



## NORTH COUNTY ZONE

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### OPERATIONS & TRAINING OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

#### Minutes for May 9, 2007 *San Marcos Training Facility*

#### **Members Present**

*Camp Pendleton Fire* – Bill Frankel  
*Carlsbad Fire* – Chris Heiser, Ed Sprague  
*Encinitas Fire* – Joe Bunn, Scott Henry, Darrin Ward  
*Escondido Fire* – Randy Licata, Scott Alvord  
*North County Fire* – Dan Goldberg, Randy Meers, Mark Strikwerda  
*Oceanside Fire* – Ken Matsumoto  
*Rancho Santa Fe Fire* – Jim Sturtevant, Tony Michel  
*San Marcos Fire* – Dave Schloss, Brett Van Wey, Chuck Morton, Scott Hansen  
*Vista Fire* – Jeff Hahn

#### **Call to Order**

Dan Goldberg called the meeting to order at 09:30 hours.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April 11, 2007 meeting were disseminated by e-mail prior to the meeting and were reviewed by the members.

**Motion:** Randy Meers made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2007. Tony Michel seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **Standing Committee Reports**

Communications - Dave Schloss reported that Denny Neville has been working on a new version of the countywide fleetmap. He is still negotiating with Heartland and San Diego Fire regarding talk groups and etc. They hope to have it complete by July. Don Stevens has been working on a backup VHF system in the event of a RCS failure. Mike Gibbs is working on a communications section for the North Zone Website.

Dave discussed the North Zone Communication Committee's position on Command vs. TAC usage. The majority of his committee supported a practice calling for the IC, dispatch and division/group positions to communicate on the command channel and the divisions/groups to utilize TAC with their assigned tactical resources. Dave stated that this was not a unanimous position of the communications committee and they agreed that there are pros and cons to current practice vs. the proposed. North Comm supported the committee's position, but will work with any decision the Ops group makes. Dave reminded everyone that the current practice is in conflict with NIMS, FIRESCOPE and County annex policies and that it could be difficult to convince your agency's policy makers to deviate from these regulatory bodies.

Dave Schloss noted his opinion about remaining compliant and how our zone needs to address logistical, management and training issues. The group discussed the issue and believes it is important for the zone to “set a standard” and to train to it.

**Motion:** Chris Heiser made a motion to remain compliant with NIMS, which states incident communications are primarily on the Command channel until a division or group is assigned which would then communicate with their assigned resources on TAC. Scott Alvord seconded the motion. Allowing one vote per agency: Aye’s 7, No’s 2, and Abstention’s 0. Motion passed by majority.

Dan Goldberg will task Mike Gibbs to update the North Zone EOM guideline to reflect today’s decision (and the four-number designator report recommendation) and will present the document for approval at the next Zone Fire Chief’s meeting scheduled for June 14th. (5-A)

EOM Guidelines – Randy Terich had nothing new to report. He will coordinate with Mike Gibbs regarding the policy update on the Command vs. TAC decision.

Equipment - Scott Alvord reported that the equipment committee met yesterday, with representatives from Carlsbad, Encinitas, Vista, Rancho Santa Fe, San Marcos, Escondido and North County. He noted that they have not had a representative from Oceanside present at the meetings.

They reviewed their enabling objectives from the strategic plan. The department equipment lists have mostly been completed and will be reviewed. The committee will be working on reviewing wildland garments.

Scott noted that Orange County Fire had recently gone to bid for their turnout boots and received a significantly lower cost. He suggested that when ordering the boots from LN Curtis to mention the Orange County specifications to receive their discounted cost.

Scott suggested that EMS equipment and supplies should form a separate committee due to the technical specifications. Dan Goldberg reminded the group that a North Zone EMS section is forming and will function as a standing committee to the operations group and should participate/support this endeavor. Dan will extend an invitation to our zone’s EMS section to attend our next ops meeting. (5-B)

Scott Alvord discussed the issue of uniforms. They committee agreed that Workrite was the preferred brand. Purchasing quantities of about 2400 sets per year should reflect a substantial savings to the departments and the individuals.

The equipment committee’s next meeting will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 0900 at Vista Station 1.

ERD – Rick Vogt was not present. The committee had no report.

Chris Heiser noted that the County Chiefs were told to use the January 2006 version of CICCIS, opposed to the newer version. There is some confusion in this area and as noted by Dan Goldberg - during the last STL meeting our OES Region 6 rep communicated that the CICCIS review committees were utilizing the 2001 edition of the 310-1 guidelines. Bill Frankel also confirmed that the peer review committees are inconsistent as to which iteration is used and that this topic is being discussed.

### **Working Group Reports**

North Zone Administrative Guide – Dan Goldberg reported that the administrative guide was presented to the North Zone Fire Chief's last month and received their approval. He noted that the flag policy still needs to be completed.

Sprinter Committee - Ken Matsumoto reported that Rick Vogt is currently working on draft guidelines for the Sprinter. They are waiting for documents and policies from NCTD. The anticipated project completion date is December 2007, but may be pushed back due to some construction issues. Additional Sprinter orientation classes will be scheduled - if your agency is interested, coordinate the dates with the training officers group. NCTD will also be facilitating a Sprinter MCI drill that will be held in late summer.

Mapping Project – Randy Terich reviewed the highlights of the mapping project:

- The emergency response books are ready to be sent to the printer - east and west books will be available for each front line unit.
- May 30, May 31, June 20 & 21, 2007 are the dates for train-the-trainer classes on the Panasonic laptops and the Tritech Visinet mobile software. Each six-hour class will allow one trainer from each agency to run simulated calls with the MDC's and software connected with North Comm dispatch. Five (5) classes will be offered to each agency in an effort to train as many trainers as possible. The classes will be held in the Vista Fire Station 1 training room from 0830 to 1500.
- Panasonic laptops that have Verizon and Sprint modems are being configured now.
- The installations are going very smoothly. Agencies are anticipated to go "live" in June and July, with a complete build-out by August.

### **Standing Reports**

Training – Joe Bunn reported the highlights from today's training officer's meeting:

- The high rise drill will be held again at Del Mar Fairgrounds this year.
- The truck module will be adapted to include an overview of each type of truck in the zone.
- The Ropes and Knots section has been posted.
- The Search and Rescue section has been sent out for final review and will be posted by end of the month.
- The RIC committee will meet on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Encinitas Station 5, 0900.

- The Palomar semester is ending soon. Grades must be submitted no later than next week for revenue sharing. Please send them to Brett Van Wey in PDF format.

Upcoming training classes:

- May 21 – June 29 Management I & Command 2A at Palomar College
- Firefighter II CDF Academy at Palomar Training Center

NCDJPA – Denny Neville was not present, he sent no report. Dave Schloss acknowledged North Comm for an outstanding job controlling radio traffic during an extremely busy period last weekend where several vegetation fires, medical aids and other incidents occurred simultaneous.

North Zone ERD - Rick Vogt was not present. Dan Goldberg wanted to reiterate to the group that agencies need to complete the training and EOM adoption phase matrix on the website. Several agencies have not completed their sections and as a result, the North Zone Fire Chief's are questioning if the EOM and Training Manual adoption process is moving forward zone wide.

County Ops - Scott Alvord reported that the groups focus has been on the county wildland drill. As soon as the wildland drill is complete the County Operations Section will complete the high rise project.

### **Old Business**

Review Enabling Objectives - Dan Goldberg reviewed the work plans included in the strategic plan which were presented at the last North Zone Fire Chief's meeting. According to Dan, the Fire Chief's liked what they saw and will be reviewing the documents more thoroughly with a report back at their June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dan requested that the project managers send him their workplans as they are updated.

Four-digit Numbering System – Dan Goldberg reported that the groups recommendation was presented to the North Zone Fire Chief's last month. The chiefs agreed to the recommendation which was to continue operating under the current system with some modifications. The chiefs would like to see guidelines written, consistent training and a methodology developed to evaluate the performance of the system. Some Fire Chiefs felt the existing system was not visionary and would need to be modified at some period of time due to growth and call volume. The fire chiefs would also like the ad-hoc committee to propose a solution of how to expand the current system beyond nine (9) stations and to provide a status report of the system in a year.

San Diego County Wildland Drill – Scott Alvord reminded the group that the San Diego County Annual Fire Season Operations meeting will take place tomorrow, May 10 at Viejas beginning at 0830.

Scott reported that he has ten (10) Type 3 units, two (2) Type 1 units and a water tender committed to the County wildland drill. San Marcos and Carlsbad will send strike team leaders and trainees. They will discuss the need for more strike

team leaders at tomorrow's meeting. This year they have developed triggers to cancel the drill. Scott recommended that the strike teams do not rendezvous, but just meet at the check in. Scott requested the use of any spare training shelters that agencies may have.

Action Items - The group reviewed the action items from the April 11, 2007 meeting:

**10-F Annex D Communications - Pending.**

**1-B Fail Soft Protocols - Pending.** Waiting for the county to finalize the plan.

**1-D TAC vs. Command Policy - Complete**

**1-E Flag Policy - Pending.** Dan Goldberg and Rick Vogt will follow up on the progress.

**1-F EOM Agency Training Status - Pending.** Several agencies still have not updated the matrix on the website.

**3-C 4th/5<sup>th</sup> Alarm Recommendation – Pending.** This issue needs to be addressed in the standardized response plan objective.

**4-A Safe Surrender Baby Program – Pending.** Rick Vogt was not present, will be continued to the next meeting.

#### **New Business:**

SDGE Substation Fires – Scott Alvord distributed a draft emergency operating procedure policy from SDGE regarding substation fires. This stemmed from a recent substation incident in Escondido. The emergency response procedures will be added to our EOM when they are finalized. SDGE will be developing a training video and will have the emergency response procedures posted at the entry to all substations.

#### **Roundtable:**

*Jeff Hahn, Vista* - He discussed the life hazard identification policy and problems they have had in ordering the required flagging tape. A vendor contact was made available for ordering the generic color marked tape; Lab Safety Supply, 800-356-0783. Jeff communicated that Lab Safety does not have the tape marked with text and that he is actively researching a vendor that does produce compliant tape.

*Bill Frankel, Camp Pendleton* – Their new combination station with the forest service will open on June 1. Firescope is coming out with some new night flying guidelines - the technology has significantly improved over the last few years. They recently had a 1200 acre fire that burned areas that haven't been burned in quite some time. A decision will be made very soon as to the status of their upcoming fire school.

*Dave Schloss, San Marcos* – They are currently hiring firefighter/paramedics and part/full-time EMT's. Station 4 construction is a couple of weeks ahead of schedule. They have ordered a new ladder truck and are getting ready to order a trail vehicle, capable of providing EMS on the trail systems.

*Chris Heiser, Carlsbad* – He discussed the HIRT issue. A contract was signed by Camp Pendleton and they are now a mutual aid resource for hazard materials response. Requests for the team will still be made through San Diego Fire.

*Ken Matsumoto, Oceanside* – They have two (2) new Pierce CAF pumpers at Stations 2 & 3. They have had some issues with their foam nozzles. Their new quint should be in service by next month, they will then have one reserve quint. They are currently completing their hose and ladder testing by DCS. Their new fire chief will start sometime in June.

*Tony Michel, Rancho Santa Fe* - They are conducting a BC test at the end of the month for a new training BC. He thanked Randy Licata and Jim Sturtevant for putting together a joint orientation academy for new recruits. They have hired one new firefighter and will be losing one more to Orange County.

*Randy Terich, Vista* – They just completed an engineer's test, he thanked everyone who helped. The progress of their new stations is moving along as anticipated. They currently have two (2) firefighter/paramedic openings and will be hiring an additional 15 by the end of this year or the beginning of next year. They are considering hiring without the academy requirement and sending recruits through the academy. Brett Van Wey reminded those who will be putting recruits through the Palomar Academy to reserve the slots at least six (6) weeks in advance.

*Scott Alvord, Escondido* – Two (2) new firefighter/paramedics have been hired and will be starting the next academy. They still have two (2) vacancies. They have signed a contract with the construction company for Station 3. Station 7 will be going out to bid this month, Station 6 and Station 1 in July. His department is developing their own administrative operations manual in the same format as the EOM.

*Randy Licata, Escondido* – He is currently taking level 2 Management classes and was informed that they will be rewriting the curriculum. The instructor will be choosing the text and develop the test for the classes, going away from the state testing.

*Dan Goldberg, North County* – He reviewed the training project that is under development between the participating drop boundary fire departments. They will be developing a yearly training calendar with subject matter agreed upon by all four agencies. All aspects of this project will be supportive to the North Zone Training activities.

Dan reported that Fire Chief Metcalf was notified by OES that Type 3 engines may become available in the near future. North County will be looking into the requirements to receive an engine which appear to have unique operating requirements (off-road certification). If you are interested, contact Dan and he will send you the details when he receives them.

North County will be conducting an engineer's test in June. Gary Lane of Hemet Fire has accepted a job offer for their new Training Officer, B/C position and is tentatively scheduled to start in mid-June pending final recruitment process. The new BC command vehicle is complete and in-service. Their Station 3 remodel should be complete by this summer for an October move-in.

The group asked about dispatching multiple battalion chiefs on certain calls. It was explained that this is a transitional model in the boundary drop jurisdictions (VFD, OFD, CFD and NCFPD). When the BC from the hosting incident's jurisdiction is already on a call, the closest BC is assigned, but the jurisdictional BC is still notified. It has also been discussed to increase the number of chief officers in certain call types. Details are still being worked out and will be reported back.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2007, 09:30 at the San Marcos Safety Center. The Training Officers will meet prior to the operations meeting at 08:30.

Minutes submitted by:

*Kathy Ford-Brodersen*

North County Fire  
Operations Assistant

**ACTION ITEMS**

**May 9, 2007**

	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>10-F</b>	Neville	Annex D Operational Communications Plan will be revised to reflect the Annex D routing. MCI Policy 510.00	Pending a review of the October minutes	Pending
<b>1-B</b>	Neville	Revise policy to reflect new Fail Soft protocols and create a training lesson plan	Waiting for the county to identify procedures	Pending
<b>1-E</b>	McFadden, Heiser	Create a draft flag policy referencing zone specific issues	June 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting	Pending
<b>1-F</b>	All Agencies	Send EOM training status to Rick Vogt	May 9 <sup>th</sup> meeting	Pending

<b>3-C</b>	Dunham	Suggest recommendation of 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> alarm for structure fire vs. strike team dispatch as part of standardized response plan Enabling Objective	Undetermined	Pending
<b>4-A</b>	Goldberg	Add Safe Surrender Baby Program to May meeting agenda	Present at the June 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting	Pending
<b>5-A</b>	Gibbs	Prepare draft policy on the Command vs. TAC decision	Present for discussion at the June 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting	Complete
<b>5-B</b>	Goldberg	Invite representatives from the EMS group to attend the Operations meetings	Present for discussion at the June 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting	Complete