

North County Zone Operations & Training Officers
San Marcos Training Facility
Minutes for August 9, 2006

Members Present:

Camp Pendleton Fire – William Frankel
Carlsbad Fire –Mike McFadden
Encinitas Fire –Darrin Ward
Escondido Fire – Scott Alvord, Randy Licata
North County Fire – Dan Goldberg, Randy Meers, Kathy Ford-Brodersen
North County JPA Dispatch – Denny Neville
Oceanside Fire – Pete Lawrence, Mike Margot, Eric Osterberg
Rancho Santa Fe Fire – Tony Michel
San Marcos Fire –Brett VanWey, Greg Woolf
Vista Fire – Randy Terich, Jeff Hahn, Don Shellhammer

Call to Order:

Scott Alvord called the meeting to order at 09:09 hours.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were disseminated by email prior to the meeting and were reviewed by the members. No corrections were made.

Motion: Pete Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2006. Randy Terich seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Equipment

Scott Alvord noted that he had recently sent an email reminding those interested in participating in the zone equipment committee to contact Gary Corria at Escondido Fire. Gary will be the committee chairperson. The Zone Chiefs made it clear that they do not want this committee to supersede the direction of the County Equipment Committee.

Regional Training

Four chapters of the training manual are near completion and in final review; they are extrication, ropes, search & rescue and SCBA. These should be posted on the website within the next few months.

Zone Ops/Training Minutes
August 9, 2006

Randy Licata reviewed this morning's Training Officer's Meeting. He noted the following upcoming drills/training:

Zone training @ Escondido & Oceanside	September 20, 21 & 22
MCI drill	End of October (TBA)
High-rise drill	October 30, 31 & Nov. 1
Driver Operator	Flyers will be sent
Command 1C @ Carlsbad	September 21-29
Command 1C @ San Miguel	September 11-15
Management 1 @ Heartland	October 16-20
Swift Water Awareness @ Soak City	October
S-290 – Intermediate Wildland @ Heartland	October 23-26
I-300 @ Heartland	September 25-27
I-400 @ Heartland	September 28-29
La Conchita Mudslide Incident Review @ El Cajon Fire	September 27

Communications

Denny Neville reported that they are waiting to meet with RCS for approval of the 800 MHz fleetmap; it will then go to County Chiefs.

Pete Lawrence has completed the programming download for the Bendix-King fleetmap. He will have Richard Tilch and Dave Schloss review it prior to sending it out. He will then email the programming file and power point to all agencies. Scott Alvord stated that he would like to see all agencies have this upgrade complete by September 15th.

Dan Goldberg addressed some issues communicating with state agencies without 800 MHz radios. Denny noted that the state does not have the funds to equip CDF with 800 MHz radios. Pete Lawrence believed that "Schedule A" departments would be receiving these radios. Denny suggested local level pressure is put on Monte Vista to patch VHF and 800 frequencies. This project would cost approximately \$100,000. The group suggested forming a sub-committee to research this issue. Dan Goldberg and Denny Neville will meet prior to the formation of this sub-committee and report back.

Zone Qualifications

Rick Vogt was not present, and did not submit a report.

Pete Lawrence questioned why Fireline EMT's were listed as trainees. He will follow up with Rick Vogt regarding this matter.

Greg Woolf reminded everyone to send in their completed task books to the CICC'S Committee. Trainees who have completed their requirements shall remain as trainees until completion of the CICC'S approval process. They may choose to continue to participate as trainees until their STL approval process is

Zone Ops/Training Minutes
August 9, 2006

complete. He reminded all STL's to make sure they receive their evaluations on every incident. Blank evaluations should be carried in your unit.

Regional Blending

No report.

Old Business:

STL Policy Review

Chief Metcalf requested that the group discuss the scheduling process. Scott Alvord and Dan Goldberg made the suggestion to have three (3) STL's per agency that would correspond to the three Battalion Chiefs duty shifts. Agencies that do not have Battalion Chiefs could combine their resources with other agencies.

Dan Goldberg distributed a draft policy on Zone STL Scheduling. He discussed the policy highlights. This will go to the policy committee for review.

Dan Goldberg discussed the issue of how the zone strike team leader schedule affects the agencies that have OES strike team rotation assignments. He felt that these agencies should be excluded from the zone STL schedule during the months that they have an OES commitment. Many of the participants expressed their agreement and felt the solution to be simply a scheduling correction.

The group discussed how each agency should be responsible for their own succession planning. They should encourage captains to begin working on their task books. Expired task books should be kept and attached to the current books when submitting to CICCS.

The group discussed pre-determined rendezvous points and their application for out-of-county responses. Denny Neville will train the zone dispatchers how to ask the STL for their rendezvous plan and effectively communicate the urgency of the incidents needs (immediate or planned).

The next STL group will meet on August 30th @ 09:00 hours at the San Marcos Safety Center. Pete Lawrence will present a power point presentation.

Meeting Format

The Training Officers have found it difficult for them to begin their meeting by 08:00 every month. The group discussed a couple alternatives and it was decided to have the Training Officers start their meeting at 08:30 and the Operations meeting start at 09:30. This schedule will begin at the September 13th meeting.

New Business:

Zone Policy for STL

Zone Chiefs President, Chief Metcalf, recently met with several ERD members regarding a recent strike team assignment. Scott Alvord was one of two (2) zone operations chief's representatives at the meeting. As a result of the review the zone operation chiefs were tasked with bringing conduct guidelines back to Zone Fire Chiefs and to eventually include these guidelines in the Zone STL policy.

The operation chiefs reviewed and amended the draft documents for Code of Conduct for Strike Teams and Engine Strike Team/Task Force Do's and Don'ts. Scott Alvord will send the edited versions to all members. The policy committee will draft a new strike team policy to include these guidelines. They will present the rough draft at the August 30th STL group meeting.

Roundtable:

Randy Meers, North County Fire –They had a small brush fire yesterday in North County. There were some issues juggling frequencies with CDF.

Greg Woolf, San Marcos Fire – His department is finally fully staffed, at least until next month when a FF will be leaving for Orange County.

Jeff Hahn, Vista Fire – He has completed a policy on heat illness pursuant to OSHA standards. He also received a new policy on Life Hazard Identification Marking in NWCG format. Please contact him if you would like copies of either of these policies.

Jeff also thanked those who helped out on their recent brush fire in Shadowridge. He discussed the challenges with the aircraft resources.

Brett VanWey, San Marcos Fire – He reported that the next Palomar College Fire Academy starts in August. The part-time academy that was being planned will not occur due to a lack of funding. The JPA regional recruitment committee has been meeting with the City of Vista regarding some liability issues. The testing will continue as always until further notice.

Dan Goldberg, North County Fire – They have just completed a draft WMD policy for the department. They will be conducting department WMD and Mark I training in September.

They will be taking delivery of a new Pierce Type I in early October. They are currently working on an RFP for a new command vehicle, (a pick-up truck with a build-up command box). Rancho Santa Fe and Oceanside offered to send him their specifications.

Zone Ops/Training Minutes
August 9, 2006

North County's Fire Station 3 is currently being remodeled. They are negotiating with a developer for a new Fire Station 4. New Fire Station 5 plans will hopefully begin next year.

They have received all of the SHSGP and UASI grant money that has been submitted. They will be filing for reimbursement of their WMD training in the FY05 SHSGP grant. This will complete all the OES grants with the exception of FY 06, which has yet to release funds.

Randy Terich, Vista Fire – He reported that Jeff Berg is off work due to back surgery. Pat Murphy will be taking his place temporarily and will be working on grants.

He noted that he was proud of his strike team during the Horse Fire Incident. He has had many compliments on the professionalism of his team.

Vista Fire has recently retired two (2) engineers and a captain and their last firefighter will be retiring soon.

They have taken delivery of five (5) new fire prevention vehicles and a van for the PIO officer. The city approved a ½ cent sales tax increase that will go on the ballot in November.

Don Shellhammer, Vista Fire – Their OES engine is back in service. He asked the group whom they are using locally to outfit new vehicles. Dan Goldberg noted that the North County Fire shop does that type of work.

Pete Lawrence, Oceanside Fire – They will be receiving delivery of three (3) new Pierce units in October.

Darrin Ward, Encinitas Fire – Encinitas will be hiring one new Firefighter Paramedic.

They are currently outfitting a new Suburban and Tahoe at Thunderworks.

They are in the process of researching how the boundary drop has affected operations. This is being done as a request from a citizens group. As a result of this they will be making changes in their reporting system.

Tony Michel, Rancho Santa Fe Fire – They have had some recent problems with studs breaking off their apparatus wheels. They are doing research with various manufactures. Please remind your crews to check their lug nuts on a regular basis; this is more prevalent than you may think.

They are currently fully staffed.

Zone Ops/Training Minutes
August 9, 2006

Denny Neville, NCDJPA – The dispatch center is gearing up to welcome Oceanside on board in January.

He noted that Bob Praytor from OES would be retiring this month.

Scott Alvord, Escondido Fire – He discussed his recent attendance at a Sprinter meeting. A zone policy regarding the Sprinter is currently being developed. He reminded everyone that the eastern most three miles of tracks (to Woodland Parkway) would be tested next week. This may affect traffic on Mission Ave. The Sprinter is expected to be fully operational by December 2007.

They are also receiving three (3) new Pierce engines in October.

He is currently working on the Firescope High-rise Committee.

They are in the process of developing part-time prevention employees. They have currently hired three (3) new EMT's. Their safety positions are also now fully staffed.

He told the group they have recently had some issues working with Valley Detroit.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2006, 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-Broderson
North County Fire
Operations Assistant