

**SAN MATEO COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S
OPERATIONS GROUP**

Minutes from December 21st 2006

President	John Healy
Vice-President	Jim Skinner
Secretary	Joe Telles

Member Attendance

Belmont/San Carlos	Mike Gaffney
CDF	Scotty Jalbert
Central County	Drew Flinders
North County	Mike Velasquez
Redwood City	Jim Skinner
San Bruno	Joe Telles
San Mateo	John Healy
Woodside	Dan Ghorso
Woodside	Rick Lombardo
Colma	-----
Foster City	-----
Half Moon Bay	-----
Millbrae	-----
South San Francisco	-----

Outside Representative Attendance

Fire Chief Liaison	Fire Chief Doug Fry
OES	Stephen Mahaley
EMS	Matt Powers
PSC	-----
FPO	Rick Lombardo (OPS Liaison)
TO	Scotty Jalbert (OPS Liaison)

Old Business

New Officers for Operation's Group for 2007

- President: John Healey
- Vice-President: Jim Skinner
- Secretary: Joe Telles

Communication Response Plan Operations Subcommittee

Report given by BC Jim Skinner

- Meeting held at RWC Station 9 on December 6th.
- Productive meeting with agreement on developing a radio channel plan utilizing primary, response, and tactical channels.
- There will be a repeated primary and repeated response channel for each zone.
- Goal is to have North, Central, and South using same communication plan and procedures.
- Another goal is to have all equipment respond on a repeated channel.
- Subcommittee to meet in near future. Jim Skinner to set date for meeting.
- Once a draft of plan is completed it will be submitted to entire OPS committee.

Rehabilitation Policy

Report given by Deputy Chief Velasquez and BC Skinner

- Discussion of the e-mail from Fire Chief Kohlmann
- John Healy to get subcommittee together to review policy and tighten draft policy up.
- Current members of the committee are the following:
 1. Adrian Anderson
 2. John Cronin
 3. John Healy
 4. Fire Chief Armando Muela
 5. Emil Picchi
 6. Jim Skinner
- Phoenix and San Jose policies, provided by Chief Kohlmann, handed out to review and compare to our current draft policy.

Technical Rescue equipment and rescue capabilities

Report given by BC Flinders

- BC Flinders will set up a meeting to get interested parties together to find out the rescue capabilities of departments and get that information out to other departments.
- The group will also discuss dispatch procedures for rescue calls.
- Central County is getting ready to be audited for typing as a rescue. Central County will go through a pre-audit in January. The audit will be in February.
- This November BC Healy and BC Telles took the Central County Rescue group, as part of a San Mateo County Task Force, to the San Francisco Golden Guardian Drill. The Task Force was successful in demonstrating their capability as a rescue team.

Fire Chief's Report

Report given by Fire Chief Fry

- At Chief's meeting on December 11th, 2006, Chiefs reviewed the goals and objectives of the Fire Prevention, Operations, and Training Officers and gave input for each group.
- Operations to work with Training Officers to put on High Rise Drill for 2007.
- Direction to Operations to capture discussion of near misses in the minutes.
- Reminder to reinforce the use of T-Cards at incidents. Fire Prevention Officers need to check in at Command Post with T-Cards upon arrival at an incident.

EMS

Report given by North Zone EMS Chief Matt Powers

County health update

- In the county there are currently a large number of upper respiratory infections going on.
- No annual flu outbreak yet this season.
- Several outbreaks of Norovirus in Skilled Nursing and Board and Care Facilities in the county.

Norovirus

- Virus is transmitted through contact with an infected person's vomit or stool.
- Precautions need to be taken by personnel to prevent virus from being brought back to fire stations.
- Extra PPE precautions such as protective booties and disposable blankets for equipment to be placed on should be taken when responding to facilities with Norovirus.
- Station maintenance is a key. A 10% bleach solution should be used to clean equipment and hard surfaces of the station such as floors and counter tops.
- Memo on Norovirus from County Health Department EMS Clinical Coordinator Jan Ogar to San Mateo County EMS Coordinators discussed.
- Matt Powers stated that if any fire personnel contact the virus, County Health wants to be notified. County Health will come out and inspect the infected personnel's fire station to prevent further spread of the virus.

Pandemic Flu

- QLC and EMD portion of County Pandemic Flu Committee scheduled for January 3rd.
- Chiefs want OPS to give operational input to main committee of Pandemic Flu.
- Chiefs want OPS to give input on staffing, possible changes in responses, and at what point departments can no longer commit resources to each other.

AMR Staffing

- AMR was down 9 full-time medics in November.
- AMR is projected to be down 4 full-time medics in January.
- New penalties for AMR to go in effect in January.

OES

Report given by Stephen Mahaley

- Handout on San Mateo County's Community Alert System.
- He was asked to provide update on status of purchase of air trucks.
- Discussion on the November Golden Guardian table top drill. OPS' members would like to see the next drill have more functional scenarios where ICS can be better utilized.

FPO Report

Report given by BC Rick Lombardo

- CAL Water put in hydrants with 4" connections instead of 4 1/2 " connections in San Mateo. San Mateo has found three of these hydrants so far that had to be replaced.
- Handout given from the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office giving information about the Consumer & Environmental Protection Unit. This is the unit that should be contacted by fire personnel whenever they become aware of a possible violation of an environmental protection law.

TO Report

Report given by BC Dan Ghiorso

- The following new officers were elected: McWhirter President, Maupin Vice-President, and Secretary Treasurer Azzopardi.
- Training with SF to be at both the Treasure Island site and also at SFO.
- To review and update the Recommended Training Policy for Battalion Chiefs and Captains.
- Recent CO CE training on BART to go on web site
- County training on the Command and Control part of the RIC policy

New Business

- Scotty Jalbert to be liaison to TO group. Drew Flinders to be alternative.
- Telles to contact TO President McWhirter to discuss having the Operations Group President speak at future academy graduations.
- Velasquez to send letter to AMR about training their personnel on ICS.
- Work with Mike Towns to post Operation's group meeting minutes

Significant Calls

FIRE INCIDENTS

North County Fire had a fatality fire in Daly City. An eighty nine year old female died asleep in the bed of her bedroom. Her caretaker was unable to remove her from the room. The bedroom door to the victim's room was left open, as was the front door as the caretaker exited the residence.

HAZ MAT INCIDENTS

Central County had a fire in a pool house. When water from a hose line came in contact with a broken bag of granulated chlorine, the chlorine began to off gas. IC consulted with hazardous material specialists and was advised to put the chlorine in the pool with consent of the homeowner. Incident was mitigated with common sense solution.

Belmont/San Carlos responded on smoke coming from a garage. A suspected drug lab was found. No local law enforcement was available because of a drug lab conference out of county. Fire Personnel had to wait over two hours before the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement sent personnel to investigate and mitigate situation. Drug labs once identified are to be handled by law enforcement personnel.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Redwood City responded to a solo vehicle versus a guardrail on NB 280. The tow truck, at the scene, was struck by another vehicle traveling northbound. The tow truck driver was uninjured but the driver of the vehicle had to be transported to a hospital.

San Mateo responded to a solo vehicle accident on Highway 92. Engine arrived on scene and blocked traffic. CHP Officer arrived in cruiser and placed his car between the accident and engine. After the officer exited his car, an alert firefighter noticed the car traveling in reverse with the possibility of going into traffic or into the fire engine. The firefighter was able to open the door of the car and stop it before it caused any damage or injury.

MCIs

San Bruno responded to a motor vehicle versus two pedestrians. Male victim died at SFGH. Female patient had significant trauma to head and pelvic area. Firefighter/Paramedic went with first ambulance transporting male to assist with care. Second ambulance refused to take a firefighter/paramedic with them to assist with care. IC insisted that they take a rider and then put a firefighter/paramedic in the back of the ambulance over the AMR paramedic's objection.

San Mateo had an MCI where the AMR supervisor called for more resources without notifying the IC.

Roundtable

Belmont/San Carlos:

- Three new BCs: Mike Gaffney, Gary Fauth, and Chet McConville

CDF:

- The Coast Side Fire District (HMB and Point Montara) is expected sometime in the spring to contract out to CAL Fire. This will be separate from County Fire.
- B15, B10, and B11 will be downsized to B10 and B11. Skyline will be the boundary line.
- BCs Gary So and Jim Russ retired last week.

Central:

- Fire Chief Riley's last official day is tomorrow December 22, 2006..
- Don Dornell new Fire Chief of Central

North County Fire:

- Two new Smiel engines to be delivered next week for S94 and S91.
- Vehicle with over edge rescue capability delivered.
- Seven cadets graduated the academy: 2 Brisbane, 4 Daly City, and 1 Pacifica.

San Bruno:

- Neil Telford new Police Chief of San Bruno.
- Fire Captains and Firefighters have new 3 year contract.

San Mateo:

- January 15th Truck 21 will be ALS.
- New Station 23 is on hold.

RWC: No report

Woodside:

- December 28 will be the official opening of Station 19.

Next Meeting: January 18th @ Foster City Community Center at 0900 hours