



California Incident Command Certification System Task Force

Meeting Notes 1000 3/26/2007
McClellan, CA

Attendees:

Art Bishop- Apple Valley FD
Steve Brown- Chico FD
Tom Connors-Orange County Fire Authority
Nick Duvally- Los Angeles County FD
Deano Esades-Pechanga FD
Bill Frankel-Camp Pendleton FD
Bill Holmes-Cal Fire AEU
Jim Little-Long Valley FPD
David Lord-Alameda County FD
Tom McGuire-Los Angeles County Fire
Mike Richwine-State Fire Training SFM
Scott Vail-OES
Kevin White-CFA/CFFJAC
Geoff Wilford-Kern County FD
Rusty Witwer-US Forest Service

State Board of Fire Services Meeting

Steve Brown and Scott Vail reviewed the State Board of Fire Services meeting February 28th. At this meeting Scott updated the Board on the progress of the task Force and asked for support of a state qualifications card. While the members of the Board present were supportive of adoption of the card there were not enough members in attendance to have a quorum. At the next meeting of the Board this issue will be brought forward along with the adoption of the 2006 310-1 as the base qualifications guide rather than the 2000 310-1 in use now.

California Incident Command System Handbook (310-1)

A wide ranging discussion was held on the 310-1. It appears from the discussion that the fire service does not always understand that the wildland fire qualifications system is based on performance and not on the classroom. There is a concern that task books are not being completed correctly, either because of lack of knowledge of the process by the trainer and/or the trainee or they are short-cutting the intended training necessary to complete the task book properly. The task force will look for a presentation on the correct use of the task book and make it available throughout the state.

The Forest Service is changing their qualifications handbook (5109.17) to reflect the 2006 310-1 in all areas except operations where they still want to maintain a higher level of training and experience.

There is a concern with the current 310-1 that the prerequisites and training requirements for Field Observer and Safety Officer are too watered down to reflect the actual performance requirements of the position.

NWCG is in the process of revising all of the wildland related task books. DHS is taking on the development of all the task-books related to non-fire competencies.

Qualifications Card

The Task Force members discussed how the concept of an incident qualifications card would be best presented to the fire services of California. The consensus was to make a recommendation to the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors that agencies adopt qualifications cards first using currently available systems with the eventual goal of having a statewide system. The system that will be recommended will most likely be IQS because it is free and supported by the Forest Service and the Association of State Foresters. It is on the internet and can be downloaded by anyone with access to the internet.

There are other systems available such as the ones in use in San Bernardino and LA Counties that also could be adopted.

Scott Vail will make a presentation at the April 11th meeting of the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors meeting describing the recommendation to adopt a card and IQS as the system that agencies should adopt.

One reason for having a qualifications carding system is that it is insurance, an anti-litigation policy.

Currency

DHS leaning toward simulations as the means of maintaining currency as many of their disasters happen very seldom (hurricanes, earthquakes, etc...) and they don't have the fire occurrence that allows firefighters to maintain currency. From a national perspective simulations will be the allowable

method of maintaining qualifications rather than instruction and refresher classes if a person cannot get an assignment in the allotted time.

Consistency

One of the concerns of the task force is consistency between the area and region peer review groups throughout the state. At the last meeting it was proposed to have a statewide meeting of the chairs of the peer review committees but it has worked out to have regional meetings instead. Meetings have been held for Region II and Region IV and V had a combined one. Region VI will be held on 4/30 in Riverside.

In the policy and procedures section of the proposed California Incident Command System Qualifications Handbook (CA-310-1) there will be sufficient detail on what is needed to maintain consistency throughout the state.

IQS

Tom Connors presented IQS and it was agreed that this is the system that we would recommend as the statewide system to be adopted in the future. It will in the near future interface with ROSS and has the potential to meet some of the database needs desired by State Fire Training.

The Task Force will be looking for IQS training materials in the interest of creating a train-the-trainer program for IQS to deliver to agencies that have the interest in adopting IQS.

Sub-Committee Formation

Three Subcommittees were suggested to be formed.

- 1) Revisit the equivalency matrix. Brad Smiths name was suggested but he was not in attendance and this subject will have to be revisited at the next meeting.
- 2) Deano Esades is going to form a group to find out which all-risk/hazard position qualifications have been developed and if there are task books with these positions.
- 3) Nick Duvally and Tom McGuire agreed to develop the policy and procedures portion of the Incident Command System Handbook (they spent the following two days working on a draft document that they will have for task force review soon)

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 21st (Victoria Day).

Location: WFTC McClellan Mann Gulch Room N113 (this is one of the large class rooms and best entered from the east side parking lot and entrance)