the schedules are completed and forwarded to North Comm in a timely manner.

Rick noted that the ERD committee discussed how to improve last year's schedule. It was suggested that Encinitas share the duty with Oceanside because all of the Encinitas STL's hold staff positions. The ERD committee did not agree and the schedule will include all eight (8) agencies, the same as last year.

The group discussed the lack of STL trainees in the zone and how to transition current captains for succession planning. It is difficult to use captains in the trainee capacity because if they are called out, a unit must go out of service until the position is backfilled. It was suggested that captains be used only within their own agencies. You may also use captains in other certification areas, i.e. engine boss, etc. The group was reminded that according to the current Zone EOM Guidelines, a captain cannot hold the position of STL.

Rick reviewed the current structure of the ERD committee and noted that some positions will need replacing next year. This will be placed on the January meeting agenda. (11-B)

Working Group Reports

Sprinter Committee – Nothing to report. This group has been disbanded and will be removed from future agendas.

Mapping Project – Randy Terich distributed Joe Napier's report. Highlights included:

- More Net Motion licenses were purchased and have been installed.
- Most all MDC's have been installed and are up and running, with the exception of Solana Beach/Del Mar.
- There are still some connectivity issues with the service providers, they are working on them.
- Make sure you communicate any routing irregularities to Freddy at North Comm so he can make the GIS adjustments in CAD.
- Regional maps are 50% complete. They are coming along slowly but surely.
- FY 2007 UASI funds request will be sent in at the end of November. These funds will cover regional pre-plans, 60 Hot Spots, 35 MDC's for Ural and Tribes, aerial photos and Omega View software.

The group discussed losing connectivity in various areas and was reminded that it is similar to your cell phone service. Net Motion should keep the current screen on your MDC active until the connectivity returns.

Standing Committee Reports

Liaison Chief – Fire Chief Newman explained how the North Zone Fire Chiefs came to the decision on the TAC vs. Command issue. They believed it was a misunderstanding of the use of ICS and not a communication issue. He discussed how the Fire Chiefs debated the issue of forming ICS positions unnecessarily on small incidents. They all agreed that ICS should be followed closely and I/C's should be judicial in forming their incident organization. He asked everyone to ask themselves, what am I commanding and is it dynamic? The Fire Chiefs also recommended that everyone work on radio procedures as our zone has very poor radio discipline.

He reported that the Fire Chiefs discussed the issue of changing frequencies in hazard zones. They clarified their definition of a hazard zone as an IDLH area. They felt that the group supervisor (given as an example) should be the only one changing radio channels between command and tac and that the position should be supervising at that point, not directly involved with physically performing tasks. Firefighters in the IDLH that are performing assigned tasks should not be required to change radio frequencies as this poses a safety concern. They also mentioned that when requesting a new frequency, it should be ICS driven.

Fire Chief Newman noted that the Fire Chiefs need to have regular dialog with their Operations and Training Chiefs. Dan Goldberg reiterated that the Operation and Training Chiefs group has provided excellent communications with the Fire Chiefs. Fire Chief Newman stated that he agreed, but the communication is lacking at the agency level.

Dan Goldberg suggested that the Fire Chief's recommendations regarding the TAC vs. Command issue be forwarded to the Communications Committee to evaluate and make modifications as necessary to the current guidelines. When this assignment is complete, the guideline will be forwarded to the Fire Chiefs for discussion and approval.

Training – Bret VanWey discussed the extrication drill that was held last week at San Marcos and Rancho Santa Fe. The power point that was developed for this training was very helpful, the feedback from the onsite chiefs were positive. He is currently in the process of developing a feedback form for the participants.

He announced that he will be taking over as the North Zone Training Chiefs' Chairman next year, succeeding Joe Bunn. He would also like to have a Training Chiefs' vice-chairman this year; they will discuss this at their next meeting. Kathy Ford-Brodersen has agreed to serve as recorder for the training section and tenured her resignation as the Operations recording officer, effective January 2008. Joe Bunn is working on a 2007 annual training summary to be forwarded to Division Chief Goldberg for inclusion into a year end report.

Brett noted that the training group is still working on the SCBA guideline and Low Angle Rescue guideline, which is being added to the Ropes & Knots section. They are also still waiting on the draft document from the RIC working group.

Brett reported that the current fire academy will be graduating on Tuesday, November 20th @ 1800 at Mission Hills High School.

The CICCS committee will be meeting on December 12th in Monte Vista. If anyone has packets to turn in, mail them to the Fire Chief at Alpine Fire Protection District. Division Chief Goldberg reminded everyone to document their activities for the recent fire incidents and send their forms to Rick Vogt to be inserted into your ERD file.

Finally, he reminded everyone that a "training calendar" icon has been posted on the North Zone website. A link has also been added for the San Marcos training facility calendar. They have the capabilities of linking other calendars to the website. Bret noted that anyone can add a class to this calendar. He suggested that all North Zone agencies add their EMS/CE courses for fire agencies to utilize. The cost of website license is being rotated annually between agencies; Division Chief Goldberg thanked Carlsbad for covering the 2008 costs.

County Ops – Nothing to report. Dan Goldberg will speak to Chief Metcalf for communication with the San Diego County Fire Chiefs regarding this section.

Brett VanWey inquired if there will be any changes to the EOM Highrise guidelines prior to the February 2008 drill. It was reported that the new FOG guides are out and the Firescope committee will be meeting in December to complete the position manuals.

EMS Section – Dan Goldberg reported that we still have not received notification as to who their liaison to the ops group will be.

Old Business

Action Items – Dan Goldberg reviewed the action items from the October 10, 2007 meeting:

4-A Safe Surrender Baby Program – Pending. Rick Vogt reported that the County Board of Supervisors will be moving forward on this program at their December meeting. Training to follow.

6-D Move-up Key Inventory List – Pending. Tony Michel reported that he is still waiting for the key inventory from one agency.

7-B Agency Maps to North Comm in PDF Format - Ongoing

7-C Review Revised EOM 203.01 re: Law Enforcement Communications- Complete

9-B Drill Evaluation Procedure – Pending. Brett VanWey reported that the training group is working on a drill feedback form and evaluation tool.

10-A Working Group for TAC vs. Command – Pending. This item will be turned over to the communications committee for guideline editing.

10-B Update of Strategic Plan Progress – Delete. This item will be deleted from the action items and added to the monthly agenda under working groups.

10-C Response Plan Comments or Suggestions – Complete

10-D Distribute List of Equipment Specialists – Pending. Scott Alvord will email the list to all.

North Zone Standardized Response Plan – Keith McReynolds reviewed the plan that his committee had completed and distributed, following last month's Operations and Training Chiefs meeting. He received no comments or suggestions as requested.

The group discussed the plan: Scott Alvord suggested eliminating the category of "Veg Fire-Low, Second Alarm". If a second alarm is needed, it would automatically move the call up to a "Veg Fire-High". The group also discussed the automatic dispatch of a helicopter on a "Veg Fire-High" alarm. They agreed it should stay, but all agencies need to be aware of the helicopter being dispatched and cancel if not necessary. Keith's committee will contact all local air resources to confirm their commitment to this specific "automatic" request. It was also suggested that an internal gas leak create a first alarm structure fire response.

They discussed the geographical differences and needs of each agency and agreed that agencies may modify the response plans to best serve their needs.

Keith McReynolds will make the suggested changes to the draft response plan. He will put the recommendation into a basic EOM guideline format for presentation to the subsequent Operations and North Zone Fire Chief's meetings. (11-C)

RIC Response Recommendation – Pat Murphy gave a background on the formation of the RIC committee and reported that the RIC committee had reviewed the proposed response plan and would like RIC functions to be a high priority. They recommended that all residential structure responses be increased to 18 personnel and commercial structure responses to 21 personnel. They felt this would then provide enough manpower to form an I-RIC (initial) team. On confirmation of a working interior fire, they would then like to see an additional dispatch for a special RIC team of one (1) engine, one (1) truck, one (1) ALS ambulance, and one (1) battalion chief. One member stated

that 4-man engines would relieve the problem of too much equipment and not enough manpower on scene. The Ops group discussed the recommendations and agreed to continue this discussion during our next monthly business meeting (1-9-08). (11-D)

New Business

2008 Zone Ops Position Nominations

Dan Goldberg took nominations from the floor for the vacant positions for the 2008 calendar year. They are as follows:

Operations Chief Chairman – Chris Heiser. *Nominated by Dan Goldberg, seconded by Mike Lowry.*

Operations Chief Vice-Chairman – Tony Michel. *Nominated by Chris Heiser, seconded by Randy Terich.*

Strategic Plan, Goal 3 Liaison – Jeff Hahn. *Self-nomination and acceptance.*

Strategic Plan, Objective 1-B – Pete Montgomery. *Nominated by Brett VanWey, seconded by Scott Alvord.*

Strategic Plan, Objective 1-E – Randy Terich. *Self-nomination and acceptance.*

Strategic Plan, Objective 2-D – Mike Mathai. *Self-nomination and acceptance.*

Strategic Plan, Objective 3-C – Jeff Hahn. *Self-nomination and acceptance.*

The nominations were closed. No objections were made to the standing nominations, all nominees accepted their nomination and were sole nominees, and therefore, the above nominated members will hold their respective positions for 2008.

December Meeting

Dan Goldberg distributed a flyer for the 2007 Annual North Zone Fire Chiefs' Luncheon at the Hunter Steakhouse in Oceanside. This will replace December's business meeting for the Operations and Training group. He reminded everyone to get your reservations in to Kathy Ford-Brodersen no later than November 30th. Payment (\$25.00) will be collected at the luncheon.

Roundtable:

Chris Heiser, Carlsbad – He reported that Captain Mike McFadden has been ill with heart problems and is off work. His condition is so serious he has been placed on the heart transplant list. We wish the best for him and his family.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 13:00 hours.

Next Meeting:

No business meeting will be held in December. The annual luncheon will take place on December 12th @ 11:30 at Hunter Steakhouse in Oceanside.

The next business meeting will be held on January 9, 2008, 09:30 at the San Marcos Safety Center. The Training Officers will meet prior to the operations meeting at 08:30.

Submitted by:

Kathy Ford-Brodersen

North County Fire, Operations Assistant

ACTION ITEMS

November 12, 2007

	WHO	WHAT	WHEN	STATUS
4-A	Vogt	Safe Surrender Baby Program	Waiting for county adoption	Pending
6-D	All Agencies	Forward an inventory list of all "move-up" keys to Tony Michel	Immediately	Pending
7-B	All Agencies	Forward your maps in PDF format to Freddy Bejar at North Comm	As soon as possible	On-Going
9-B	Brett VanWey	Produce draft of drill feedback form and evaluation tool.	By January 2008 meeting	Pending
10-A	Comm Committee	Edit Command vs. TAC guidelines with chiefs recommendations	By January 2008 meeting	Pending
10-D	Scott Alvord	Distribute a list of "equipment specialists" within our zone	By December 1	Pending
11-A	Dan Goldberg	Form an ad-hoc committee to discuss move-up criteria	As soon as possible	Pending
11-B	Rick Vogt	Review ERD Committee replacements on the January agenda	By January meeting	Pending
11-C	McReynolds	Draft EOM Guideline for Response Plan	As soon as possible	Pending