



Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

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CSFCA Wildland Fire Section Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, July 2, 2009

South Metro Fire Headquarters
Centennial, Colorado

Minutes

A meeting of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section Board of Directors was held on Thursday, July 2, 2009 at South Metro Fire Headquarters in Centennial, CO. Teleconference capability was provided.

Attendance

Jamey Bumgarner, Chair
Jeff Berino, Vice-Chair (by teleconference)
Sam Parsons, North Central Region Representative
Rich Graeber, Southwestern Region Representative (by teleconference)
Doug Fritz, West Region Representative (by teleconference)
Paul Cooke, CSFCA Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Section Chair Jamey Bumgarner. Chief Bumgarner began with an overview of the May 22nd Section Meeting. Exec. Dir. Cooke indicated that folks had been asking about copies of the presentations that were made at the meeting. Chief Bumgarner indicated that we would need to follow-up with Allyn Herrington and Jim Krugman for copies of the presentations to post on the website. Jeff Berino expressed that it would also be good to post a copy of the presentation that was done in Summit County by Bruce Holloman of CDEM on CDEM's role in wildfire.

Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center Policies & Procedures

Chief Bumgarner indicated that Allyn Herrington's presentation went a long way to address questions concerning Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center's (PIDC's) policies. Herrington's presentation clarified that closest resources would be dispatched for IA, but cost would be a consideration for extended operations. Cooke indicated that, subsequent to the meeting, Colorado Firecamp (Kent Maxwell) offered to maintain PIDC's rotation schedule on their website, but this offer was declined because (according to Allyn Herrington) it seems it would actually increase or duplicate PIDC's current workload by having to report every time they moved resources. Thus, PIDC is looking at keeping it status quo.

Chief Bumgarner indicated that a "formal" update on this issue would be appropriate for the next Section meeting.

"Serving the Chief Fire Officers of Colorado Since 1968"

Colorado Front Range Wildfire Simulation/RMACC Dispatch Scenarios

Cooke reported that, on May 27, 2009, the USFS and CSFS jointly hosted a "Colorado Front Range Wildfire Simulation". CSFCA President Riley, Chief Jamey Bumgarner of Larkspur FPD (Chair of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section), and Exec. Dir. Cooke represented the CSFCA. The list of participants included top managers from the USFS, BLM, NPS, USF&WS, RMACC, FEMA, CSFS, CDFS, CDEM as well as CSOC and CSFCA. The participants were brought together to discuss roles, responsibilities and capabilities while working through a simulation of multiple simultaneous wildfire events.

The simulation was built around the 2002 wildfire season where there were several major fires in the western states draining federal resources, and significant fire activity in Colorado. Cooke expressed the opinion that the simulation helped to open some eyes to the fact that the Interagency Dispatch System alone cannot mobilize the quantity of resources that are needed to get ahead of a major WUI fire in the Colorado front range expeditiously enough to get ahead of the fire. This is particularly true if Colorado resources have been deployed to other western states and/or multiple large fires occur simultaneously, and significant numbers of structural protection engines are needed.

To help address this, the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center (RMACC) and Division of Fire Safety were "tasked" to get together and work through various mobilization scenarios to identify issues and propose solutions. One proposed solution – for CDFS to send staff to RMACC when indicated to manage the Colorado Resource Mobilization System – might help get engines out the door, but it doesn't address whether they will be accepted on a federally-managed incident if the crews are not NWCG qualified and the engine hasn't been inspected. Another suggestion was the development of strike teams of wildland fire and structural protection engines, but this concept will require significant work to develop.

In follow-up to the Simulation, Jim Fletcher, RMACC Manager developed the draft Dispatch Scenarios that were distributed to the Wildland Fire Section Board yesterday. Cooke indicated that review and comment on these by Section Board members would be appreciated and that he hoped to provide feedback to Jim Fletcher by the middle of the month.

Note: The draft dispatch scenarios are posted at:
http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/RMACC_Draft_Scenarios.pdf.

Indirect Cost Assessment by CSFS

Cooke indicate that there continues to be significant "grumbling" about the 23% indirect cost assessment by CSU, parent organization for the CSFS, on top of all invoices submitted by local agencies for reimbursement. Cooke indicated that he has heard rumors that Colorado resources have been bypassed or returned early from incidents in other states because of excessive costs, attributed to the 23% indirect cost assessment. Cooke also reported that he has heard that the Sheriffs Association is expressing concern about this.

Cooke distributed a memo that the CSFS provided the Legislative Interim Committee on WUI Fire Issues intended to clarify the indirect rate assigned to CSFS.

Discussion centered on the fact that the indirect rate assessed by CSU is excessive, particularly in light of the fact that it only compounds the cost of fire suppression and adds nothing to fire suppression capability.

Following discussion, it was decided that the Wildland Section Board would draft a "white paper" on the issue, seeking input from CSFCA members and the Sheriffs Association, and would present this

paper to the CSFCA Board with recommendations. Cooke indicated that he would begin the process by collecting actual, first hand accounts of situations resulting from this practice.

Note: The CSFS indirect cost assessment memo is posted at:
http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/CSFS_Indirect_Rate_Clarified.pdf.

Colorado Prescribed Fire Council Presentation

Chief Bumgarner welcomed the following representatives of the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council to make a presentation about the Council and their proposed legislation "Colorado Prescribed Burning Act".

Mike Babler	The Nature Conservancy	mbabler@tnc.org
Justin Whitesell	Larimer County Sheriffs Office	whitesjl@co.larimer.co.us
Jane Lopez	Colorado State Forest Service	jane.lopez@colostate.edu

Note: Sam Parsons, Wildland Coordinator for Fairmount Fire Protection District and North Central Region Representative for the Wildland Fire Section is CSFCA's representative on the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council.

Mike Babler provided a brief overview of the Council and Justin Whitesell made the presentation on the proposed legislation. Note: Copies of the presentation were distributed to Board members participating by teleconference.

Questions and issues raised by CSFCA representatives included:

1. The proposed legislation and subsequent training should address the impacts of prescribed fire on critical watershed and endangered and threatened species.
2. How does the Council intend to address liability for prescribed fires on private property that escape containment and spread to federal property?
3. What is the assessment of actual fiscal impact to implement the legislation?
4. Has consideration been given to having the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) be the implementing agency instead of the CSFS?
5. How was the proposed legislation received by the State Forester?

On the latter question, according to Mike Babler, the State Forester had expressed concern regarding CSFS liability for the actions of Certified Prescribed Burn Managers, adequate resources to administer the program, and the fact that the proposed legislation goes into more detail than he believes is necessary.

It was the consensus of the Board members present that the proposed legislation had merit and the proposal should be presented at the next regular Wildland Fire Section meeting. Mike Babler indicated their willingness to do this.

It was also recommended that one or more legislators that are familiar with wildland fire issues (i.e. Sen. Gibbs, Rep. Scanlan, Sen. Kopp) should be invited to the meeting to hear the presentation and discussion.

Note: A copy of the presentation made by the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council is posted at:
http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/Colorado_Prescribed_Fire%20Council.pdf

Note: The current draft of the legislation proposed by the Council is posted at:
http://www.colofirechiefs.org/wildfire/Colorado_Prescribed_Burning%20Act_063009.pdf

Other Issues

1. Regular Meeting Format

Chief Bumgarner raised the issue of what the format and length of regular Section meetings should be. It was the consensus of the board members present that the regular meeting format should follow that of the Combo Chiefs Section, i.e. commence at 10:00; have an "educational" presentation followed by lunch and business meeting; wrapping up around 1:00 or 1:30 PM.

2. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section is scheduled for July 24, 2009 at 10:00 AM in Parachute. Cooke will confirm the actual meeting location with Chief Blair and will determine the possibility of making a light lunch (i.e. sandwiches or pizza) available if we take RSVP's and ask participants to pay for their meal.

3. Presentations/Topics for Next Section Meeting

The following were proposed as the topics for the next Section meeting:

- Presentation by Colorado Prescribed Fire Council
- PIDC Update
- Position Paper on Indirect Cost Assessment by CSFS
- "Red Carding" of Colorado All-Hazard Type 3 IMT's
- RMACC Dispatch Scenarios

As soon as the meeting location is confirmed, Cooke will get out the meeting announcement.

Adjournment

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next meeting of the CSFCA Wildland Fire Section is scheduled for July 24, 2009 at 10:00 AM in Parachute (Location TBD).

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wildland Fire Section is Monday, August 17, 2009 at 9:30 AM at South Metro Fire Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Cooke, Executive Director
Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association