Blue Ribbon Commission Stakeholders Ad Hoc Committee

Updated November 11, 2005

CALIFORNIA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Administrative Fire Services Section

Communication Officers Section

Emergency Medical Services Section

Fire Mechanics Section

Fire Operations Officers Section

Fire Prevention Officers Section

Legislative Section

Professional Development Committee

Training Officers Section

November 11, 2005

Mr. Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
State of California
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

The Blue Ribbon Commission Stakeholders Ad Hoc Committee sponsored by the Governor's Office to implement the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations is pleased to submit the updated "Blue Ribbon Commission Ad Hoc Report". The new report, dated November 11, 2005, is designed to provide updates on progress for each of the recommendations.

The group decided to keep the original information static and will move forward by continually adding progress, new action plans, and revised completion dates that are specific to each of the recommendations in order to fully understand the history of the Commission.

This is part of an ongoing effort to ensure that the Committee continues to move forward in implementing the recommendations to acquire the desired outcome specified.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael Warren, President
California Fire Chiefs Association

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

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April 18, 2005

Mr. Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
State of California
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of the working group that was established to implement the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations we are very pleased to submit to you the final draft of our report. Along with the recommendations the report includes information on the current status of the recommendations, an action plan and desired outcome for each. We hope you and the administration find the report useful. We feel this report can serve as a "road map" to serve our collective efforts to improve fire and life safety for all Californians in the coming years. If the report is used effectively and kept updated it can help us be pro-active in providing essential life safety services.

As you may recall the Governor requested we meet to develop the attached report and to work back through you when we were completed. Our next step is to present the report the Governor and I will be making the request for a short meeting to present it to him. We respectfully request your assistance and support with this effort. In a private meeting I had with the Governor on March 31, 2005 on other issues, I mentioned we were almost finished with the report and he requested that I set up a meeting to go over it with him.

Members of the Working Group that contributed significantly to the report are:

Chief Bill Bamattre, LA City FD, President California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
Chief Jeff Bowman, San Diego City FD
Chief P. Michael Freeman, LA County FD, FIRESCOPE
Chief Dale Geldert, Director CDF&FP
Dallas Jones, California Professional Firefighters (CPF)
John Malmquist, Executive Director, California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA)
Chief Rick Martinez, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department
Chief Bill McCammon, Alameda County FD, Past President CFCA
Lou Paulson, President of California Professional Firefighters (CPF)
Chief Chip Prather, Orange County Fire Authority
Chief Ray Quintanar, US Forest Service
Carol Wills, California Professional Firefighters (CPF)
Bob Wolf, CDFEA
Chief Jim Wright, Deputy Director CDF&FP
Chief Kim Zagaris, Governors Office of Emergency Services (OES)

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael Warren, President
California Fire Chiefs Association

BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENCIES	PRIORITY	COMPLETION / PROGRESS	REPORT PAGE
SECTION I: JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that OES arrange a meeting of federal, state and local partners to further clarify and improve the process of utilizing federal resources and access to military assets.	OES, CDF, USFS	High	July 1, 2005; Annually	1
2. The Commission recommends that federal (USDOI, USFS) state (CDF, OES) and local fire agencies work in conjunction with the military to jointly develop and adopt agreements, regulations and operating policies for the employment of aerial assets during WUI firefighting efforts. In addition, FIRESCOPE should develop a statewide plan to increase local agency capacity to provide additional resources for combating WUI fires.	OES, CDF, USFS	High	July 1, 2005; Ongoing	2
3. The Commission recommends that a task force be established to review the social, political, economic and scientific issues relating to conflicts between environmental and ecosystem values and land management planning and their impact on the use of proven fire prevention and fire safety measures to protect lives and property in our WUI areas.	Resources Agency	Medium	Ongoing	4
4. The Commission recommends that federal and state statutes be clarified, where necessary, to reaffirm the status of the fire service as a public safety entity, and to recognize the integrated responsibilities for fuel management as reflected in the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Restoration Act and existing agreements between the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and federal, state and local fire agencies.	Local Government, CSAC and CA League of Cities	Medium	Legislative Changes January 1, 2007	6
5. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local forest firefighting agencies review their aircraft operations cut-off time and determine if there can be a window of flexibility to expand incident operations times, while at the same time taking into consideration flight crew safety. Additionally, these agencies should review technological capabilities to extend available aerial emergency response capabilities.	CDF, USFS, Local Government	High	April 30, 2005; Ongoing	7
6. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local fire agencies implement 4-0 staffing for all fire engine companies responding to OES Mutual Aid calls for immediate, planned response, and set a goal of 4-0 staffing for WUI initial attack response.	OES, Local Government	High	Ongoing	8
7. The Commission recommends that all firefighters responding to WUI fires be provided with the necessary wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment.	OES, CDF, USFS, Local Governments, Cal Chiefs	High	July 1, 2005; Ongoing	9
8. The Commission recommends that sufficient funds be allocated to state and local fire agencies to address California's fire prevention and suppression needs.	Governor's Office, Local Government, OES	High	July 1, 2005 - Initial task complete; Ongoing	11
9. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local policymakers consider creating a stable funding infrastructure for the California Fire Alliance and Fire Safe Councils.	OES, CDF, USFS, California Fire Alliance, California Fire Safe Councils	High	January 1, 2006; Ongoing	12
JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that the federal government (DOD, USDOI, USFS, etc.) investigate whether the successful MAFFS program concept of operation and other emerging technologies can be applied to aerial firefighting systems.	OES, CDF, USFS	High	Emerging Technology; Ongoing	13

LAST UPDATED: November 11, 2005

BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENCIES	PRIORITY	COMPLETION / PROGRESS	REPORT PAGE
2. The Commission recommends that Congress support and fund a single source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence.	USFS	Medium	In progress	14
3. The Commission recommends that Congress consider authorizing additional federal grant funds for wildland fire mitigation including the establishment of a National Fire Science Research Institute to compile, evaluate and fund technological advances related to fire prevention and suppression at the federal level.	USFS, Legislative Oversight Committee	Medium	In progress; Ongoing	15
4. The Commission recommends that the federal government reduce or eliminate "match" requirements for federal grant funds for hazard mitigation programs in areas where there has been a state declaration of emergency.	USFS, Legislative Oversight Committee	High	July 1, 2005	16
JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends development of a permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security. As part of the Committee's mandate, it will have responsibility, in so far as possible, to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Committee will oversee all relevant rules and regulations to resolve conflicting issues. Additionally, this Committee will have technical advisory committees to help evaluate strategies, and periodically report its progress to the Governor and Legislature.	State Legislature	High	Reestablished for 2005 Legislative Session; Annually	17
2. The Commission recommends that it reconvene 6 months after the submission of this report, and again 6 months later, to assess progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations.	Cal Chiefs	Medium	May 31, 2005; Adhoc Committee directed to proceed	18
3. The Commission recommends that FIRESCOPE research and pursue efforts so mutual aid deployed engines have the capability to utilize newer technologies, such as foams and gels.	All federal, state and local fire	Medium	July 1, 2005; Revised July 2006	19
4. The Commission recommends establishing a secure year-round operational capability for CDF, where appropriate, including the implementation of 4-0 staffing for all CDF state funded engine companies.	CDF	High	July 1, 2005; 3.0 year-round staffing approved, E.O. for 4.0 staffing during fire season	20
5. The Commission recommends that the state examine alternatives for replacement and diversification of CDF's aging helicopter fleet and fire engine apparatus, and begin a replacement planning cycle.	CDF	High	July 1, 2005; $10.8 MM BCP Approved	22
6. The Commission recommends that the state develop a program to fund the acquisition of 150 additional OES fire engines and the requisite logistical support necessary to address California's fire suppression needs.	OES	High	July 1, 2006; $5 MM approved for CDF & $5 MM approved for OES	23
SECTION II TRAINING: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that nationwide training agreements be expanded.	OES, CDF	Low	Ongoing	24
TRAINING: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The 1. Commission recommends that Congress increase efforts to provide training for local fire departments through federal grant programs, and expand the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grant program.	Cal Chiefs, CPF, CDF, USFS	High	Ongoing	25
TRAINING: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS				

LAST UPDATED: November 11, 2005

BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENCIES	PRIORITY	COMPLETION / PROGRESS	REPORT PAGE
1. The Commission recommends that the state create a multi-layered public education outreach campaign for residents living in WUI areas.	Cal Chiefs, Fire Safe Councils, California Fire Alliance, CDF, OES	High	July 1, 2005; Ongoing	26
2. The Commission recommends that CDF/OSFM develop and maintain an adequately funded P.O.S.T. type standards, training and education program to ensure that trained and qualified personnel are prepared to respond to major events. This system should support the use of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) and incorporate the Fire Officer Certification process approved by the State Board of Fire Services.	Legislative Oversight Committee, OES, CDF	High	Needs Assessment January 1, 2006, Legislative Changes January 1, 2007	28
3. The Commission recommends that state funds be provided to each Operational Area to hold annual wildland fire suppression training exercises that includes National Guard and federal military resources. Funding should also be made available by the state to improve the training level of smaller fire departments.	Legislative Oversight Committee, CDF	Low	Ongoing	29
SECTION III: INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local fire agencies in California review their various assistance for hire agreements for appropriateness and their potential to undermine California's Master Agreement and Master Mutual Aid System.	OES, CDF, USFS, DOI	Medium	Ongoing	30
2. The Commission recommends that FIRESCOPE facilitate federal, state and local fire service agencies working together to reach consensus on the definition of structure protection versus perimeter control, and address the release of mutual aid companies back to their jurisdiction of origin when immediate needs dictate such return.	OES, CDF, FIRESCOPE	Medium	July 1, 2005; Ongoing	31
3. The Commission recommends that forest agencies integrate local incident command team members within their respective incident management teams when local agencies are in unified command on major WUI fires, and that a module relating to interfacing with local EOCs be included in USFS Type 1 and 2 team training programs.	CDF, USFS	Low	July 31, 2005; Ongoing	32
4. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies continuously maintain and update their mutual aid and cooperative agreements to reflect contemporary needs and costs.	CDF, USFS	Low	Ongoing	33
INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that OES and FIRESCOPE incorporate the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) into the statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement.	OES	Low	Ongoing	34
SECTION IV: LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that the Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security convene with appropriate representatives of federal, state and local governments to build upon existing governmental efforts to develop a comprehensive interagency, intergovernmental wildland vegetation management plan for California, and integrate the plan's direction into revised or amended federal, state and local land management, land use plans.	Legislature, CDF, OES, USFS	High	Ongoing	35

LAST UPDATED: November 11, 2005

BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENCIES	PRIORITY	COMPLETION / PROGRESS	REPORT PAGE
2. The Commission recommends that in WUI areas, the Statewide Fire Safe Council promotes the establishment of local Fire Safe Councils and encourages federal, state and local governments to assist in this effort.	Governor's Office, CDF, OES, California Fire Alliance	High	July 1, 2005; Ongoing	38
3. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies and officials give serious consideration to fostering and advancing citizen involvement in the establishment and operation of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding groups. Furthermore, the state should develop a disaster recovery model based on the collective input of OES, FEMA, faith-based and community groups, victim advocates and other relevant organizations.	OES	Medium	Ongoing	39
4. The 1. Commission recommends that USDOI, FEMA, USFS, CDF and OES identify ways to assist, including financially, local governments with WUI fire preparation and mitigation efforts.	CDF, OES, USFS, California Fire	High	January 1, 2006	41
LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends the Wildland Fire Leadership Council address issues of Wildland Fire Prevention and Control and inconsistencies in the interpretation and implementation of the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, Structure Protection, and Cost Apportionment process.	CDF, USFS, FIRESCOPE, California Fire Alliance	Medium	Ongoing	42
2. The Commission recommends that Congress consider establishing a National Wildland Fire Insurance Program (NWFIP), with appropriate eligibility criteria, under the direction of FEMA.	Legislative Oversight Committee	Low	Unknown	43
LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continue to conduct fire research, including development of fire test protocols for vents, radiant heat exposure for windows and other applicable areas to improve ignition resistant construction techniques. The research process should include implementation of a comprehensive damage assessment process to collect data on efficiency and effectiveness of mitigation practices.	CDF, OES	Medium	Ongoing;	44
2. The Commission recognizes and applauds Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) type programs and recommends that MAST be considered as a model for other areas.	CDF, USFS, California Fire Alliance	High	July 1, 2005	45
3. The Commission endorses SB 1855 by Senator Deirdre Alpert.	Legislature	Low	Completed	46
SECTION V: COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that all EOCs dedicate a Public Information Officer (PIO) or establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. The PIO or JIC should be in or near the EOC which has timely access to the latest information. All available technologies should be explored to expedite the timely dissemination of information.	CDF, OES, USFS, Local Government	High	Ongoing	47

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COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENCIES	PRIORITY	COMPLETION / PROGRESS	REPORT PAGE
COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends that sufficient standardized frequencies be issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to meet the interoperable communication needs of fire and emergency personnel.	Legislative Oversight Committee	High	Ongoing	48
COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recommends integration of the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) with the California Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid System.	CDF, OES, FIRESCOPE, USFS	Medium	July 31, 2006	49
2. The 1. Commission recommends that the state implement a research and development working group within FIRESCOPE to explore emerging technologies for firefighting purposes (e.g., military technology, GPS, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles [UAVs], Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS).	CDF, OES, FIRESCOPE, USFS, State & Federal Homeland Security	Medium	Ongoing	50
3. The Commission recommends that each engine crew and chief officer have the capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands.	CDF, OES	High	July 1, 2005; Annually	52
4. The Commission recommends that local governments improve public outreach and emergency evacuation education.	Local Government, FIRESCOPE	High	July 1, 2006	53
5. The Commission recommends that state agencies take advantage of the work that has been done locally to create regional communication systems and join with local agencies on a regional basis to enhance those systems.	OES, CALSIEC, Federal & Local Partners	Medium	Ongoing	54
6. The Commission recommends that the state update and expand current handheld and mobile radios to be utilized on major mutual aid incidents as a short-term, temporary solution to the interoperability problem.	CDF, OES	High	July 1, 2005	56
7. The Commission recommends that OES Fire and Rescue Command Nets be expanded.	OES, CDF, PSRSPC	High	2010	57
COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
1. The Commission recognizes the critical role of timely emergency notification of the public of imminent threats and recommends that local governments prioritize the development of appropriate early warning systems to address the needs of their communities.	Local Government, OES	High	Ongoing	58

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that OES arrange a meeting of federal, state and local partners to further clarify and improve the process of utilizing federal resources and access to military assets.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, CDF, USFS

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – The initial task to develop operation guidelines that would clearly identify the process and procedures for the utilization of federal and military assets under existing federal laws has been completed. The Committee agrees to review and update the operational guidelines on an annual basis.*

April 11, 2005 - OES has been involved in discussions with CDF, the California National Guard (CNG), the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Defense on the process for the use of federal resources and for accessing active duty and reserve military assets. Currently, OES is reviewing existing procedures for use of the CNG Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) and helicopters to ensure that all avenues of access are identified and the numerous ways of accessing federal assets are also identified, clarified, and documented (FEMA, CNG, USFS, etc.). OES is documenting the thresholds that trigger the use of federal assets and the scope of use for equipment and personnel.

The U.S. Forest Service authorized nine contracted air tankers to return to service; there are eight military C-130 aircraft equipped with MAFFS available for use; and contracts are established with private companies for helicopters and helitankers capable of fire fighting.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Annually* Priority: High

Action Plan: The USFS, OES and CDF will develop, through FIRESCOPE, prior to July 1, 2005, operation guidelines that would clearly identify the process and procedure for the utilization of federal and military assets under existing federal laws. Updates to these documents will continue on an annual basis.

Desired Outcome: All agencies will have comprehensive operational guidelines to obtain federal resources for fire fighting purposes, to be distributed through the operational area by July 1, 2005.

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Commission recommends that federal (USDOI, USFS), state (CDF, OES) and local fire agencies work in conjunction with the military to jointly develop and adopt agreements, regulations and operating policies for the employment of aerial assets during WUI firefighting efforts. In addition, FIRESCOPE should develop a statewide plan to increase local agency capacity to provide additional air resources for combating WUI fires.

   This includes:
   - Agreements to meet equipment, communications and training criteria as established by USDOI, USFS, CDF AND OES;
   - Submission of annual declarations of participation to USDOI, USFS, CDF AND OES by military base commanders by May1st of each calendar year; and
   - Weekly affirmation of availability status in accordance with developed policy.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, CDF, USFS

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– FIRESCOPE managers have met and the initial assessment has been completed, however on-going assessments will be needed as availability and participation of military assets change. Agreements have been established with local military establishments at Miramar and North Island. A working group has been established to review on an annual basis.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF developed a plan for ongoing training and has already provided training for U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps aircrews in aerial wildland fire fighting.

CDF and the U.S. Forest Service have worked together to compensate for the grounding of U.S. Forest Service contracted air tankers.

CDF, working through the California Wildfire Working Group, is updating agreements for the employment of aerial assets used in the WUI. FIRESCOPE will work with local governments to develop a statewide strategy to increase air resources capability.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Annually* Priority: High

Action Plan: The agreements and procedures will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed. Each CDF Administrative Unit, rather than FIRESCOPE, will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining participation status of military acquisition status.

FIRESCOPE will develop a statewide plan to increase local agency capacity to provide additional air resources for combating WUI fires. The plan will include an inventory of existing air resources and agreements, instructions on how to increase local resources through interagency agreements, how to certify assets for use on CDF fires, and how to use the system at each level.

Desired Outcome: The process and procedures will be institutionalized and reviewed annually.

3. The Commission recommends that a task force be established to review the social, political, economic and scientific issues relating to conflicts between environmental and ecosystem values and land management planning and their impact on the use of proven fire prevention and fire safety measures to protect lives and property in our WUI areas.

Agency/Agencies: **Resources Agency**, CDF and OES

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– A Budget Change Proposal has been funded to establish the Biodiversity Council.*

CDF Director Geldert has been assigned to a committee which includes modelers, ecologist, foresters, economists and analysts. The committee's focus is on thinning forests to reduce wildfire risks and to make them more resilient to insect and disease, and how these thinning forests produce a significant volume of biomass as a waste product. The committee will model, identify and analyze the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of using forest biomass to generate electrical power.

Director Geldert met with local residents, officials, and Fire Safe Council Members from the region for a progress report on the MAST on July 21, 2005.

April 11, 2005 - The California Biodiversity Council, co-chaired by Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman and Bureau of Land Management Director Mike Poole, met in Lake Arrowhead in June 2004 and launched a project to help minimize any institutional barriers to the speedy removal of bark beetle-killed trees in the Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego areas. Thousands of trees have been removed and CDF and OES are making these models and experience available to other areas.
Between July and August a task force of 4 federal, 5 state, 4 local agencies, and 3 non-governmental groups met three times to complete the project of streamlining existing planning and integrating shared information and assessment tools to improve future collaboration. Because the agencies responsible for endangered species and land use planning were not on the public safety oriented MAST and FAST groups, key steps were sharing common information on sensitive areas to avoid, boiler-plate mitigations for necessary projects, sharing maps and key contacts, and developing procedures for rapid interagency consultations on challenging projects. The prevailing Governor's Proclamation has significantly improved state agency coordination and this task force extended the lessons to coordination across all levels of government. In September 16, 2004, all participating agencies identified efficiencies that would be achieved through the use of shared geographic information systems (GIS) and dynamic fire behavior modeling tools. Current staff is fully occupied with already planned projects for the next 2 years.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Each participating agency should provide dedicated staff to support a continuation of the pilot project for 2-3 months. The goal is to complete Task 3 by first assembling an integrated GIS data base for all participating agencies. Next, the team will develop an integrated plan for the pilot area, using both GIS spatial coverage's and the dynamic modeling tools of the "Fireshed Assessment" approach.

Desired Outcome: Improved efficiencies for everyone through cooperating in shared GIS systems and integrated "fireshed" planning.

4. The Commission recommends that federal and state statutes be clarified, where necessary, to reaffirm the status of the fire service as a public safety entity, and to recognize the integrated responsibilities for fuel management as reflected in the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Restoration Act and existing agreements between the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and federal, state and local fire agencies.

Agency/Agencies: Local Government, CSAC and **California League of Cities**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 – *No legislative action was taken in 2005.*

April 11, 2005 - None

Projected Completion Date: Legislative changes January 1, 2007 Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Continue to work through the legislative process to ensure there are no conflicting issues regarding the federal and state statutes.

Desired Outcome: Through legislation, agencies will be allowed to ensure that the goals of theses policies are met.

5. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local forest firefighting agencies review their aircraft operations cut-off time and determine if there can be a window of flexibility to expand incident operations times, while at the same time taking into consideration flight crew safety. Additionally, these agencies should review technological capabilities to extend available aerial emergency response capabilities.

Agency/Agencies: **CDF**, USFS, Local Governments

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – Due to emerging technology, fire agencies will continually be looking at expanding their policy and procedures.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF has clarified its process relating to aircraft operational times and has implemented new policies. These policies provide for longer flight windows while still preserving pilot safety.

The evaluation of emerging technologies is an ongoing process.

Projected Completion Date: April 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: FIRESCOPE will form an air operations working group that will survey federal, state, and local agencies that provide emergency air operations and compile a summary of flight policies. A draft policy relative to Interagency Air Operations will be developed promoting consistency in operational guidelines while maintaining individual agency autonomy.

FIRESCOPE will work out any inconsistencies between agencies.

Desired Outcome: Aircraft will be able to fly the maximum amount of time while maintaining the highest standard of safety for the pilots.

6. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local fire agencies implement 4-0 staffing for all fire engine companies responding to OES Mutual Aid calls for immediate, planned response, and set a goal of 4-0 staffing for WUI initial attack response.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, Local Government

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – OES addressed the issue at their regional and operational meetings and will continue sending annual notifications to local agencies.*

April 11, 2005 - Provisions currently exist to encourage 4-person staffing in response to CDF requests for mutual aid and assistance by hire; local entities respond with 4.0 person staffing when possible.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF, OES, Cal Chiefs and Metro Chiefs will encourage local entities, including CSAC and CA League of Cities, to work toward developing adequate 4-person staffing and equipment policies for response to mutual aid and assistance by hire requests for wildland incidents.

Agencies will work to develop a clear matrix that will identify the staffing levels, who's paying and costs surrounding each type of OES deployment.

OES & FIRESCOPE will issue a notice reinforcing the Commission's recommendations regarding 4-person staffing.

Desired Outcome: Entities responding to WUI initial attack will be adequately staffed.

7. The Commission recommends that all firefighters responding to WUI fires be provided with the necessary wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment.

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, USFS, Local Government and **Cal Chiefs**

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – 440 first responders where trained and received (at no cost to their departments) a complete set of Personal Protective Equipment (excluding boots). In conjunction with the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, in the Spring of 2006, an additional 100 students will receive the same training and equipment. The Personal Protective Equipment was provided by the USFS, Parks and BLM grant training dollars.*

April 11, 2005 - OES and CDF, with FIRESCOPE, are creating a survey for local governments to identify the status and the need for wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment. In addition, see *Communications and Interoperability, Information Technology and Public Outreach, State Recommendations*, *Recommendation #6*.

In August 2004, the USFS awarded a $988,000 grant to CDF to assist approximately 20 rural fire departments with the purchase of safety equipment and to provide wildland urban interface fire training for firefighters in southern California. The effective match to the rural fire departments was 10 percent, as CDF contributed to the overall match.

A $246,000 State Fire Assistance grant has been awarded to the California Fire Chiefs Association to train 300 rural firefighters in wildland urban interface fire protection techniques. At the conclusion of the training, each firefighter, successfully completing the training, will receive a set of wildland firefighting protective equipment, a headlamp and a field pack. The grant was matched for a total project cost of $492,000.

A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to CDF for $261,500 to provide training upgrades at the CDF Fire Academy in Ione, CA.

Volunteer Fire Assistance grants have been awarded to CDF in the amount of $949,000 for distribution to rural fire departments statewide for training, equipment, and supplies to assist with fire protection. A 50/50 match was required.

A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to California Fire Chiefs Association for $1 million to assist rural fire departments with the purchase of needed fire equipment and supplies and to provide fire training in the drought/bug kill affected areas of southern California. California Fire Chiefs will issue sub-grants to selected departments who will match 25 percent of the total cost of the proposed project.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005 Priority: High

Action Plan: Cal Chiefs will conduct a wildland personal protective equipment (PPE) survey and report back to FIRESCOPE.

Request that IAFC will conduct a wildland personal protective equipment survey of the Western Division of the IAFC and report back to Cal Chiefs.

As a condition, when applying for California Fire Chiefs Association grants, a personal protective equipment verification form and item specific list must be completed and submitted with the application.

OES/CDF and other responsible agencies will annually notify all fire entities of equipment requirements (PPE) and potential consequences of responding without that compliment.

Cal Chiefs to work with Western Division of IAFC to encourage all members to obtain appropriate training and PPE.

Desired Outcome: All firefighters responding to a WUI fire will possess the appropriate personal protective gear.

8. The Commission recommends that sufficient funds be allocated to state and local fire agencies to address California's fire prevention and suppression needs.

Agency/Agencies: Governor's Office, **Cal Chiefs**, Local Government and OES

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– OES continues to monitor federal grants for prevention funding and notifies fire agencies as appropriate. CDF monitors grants through the California Fire Safe Council and California Fire Alliance grant programs.*

Prop 40 Fuel Reductions funding: $3.2 million dollars were allocated to the Fire Safe Councils and $2.0 million were allocated to CFIP and VMP.

April 11, 2005 - OES and CDF will continue to work with local governments to identify funds to address fire prevention and suppression needs statewide.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: Cal Chiefs to send a letter to CSAC, League of Cities and the Governor's Office requesting that sufficient funds be allocated to state and local fire agencies for fire prevention and suppression needs.

Desired Outcome: It is anticipated that a response back to Cal Chiefs will be received by July 1, 2005.

9. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local policymakers consider creating a stable funding infrastructure for the California Fire Alliance and Fire Safe Councils.

Agency/Agencies: OES/CDF, USFS, **California Fire Alliance** and California Fire Safe Councils.

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– Lobbying continues for support through federal grant funding.*

April 11, 2005 - As they become available, CDF and OES are providing more resources to create new Fire Safe Councils and to enhance the ability of existing councils to develop and implement mitigation plans. As part of this action, in the 2004-05 fiscal year:
• CDF has directed $100,000 to assist in development of an integrated Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin;
• CDF will allocate $250,000 for new Community Wildfire Protection Plans that incorporate a watershed protection/fuel treatment project element or for modifications to existing fire plans to develop watershed protection/fuel treatment elements; and
• CDF will deliver $1.2 million to local Fire Safe Councils for use on community fuel reduction projects in the Sierra Nevada.

The Administration will work with Congress and the President to Insure full funding of Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); secure fair and equitable distribution of HFRA Title I monies to California; secure continued funding under the National Fire Plan's Community Assistance Grant program to support operations of Fire Safe Councils; reduce the "match" requirements for federal hazard mitigation programs; and secure continued funding for training, fire equipment, apparatus, and safety gear.

CDF Director met with CSFC and provided guidance and alternatives for long term stable funding.

Projected Completion Date: January 1, 2006; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: Continue to foster the Clearing House concept to coordinate the current Cal Fire Alliance with the Fire Wise National program used by most states (includes "local fire safe councils"). The partnership includes NFPA, as well as grants, for a more stable funding source.

New Action Plan: To be Written

Desired Outcome: Secure funding for a strong California Fire Alliance and Fire Safe Councils throughout California.

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS
FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that the federal government (DOD, USDOI, USFS, etc.) investigate whether the successful MAFFS program concept of operation and other emerging technologies can be applied to aerial firefighting systems.

Agency/Agencies: OES, **CDF**, USFS

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *–Evaluate of night vision technologies continues, including USFS unmanned aerial device. OES is seeking funding for new airtanker capabilities (i.e., the Russian BE200 and Evergreen 747 Supertankers).*

Gel technology for aerial application is being investigated and the USFS continues to work with developing Cobra helicopters.

The California National Guard is investigating the possibility of obtaining UAV Capabilities.

April 11, 2005 - CDF and OES are promoting the use of the MAFFS program as a model for other air assets. OES and CDF will continue ongoing efforts to assess emergency technologies that may be applied to other aerial firefighting systems.

Currently, the USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center is researching Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology for remote sensing intelligence gathering, communication relay, and weather observations in class sizes ranging from hand-launched to space-borne models. Additionally, work is being conducted with various contractors and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory relative to the system requirements, followed by proof-of-concept demos for small UAVs (10-15 feet in wing span). Together, OES/CDF is working in concert with federal government agencies (DOD, FAA, and NASA) in an effort to identify technology and policy issues that would impede the introduction of UAVs. The USFS is also working with the United States Air Force and Georgia Tech University on flight planning software.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: Develop partnerships with appropriate state and federal agencies to secure funding and authorizations to utilize existing and new technologies to achieve the desired outcome. Ensure this technology is not limited to the actual time during an incident but allowed to foresee or project the future.

Desired Outcome: To have the necessary authorizations in place to allow the resources to be used when needed in emergency situations.

2. The Commission recommends that Congress support and fund a single source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence.

Agency/Agencies: **USFS**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- In addition a collaborative effort centered around the "Firewatch" as a research program with the US Forest Service, UC Davis & NASA have worked to provide a functional Aircraft Health Management Program. This will provide quality assured maintenance conformity, fatigue life analysis, environmental monitoring, cost effective maintenance methods and prognostic program management tools. This is part of a larger effort with the US Forest Service Region Five, UC Davis & NASA who have established an Aircraft Health consortium to address issues around firefighting aircraft airworthiness and aircraft safety. Also part of this program through UC Davis Extension and the Forest Service is a new aviation Safety Management School designed for all aviation programs in emergency response services. This training in now being offered at the Forest Service McClellan facility.*

April 11, 2005 - The Forest Service has implemented a new program called, "Firewatch," with the goal of meeting the Commission's recommendation for a single-source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence. This program utilizes two Bell 209 helicopters, equipped with specialized equipment for intelligence gathering and mapping for command and control. The aircraft are equipped with a multi-channel microwave transmitter, capable of down linking real-time, color or infrared camera images to a portable microwave receiver. The Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) system on the ship's equipped with an infrared camera, a 3 CCD color camera, laser range finder, and spotter scope. The FLIR turret is integrated to work with computerized mapping programs. Presently, the program has requested Night Vision Goggles to expand this technology into a nighttime operation.

Projected Completion Date: In progress; Operational (w/ future development in progress) Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Utilize existing and test new technology to determine their feasibility and uses.

Desired Outcome: Ensure real-time information is collected during local and state emergency operations. This information will be available in a data base for incident command.

3. The Commission recommends that Congress consider authorizing additional federal grant funds for wildland fire mitigation including the establishment of a National Fire Science Research Institute to compile, evaluate and fund technological advances related to fire prevention and suppression at the federal level.

Agency/Agencies: **USFS**, Legislative Oversight Committee

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - Over the past year, USFS provided $2.6 million in federal funds (75/25 match) to CDF to reduce hazardous fuels in southern California.

In addition, the following grants were awarded for hazardous fuels reduction programs directly to the southern California Counties by the USFS:

- $11.8 million to San Bernardino County
- $5.0 million to Riverside County
- $7.8 million to San Diego County

In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress earmarked $2.4 million in Forest Service State and Private grant funding to the California Fire Safe Council. This grant funding was to be used for fuel reduction projects in the Southern California communities affected by the 2003 wildfires.

The University of CA Forest Products Lab conducted tests (in conjunction with STATE FIRE MARSHAL and Fed grant) on several building materials to determine fire resistance to radiant heat and embers. Standards were developed for roofs, eaves, exterior walls, windows, and decks. Additional work needs to be done on vents. The STATE FIRE MARSHAL is working to incorporate results of tests into new requirements – needs support to become CA code. Currently, the BEHAVE and SIAM models are used to determine defensible space distance and fire resistance needs. Nether model was developed for that use and there are limitations and reliability concerns. Work to create effective models is needed. Criteria for determining safe distances should then be developed (general prescriptive guides for initial assessment).

Projected Completion Date: On going. Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Identify existing research and development programs that support technological advances related to fire prevention and suppression. Work through legislation to obtain additional funding. Eliminate conflicting legislation and policies.

Desired Outcome: Increased hazard reduction and Firefighter safety; increased funding and decreased match for projects.

4. The Commission recommends that the federal government reduce or eliminate "match" requirements for federal grant funds for hazard mitigation programs in areas where there has been a state declaration of emergency.

Agency/Agencies: USFS, Legislative Oversight Committee, **OES**, California Fire Alliance

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 - *The current FEMA program for federal hazard mitigation grants, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) had its match requirement permanently changed from 50/50 to 75/25 in 1993. Also, the USFS provides special appropriations to address significant fire threats throughout the United States which typically have a 50/50 match requirement. In support of the WUI areas impacted by drought and Bark Beetle infestation, The USFS provided funding for CA local governments for the 2004 federal funding cycle which Congress subsequently reduced the match requirement from 50/50 to 75/25. OES will draft a letter and send to the federal government requesting a permanent change to the match requirements for these special fire appropriations by January 2006.*

April 11, 2005 - State Fire Alliance matching requirements were reduced from 50/50, dollar-for-dollar, match to 75 percent federal government and 25 percent partner for grants delivered to southern California's drought affected WUI areas for the 2004 grants only.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005 Priority: High

Action Plan: OES to draft a letter to FEMA requesting permanent change to federal grant "match".

Desired Outcome: FEMA would permanently reduce the federal grant "match" from 50/50 to 75/25.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends development of a permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security. As part of the Committee's mandate, it will have responsibility, in so far as possible, to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Committee will oversee all relevant rules and regulations to resolve conflicting issues. Additionally, this Committee will have technical advisory Committees to help evaluate strategies, and periodically report its progress to the Governor and Legislature.

Agency/Agencies: **State Legislature**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– The Committee has been reestablished for the 2005-06 legislative session. It will take further legislative action to continue it beyond November 30, 2006.*

April 11, 2005 - Requires annual reauthorization.

Projected Completion Date: Completed for 2005-06; *biennially thereafter* Priority: High

Action Plan: Legislative Issue

Desired Outcome: That the Committee be reestablished as desired by the Legislature.

2. The Commission recommends that it reconvene 6 months after the submission of this report, and again 6 months later, to assess progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations.

Agency/Agencies: **Cal Chiefs**

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – The letter requesting that the Commission reconvene was sent to the Governor by Cal Chiefs. In July 2005 Cal Chiefs requested a meeting with the Governor's Office to submit the Blue Ribbon Commissions Ad Hoc Committee's Report. The Governor's Office decided to utilize the Ad Hoc Committee to proceed forward with the recommendations rather than reconvene the original Commission.*

April 11, 2005 - Request being drafted.

Projected Completion Date: May 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Cal Chiefs will prepare a letter by April 1, 2005 to the Governor requesting that the Commission reconvened prior to fire season.

Desired Outcome: That the Commission formally reconvenes.

3. The Commission recommends that FIRESCOPE research and pursue efforts so mutual aid deployed engines have the capability to utilize newer technologies, such as foams and gels.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, All federal, state and local fire entities

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– OES missed the projected completion date because of funding issues. OES is currently writing a non competitive bid justification to utilize Thermo Gel as the primary agent vendor.*

CDF is in the process of preparing an information document on agents for use by the fire service. Distribution of this document will be made through CDF, OES, Cal Chiefs and the USFS.

April 11, 2005 - OES will continue efforts to ensure that its mutual aid deployed equipment has the capability to utilize newer technologies such as foams and gels. OES has already equipped 50 of the 110 fire engines and 12 water tenders in its local government fleet with this capability. Modifications to the remaining 72 engines and tenders will be completed over the next several months. OES is also sharing best practices on this technology with local governments. Financial constraints have made it improbable for the state to fund this effort on the local level.

OES is working through the internal budget process for approval.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Revised to July 2006* Priority: Medium

Action Plan: FIRESCOPE shall develop a recommendation to local governments regarding the appropriate use of gels and foams.

Desired Outcome: All engines responding to mutual aid incidents are equipped with foams and/or gel capabilities.

4. The Commission recommends establishing a secure year-round operational capability for CDF, where appropriate, including the implementation of 4-0 staffing for all CDF state funded engine companies.

Agency/Agencies: **CDF**

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – A Budget Change Proposal was approved in the amount of $9.0 million for the 2005-06 fiscal year to operate 3.0 staffing year-round in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. Escalating to 4.0 staffing during extreme fire conditions will continue to be addressed through the Executive Order process.*

April 11, 2005 - Executive Order S-9-04 was issued on May 7, 2004 to increase the assistance provided by the state for fire response in Southern California during the 2004 Fire Season. The Governor's order assigned four firefighters to CDF engines in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties; provided additional resources in Los Angeles and Orange Counties based on fire threat conditions; redeployed 10 refurbished fire engines to increase engine resources in San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego Counties; added four CDF Conservation Camp fire crews in Southern California; and provided for an additional helicopter based in San Diego County.

Through the budget process, CDF developed a proposal for a year-round 3.0 operational capability in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties for wildland fire fighting. The continued increases in population in the WUI make it increasingly difficult to fight fires, especially in Southern California. During the past three years, funding for an extended fire season in this area has been authorized by gubernatorial executive order. Providing this coverage has likely saved millions of dollars in extra fire suppression costs to battle what likely would be much larger fires under normal funding and staffing situations. Fires are kept smaller and less destructive, which means significant cost savings to the state for fighting the fires and to residents for loss of life and property.

CDF will examine expanded staffing for all CDF fire engines statewide. As a general rule, fire engines are staffed for eight months out of the year on the theory that the risk of fire starts in the winter months is very low. However, investing in additional staff to provide coverage over a longer period of time has proven its effectiveness in keeping fires smaller by allowing CDF fire engine companies to be more productive and efficient in pre-fire protection activities.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005 Priority: High

Action Plan: The Governor's proposed budget for 2005-06 provides $9.0 million for year round 3.0 staffing on all CDF Southern Units engine companies. The Administration will work with the Legislature to ensure that the funding is included in the final Budget Act for

2005-2006. CDF retains the ability (through the Executive Order process) to increase staff levels to 4.0 based on current conditions.

Desired Outcome: Adequate engine staffing to meet year round WUI fire fighting efforts.

5. The Commission recommends that the state examine alternatives for replacement and diversification of CDF's aging helicopter fleet and fire engine apparatus, and begin a replacement planning cycle.

Agency/Agencies: **CDF**

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – CDF is moving forward in the procurement of 42 "Model 34" engines and is estimating production and delivery Summer 2007.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF, working through the California Wildfire Working Group, is updating agreements for the employment of aerial assets used in the WUI. FIRESCOPE (Fire Fighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies) is working with local governments to develop a statewide strategy to increase local air resources capability.

Through the budget process, CDF developed a proposal to replace its obsolete fire engines over a five-year period. CDF operates a total of 390 fire engines from 229 fire stations throughout the state. The current CDF fire engine fleet replacement budget has not significantly changed since 1982-83 due to limited General Fund resources and budget reductions and has therefore caused CDF to fall behind in its equipment replacement schedule.

CDF operates 11 1960 vintage Bell UH-1 Hueys which have been converted for aerial fire fighting work by the state and are designated CDF "Super Huey" helicopters. Acquired as excess military aircraft, they were later specially modified to meet CDF's mission and have served the department well. However, because of their age and the lack of spare parts, airframes and support mechanisms within the federal and civilian markets have become scarce. Thus, they are nearing the end of their useful service life.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005 Priority: High

Action Plan: By utilizing funding allocated through the budgetary process, CDF will initiate aggressive fire apparatus purchase cycles to procure and place into service replacement first line fire engine apparatus. The Governor's budget includes $10.9 million for the acquisition of these apparatus. The Administration will work with the Legislature to ensure that the funding is included in the final Budget Act for 2005-2006.

These funds will also be used to acquire helicopters designed to meet CDF's mission in the future.

Desired Outcome: To provide CDF with a safe and reliable fire engine apparatus and helicopter fleet.

6. The Commission recommends that the state develop a program to fund the acquisition of 150 additional OES fire engines and the requisite logistical support necessary to address California's fire suppression needs.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – The Governor's May Revise obtained $5 million for the acquisition of additional engines. OES is working with CDF on the procurement of 15 "Type 3" engines and 4 "Type 1" engines as part of that purchase.*

In addition, OES is seeking additional funding to supplement OES's engine fleet.

April 11, 2005 - OES is developing recommendations on the acquisition strategy for additional fire apparatus to be used in California's WUI fire suppression efforts. OES is in the process of developing a BCP to address this issue.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2006 Priority: High

Action Plan: Working through the budget process, OES will identify potential fund sources.

Desired Outcome: Additional engines at the local level available for both local and state fire responses.

TRAINING

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

TRAINING
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that nationwide training agreements be expanded.

Agency/Agencies: OES, **CDF/State Fire Marshal**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL and OES will on November 15, 2005, be taking part in Golden Guardian 2005, Emergency Preparedness Training Exercise. The exercise is a statewide mandatory emergency preparedness training exercise with the California National Guard and the Office of Homeland Security.*

April 11, 2005 – CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL has developed effective model training agreements and is working to expand the use of those agreements with federal agencies.

OES and CDF, with FIRESCOPE, are preparing a training needs assessment and will explore funding sources for state and local fire fighter training.

CDF is preparing a needs assessment for training exercises with the California National Guard and military resources.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Low

Action Plan: Continue to foster relationships with other agencies to ensure interoperable procedures and training. This training should include criteria for identifying vegetation risks and maintaining safe communities and models/regulations for planning/developing fire safe communities. Work to determine what if any funding sources need to be established to accomplish this additional training.

Desired Outcome: Seamless interoperable resource response and incident operations.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

TRAINING
FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that Congress increase efforts to provide training for local fire departments through federal grant programs, and expand the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grant program.

Agency/Agencies: **Cal Chiefs**, CPF, CDF and USFS

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - Cal Chiefs is developing a survey to assess the training facility and existing wildland training capabilities in the southern California counties.

USFS awarded a grant in the amount of $988,000 to CDF to assist approximately 20 rural fire departments in the purchase of safety equipment and to provide training in southern California.

Three hundred (300) rural firefighters will be trained in wildland urban interface fire protection techniques courtesy of a $246,000 federal grant awarded to the California Fire Chiefs Association. Additionally, each firefighter who successfully completes this training course will receive a set of wildland firefighting personal protective equipment, as well as a headlamp and field pack.

A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to CDF for $261,000 to provide training upgrades at the CDF Fire Academy in Ione. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants were awarded to CDF in the amount of $949,000 for distribution to rural fire departments statewide for training, equipment and supplies to assist in fire protection.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF, OES and local governments will continue to pursue federal grants and appropriations to support and expand training efforts.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

TRAINING
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that the state create a multi-layered public education outreach campaign for residents living in WUI areas.

Agency/Agencies: Cal Chiefs, Fire Safe Councils, **California Fire Alliance**, CDF and OES.

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– CDF has finalized and distributed the "California Living Fire Safe" CD throughout the state.*

The CDF Fire Prevention Education and Communications Committee (FPECC) is meeting on November 29th to begin discussions on a new 100' defensible space educational campaign and theme for the 2006 Wildfire Awareness Week. The group is exploring the possibility of using the First Lady in a statewide preparedness campaign.

CDF received a $40,000 federal grant to upgrade the CDF Pre-Fire/Fire Planning section of the CDF website. CDF also receives $45,000 annually to maintain the California Fire Alliance website and is currently in the process of completely redesigning the California Fire Alliance website to include grant resources, success stories and a new section dedicated to Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).

In 2005, CDF assumed statewide responsibility for coordination of the FIREWISE Communities USA Program. The state continues to work with the National Wildland Coordination Group on the WUI working team.

April 11, 2005 - CDF is preparing an analysis of the effectiveness of current public education programs for fire prevention.

CDF has a draft "California Living Fire Safe" CD that will be finalized and available for distribution in spring 2005.

The California Fire Alliance sent a letter of support to Cal Chiefs for their Wildfire Summit on January 28, 2005.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005 Priority: High

Action Plan:

New Action Plan – To Be Written

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

April 11, 2005 - CDF (in association with Cal Chiefs, CFSC, California Fire Alliance and OES) will develop and provide statewide education and outreach programs for residents living in the WUI as funds are made available.

The Governor has agreed to participate in PSA development for subsequent distribution.

Desired Outcome: An improved statewide education and outreach fire prevention program for persons in or near the WUI. To include the consolidation of Firewise/Fire Safe/Fire Alliance.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

TRAINING
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Commission recommends that CDF/OSFM develop and maintain an adequately funded P.O.S.T. type standards, training and education program to ensure that trained and qualified personnel are prepared to respond to major events. This system should support the use of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) and incorporate the Fire Officer Certification process approved by the State Board of Fire Services.

Agency/Agencies: Legislative Oversight Committee and OES, **CDF/State Fire Marshal**.

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – Efforts continue; Action on this item was delayed pending resolution of Government reorganization. This issue requires more effort then originally anticipated.*

April 11, 2005 - OES and CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL, with FIRESCOPE, are preparing a training needs assessment coordinated through the State Board of Fire Services and will explore funding sources for state and local firefighter training.

Projected Completion Date: Needs assessment January 1, 2006 Priority: High
Legislative changes January 1, 2007

Action Plan: Design an all risk Fire Service training and standards organization that mirrors the current Peace Officer Standards and Training program. Promote the new organization to Fire Chiefs and Fire Labor. Secure Governor and Legislative support for the new organization.

Additions: Include a Fire Prevention Track. Training should include criteria for identifying vegetation risks and maintaining safe communities and model/regulations for planning/developing safe communities.

Desired Outcome: A training standard that is integrated into various fire training programs for current and future Fire Service Personnel.

TRAINING
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Commission recommends that state funds be provided to each Operational Area to hold annual wildland fire suppression training exercises that includes National Guard and federal military resources. Funding should also be made available by the state to improve the training level of smaller fire departments.

Agency/Agencies: Legislative Oversight Committee and **CDF**.

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– CDF continues to provide annual preparedness exercises throughout the state. Every Spring, CDF, OES, the California National Guard and the US Forest Service conduct a joint helicopter firefighting training exercise.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF is preparing a needs assessment for training exercises with the California National Guard and military resources.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Low

Action Plan: CDF will continue to conduct fire preparedness exercises through its statewide administrative units which participation is encouraged to local government fire services, with the outreach to military installations. A training assessment will be conducted, to help identify the need for and provide assistance with fire suppression as military resources are developed and incorporated. Additional operational funding would definitely assist CDF with improved outreach

Desired Outcome: Improved training and coordination with local government and military firefighting resources.

INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS

INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local fire agencies in California review their various assistance for hire agreements for appropriateness and their potential to undermine California's Master Agreement and Master Mutual Aid System.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, CDF, USFS and Department of Interior

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– FIRESCOPE has met four times and addressed the current issues.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF and OES have developed statewide agreements covering the use of local government resources by federal and state agencies. The agreement addresses requesting, utilizing, and reimbursing local governments in a manner that does not conflict with California's master mutual aid system.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing; *January 2007* Priority: Medium

Action Plan: CDF and OES will annually review the agreements to ensure the CFAA, CDF, USFS, agreements compliment each other and eliminate any conflicting language.

Desired Outcome: Seamless response to any given emergency. Assisting agencies are aware of (at the time of dispatch), which response agreement applies CFAA or MMA.

2. The Commission recommends that FIRESCOPE facilitate federal, state and local fire service agencies working together to reach consensus on the definition of structure protection versus perimeter control, and address the release of mutual aid companies back to their jurisdiction of origin when immediate needs dictate such return.

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, **FIRESCOPE**

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - CDF and OES are working with FIRESCOPE to reach consensus on defining responsibility for structure protection and perimeter control. They are also working to clarify the release of mutual aid resources back to their original jurisdictions.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Continue to work to strive for consistency in the structure protection definition through the FIRESCOPE process. Once this definition is established the National Fire Plan may need modification to ensure national acceptance. Clarify release back procedures…

Desired Outcome: Clear acceptable definitions for structure protection for all levels and release back procedures.

3. The Commission recommends that forest agencies integrate local incident command team members within their respective incident management teams when local agencies are in unified command on major WUI fires, and that a module relating to interfacing with local EOCs be included in USFS Type 1 and 2 team training programs.

Agency/Agencies: **CDF**, USFS

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – CDF conducted its annual Incident Command Team (ICT) meeting on May 26, 2005. The USFS conducts its annual ICT meeting in the Spring of each year.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF has ten Type 1 State Incident Command Teams that are interagency made up of team members from both the state and local governments.

There are five California Federal Type 1, six California Federal Type 2 and one local Type 2 Incident Management Teams in the state of California. All are interagency teams—made up of team members from both the federal and local governments. Further, the Forest Service has adopted the practice of, upon entering into unified command with a local agency; they incorporate those team members into the Team's organization.

To date, during the 2004 Fire Season, 60 percent of the Type 1 fires, managed by federal incident management teams, have entered into unified command with a local agency and have successfully incorporated the local team members into their command and general staff structures.

To date, the recommended training module relating to interfacing with local Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) has not been included in USFS Type 1 and/or Type 2 team training programs. This subject, however, will be incorporated into the Spring 2005 California Team Meetings. Additionally, a recommendation will be forwarded to NWCG for inclusion in classes for Command and General Staff positions in the future.

OES and CDF will raise at the CWCG meetings and work with federal fire agencies to better define incident command protocols and to improve integration of local expertise in both operational and PIO functions.

Projected Completion Date: July 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: Low

Action Plan: Forest Agencies will continue to integrate local government representatives on Incident Command Teams as regularly assigned team members and will integrate local representatives during unified command operations. The importance of interfacing with local EOC's will be addressed with command teams.

Desired Outcome: Provide for enhanced coordination with local government entities during major incidents.

4. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies continuously maintain and update their mutual aid and cooperative agreements to reflect contemporary needs and costs.

Agency/Agencies: **CDF**, **USFS**

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - CDF and OES will continue to update mutual aid and cooperative agreements with federal and local governments and assess associated needs and costs.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Low

Action Plan: Recommend the review of all agreements annually.

Desired Outcome: Ensure consistency and reduce conflicts in all mutual aid and cooperative agreements.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that OES and FIRESCOPE incorporate the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) into the statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – The Ambulance Strike Team Leaders (ASTL) program is almost complete and OES has met with EMSA to discuss further development of ASTL mutual aid.*

April 11, 2005 - OES is setting up a meeting with State Agency Directors.
OES is evaluating the Emergency Medical Services Authority's role in mutual aid including identifying obstacles and impacts to private ambulance companies.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Low

Action Plan: OES will meet with the appropriate entities to discuss the issues.

Desired Outcome: Recommendation is made regarding statewide emergency medical services mutual aid.

LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION

LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that the Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security convene with appropriate representatives of federal, state and local governments to build upon existing governmental efforts to develop a comprehensive interagency, intergovernmental wildland vegetation management plan for California, and integrate the plan's direction into revised or amended federal, state and local land management, land use plans.

Agency/Agencies: Legislature, CDF, OES, USFS and the **California Fire Alliance**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– CDF has requested that the following distribution for the Fiscal Year 2007 be a "special earmark" of the State Fire Assistance funds for hazardous fuel reduction on state and private property in high-hazard areas for the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's,) and to assist with fuel hazard reduction on state and private land in high-hazard areas near the San Bernardino National Forest:*

1. *FSC/CWPP: Direct all $3.981 million to the State Fire Safe Council for distribution through the California Fire Alliance Grants Clearinghouse;*

2. *BDF: Direct the available $2.488 million as follows: $275,000 to the California Fire Safe Council for grant opportunities to non-forested communities which interface the BDF in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. This would typically be desert or valley community groups;*

3. *$640,000 to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to continue Small Lot Green Tree Removal Program management and oversight in cooperation with the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA; and*

4. *The remaining $1.573 million would be rolled into the existing Small Lot Green Tree Removal Program under the CDF/SBNFA Grant. These dollars would apply to forested lands only. It is anticipated that with the funding increase, 3000 parcels rather than 1700 parcel will be treated.*

April 11, 2005 - Utilizing federal, state and local resources, more than 86,000 dead and dying trees have been removed from over 663,000 acres in the Southern California areas most heavily impacted by the drought and the bark beetle infestation. Forest areas at risk to impacts from insects, disease and other factors have been mapped and evaluated. Evacuation routes and centers, and critical infrastructure have been treated to maximize public safety. CDF has provided education and enforcement of the California Forest Practice Rules, targeting tree service contractors and licensed timber operators from all over the United States who have worked in the area during the past 10 months.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

The Legislature approved the Administration's proposal to provide $39 million to CDF from Proposition 40 funding to reduce hazardous fuel build up in the Sierra Nevada range over the next five years.

Working with the Department of Corrections and the California Conservation Corps, CDF is maintaining its fire conservation crews at nearly full strength. Conservation crews at CDF camps provide a cost effective means to mitigate the effects of wildland fires through vegetation management and initial attack. Without a vigorous program to reduce decadent fuel buildups before a fire starts, the danger of major fire activity is dramatically increased.

CDF is updating its current Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to include the treatment of all fuels on non-federally owned land and for all treatment types. In doing this, CDF is consulting with private, local, state and federal interests. Watershed values, life and property values, and high fire hazard areas are intermingled throughout the state, but are particularly concentrated in Southern California and the Sierra Nevada foothills. CDF has several programs that provide for the treatment of fuels to reduce fire hazard. Each of these programs operates under the CEQA process to obtain authority to be implemented within the VMP. CDF is looking to update the VMP's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report to expand CDF's ability to treat fuels on a broad variety of landscapes and ownerships with differing treatments. Lessons learned from this effort can be used in other state, local and federal programs as time and resources permit.

CDF is providing $100,000 in the 2004-05 fiscal year to the California Biomass Collaborative to develop proposals, including legislation, to improve the ability to dispose of biomass related to fuel reduction.

CDF will continue to provide staff and technical assistance to WUI communities to prepare new community wildfire protection plans.

Working with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, CDF will accelerate and enhance the California Fire Plan as a tool for statewide analysis of wildland fire safety and level-of-service needs. The goal of the California Fire Plan is to reduce the total costs and losses from wildland fire by protecting assets at risk through pre-fire management and increased initial attack success. At its core, the solution is to integrate competing objectives, streamline environmental review and increase the scale and scope of implementation.

USFS took the lead in developing and implementing a Fireshed Assessment Process. This is an analysis tool, for developing projects that will change fire behavior over a large scale landscape. Training is currently being conducted for the Forests in California.

An agreement has been written which would allow for cooperative prescribed burning projects between the federal land management agencies and CDF. This agreement is awaiting approvals.

Community Protection Grants in the amount of $2.0 million were awarded in Fiscal Year 2004 for fuels work completed on private lands adjacent to National Forest Systems Lands.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

In Fiscal Year 2004, our goal was to complete 50 percent of our hazardous fuels work in WUI areas. This goal was exceeded by 14.4 percent.

Over 90,000 acres were treated as hazardous fuels. These projects focused on changing condition classes - 58,000 acres were in WUI (64.4 percent).

More than 62,000 acres of other treatments contributed toward a change in condition class - 28,000 acres were in WUI (45.2 percent).

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: To be determined by Legislature. It is recommended that the plan include infrastructure issues such as adequate roads, water, construction methodologies, etc.

LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Commission recommends that in WUI areas, the Statewide Fire Safe Council promotes the establishment of local Fire Safe Councils and encourages federal, state and local governments to assist in this effort.

Agency/Agencies: Governor's Office, CDF, OES, California Fire Alliance and **State Fire Safe Council.**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *–Through the California Fire Alliance Grants Clearinghouse, $5.9 million was earmarked for Fire Safe Councils in federal fiscal year 2005.*

April 11, 2005 - The Administration will work with Congress and the President to Insure full funding of Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); secure fair and equitable distribution of HFRA Title I monies to California; secure continued funding under the National Fire Plan's Community Assistance Grant program to support operations of Fire Safe Councils; reduce the "match" requirements for federal hazard mitigation programs; and secure continued funding for training, fire equipment, apparatus, and safety gear.

As they become available, CDF and OES are providing more resources to create new Fire Safe Councils and to enhance the ability of existing councils to develop and implement mitigation plans. There were 100 Councils in 2003 - today there are 135.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: California Fire Alliance will establish a working group for the purpose of promoting Fire Safe Councils and will work with the Governor's Office to promote Fire Safe Councils through the use of Public Service Announcements and other media. The Governor has agreed to participate in the PSA.

Desired Outcome: The expansion of local Fire Safe Councils/Fire Wise Programs throughout California.

3. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies and officials give serious consideration to fostering and advancing citizen involvement in the establishment and operation of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding groups. Furthermore, the state should develop a disaster recovery model based on the collective input of OES, FEMA, faith-based and community groups, victim advocates and other relevant organizations.

Agency/Agencies: **OES**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- OES continues to work with the California Service Corps to expand the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)/California Fire Corps. Through public education and awareness campaigns, such as OES' Individual Preparedness Campaign, with Maria Shriver as spokesperson, we provide information local governments and the public of the opportunities to participate in community readiness programs by volunteering in community readiness programs through volunteer programs like CERT/Fire Corps. Additionally, OES is reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal government and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to streamline and coordinate on funding programs. The purpose of this MOU is to demonstrate a commitment in supporting a one-stop grant application process for grant programs implemented by partnering agencies. This MOU will allow for coordination and utilization of a Grants Clearinghouse that will be lead by the California Fire Alliance and MOU members to promote consistent and systematic funding assistance to local fire safe councils, including advancing community preparedness, and the CERT/CA Fire Corps concept and training. Finally, OES staff regularly works with Volunteer Agencies Active in Disasters (VOADs) to ensure their effective integration into emergency response and recovery activities.*

April 11, 2005 - OES is working with CDF and FEMA to educate local governments on the value of implementing volunteer programs in support of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding. OES will work with victim advocates and other relevant organizations to address issues facing victims and will explore the development of a disaster recovery model.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Expand Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) concept or related community groups to increase the available resource pool. Consider (through FIRESCOPE) a Volunteer Coordinator/Liaison position within the ICS organizational structure.

Desired Outcome: 1) Increase in the civilian resource pool and a list of those resources throughout the state, and incorporate management of volunteer services within the ICS.

4. The Commission recommends that USDOI, FEMA, USFS, CDF and OES identify ways to assist, including financially, local governments with WUI fire preparation and mitigation efforts.

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES, USFS and **California Fire Alliance**

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – In federal Fiscal Year 2005, $5.9 million dollars in grant funding was earmarked for the Fire Safe Councils statewide; $3.2 million in Prop 40 Fuel Reduction funds was also earmarked for the Fire Safe Councils, and $40,000 annually has been allocated to update and maintain the California Fire Alliance Website.*

April 11, 2005 - State Fire Alliance matching requirements were reduced for fiscal year 04-05 from a 50/50 match, dollar-for-dollar, to 75 percent for the federal government and 25 percent for our partners for funds delivered to southern California's drought affected WUI areas.

USFS provided $2.6 million in federal funds (75/25 match) to CDF to reduce hazardous fuels in southern California.

In addition, the following funds were provided for hazardous fuels reduction programs, at CDF's request, directly to the southern California Counties by the USFS:

- $11.8 million to San Bernardino County
- $5.0 million to Riverside County
- $7.8 million to San Diego County

In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress earmarked $2.4 million in Forest Service State and Private grant funding to the California Fire Safe Council. This grant funding was to be utilized for fuel reduction projects in the Southern California communities affected by the 2003 wildfires.

Projected Completion Date: January 1, 2006 Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF will continue to provide technical assistance to WUI communities to prepare new community wildfire protection plans.

The Fire Alliance to develop a grants clearing house for local governments.

Desired Outcome: More efficient utilization of limited grant funding.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION
FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends the Wildland Fire Leadership Council address issues of Wildland Fire Prevention and Control and inconsistencies in the interpretation and implementation of the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, Structure Protection, and Cost Apportionment process.

Agency/Agencies: CDF, **USFS**, BLM, FIRESCOPE and California Fire Alliance

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- OES continues to work with the California Service Corps to expand the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)/California Fire Corps. Through public education and awareness campaigns, such as OES' Individual Preparedness Campaign, with Maria Shriver as spokesperson, we provide information local governments and the public of the opportunities to participate in community readiness programs by volunteering in community readiness programs through volunteer programs like CERT/Fire Corps. Additionally, OES is reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal government and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to streamline and coordinate on funding programs. The purpose of this MOU is to demonstrate a commitment in supporting a one-stop grant application process for grant programs implemented by partnering agencies. This MOU will allow for coordination and utilization of a Grants Clearinghouse that will be lead by the California Fire Alliance and MOU members to promote consistent and systematic funding assistance to local fire safe councils, including advancing community preparedness, and the CERT/CA Fire Corps concept and training. Finally, OES staff regularly works with Volunteer Agencies Active in Disasters (VOADs) to ensure their effective integration into emergency response and recovery activities.*

April 11, 2005 - Through FIRESCOPE, CDF and OES will continue working toward consensus and agreement among federal fire agencies on issues and inconsistencies in the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, structure protection and the cost apportionment process.

The USFS and DOI are working with FIRESCOPE, CDF and OES on the appropriate forum to review and resolve these national policy and direction issues.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Develop acceptance at all levels through the budgetary and legislative process to ensure consistency in agreements, definitions and the interpretations of the policies.

Desired Outcome: Consistent and acceptable policy amongst the federal agencies.

LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION
FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Commission recommends that Congress consider establishing a National Wildland Fire Insurance Program (NWFIP), with appropriate eligibility criteria, under the direction of FEMA.

Agency/Agencies: State Legislative Oversight Committee

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - The Committee has been reauthorized, however no action has been taken.

Projected Completion Date: Unknown Priority: Low

Action Plan: None at this time.

LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continue to conduct fire research, including development of fire test protocols for vents, radiant heat exposure for windows and other applicable areas to improve ignition resistant construction techniques. The research process should include implementation of a comprehensive damage assessment process to collect data on efficiency and effectiveness of mitigation practices.

Agency/Agencies: **CDF/State Fire Marshal**, OES

Progress to Date:

***November 11, 2005** – The CDF/State Fire Marshal routinely conducts research as new products are developed.*

April 11, 2005 – CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL and OES will prepare a proposal for a Post Fire Assessment Team for major wildland fires. The expectation is that this team will prepare a report for each of these events that outline what pre-fire efforts conducted under the California State Fire Plan were effective in reducing damage to property and resources, as well as those efforts that were not effective. The scope of these reports would include land use patterns, infrastructure, fuels management, building standards, fire prevention engineering, and suppression tactics and strategy. The reports would be provided to each private, local, state, and federal organization that may be able to contribute to increased pre-fire effectiveness.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Complete testing and the development/adoption of codes that incorporates the associated test results.

Desired Outcome: Improved building construction codes to reduce the ignition susceptibility of structures.

2. The Commission recognizes and applauds Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) type programs and recommends that MAST be considered as a model for other areas.

Agency/Agencies: CDF, USFS and **California Fire Alliance**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- The California Fire Alliance is preparing an action plan to gather information and post to their website for statewide availability.*

April 11, 2005 - MAST priorities were used as a starting point when allocating grant funds to San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Likewise, FAST priorities were used to allocate grant funding in San Diego Counties.

Successful Task Forces along this model are active in Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. The California Biodiversity Council launched a project to further lessen impediments in the Riverside/San Bernardino projects.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF and OES will make MAST-type models and examples available on a statewide level.

Desired Outcome: The expansion of MAST-type organizations to other communities with hazardous fuel conditions.

3. The Commission endorses SB 1855 by Senator Deirdre Alpert.

Agency/Agencies: State Legislature

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - Is intended to eliminate unintended underinsurance by requiring insurers to provide a cost comparison of available coverage's for a particular home, as well as an explanation of each available coverage, is currently pending before the Legislature and is endorsed by this Commission.

The Governor signed SB 1855 on August 27, 2004 - Chapter 385, Statues of 2004.

Projected Completion Date: Completed Priority: Low

Action Plan: N/A

COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that all EOCs dedicate a Public Information Officer (PIO) or establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. The PIO or JIC should be in or near the EOC which has timely access to the latest information. All available technologies should be explored to expedite the timely dissemination of information.

Agency/Agencies: CDF, **OES**, USFS and Local Government

Progress to Date:
April 11, 2005 - OES provided four training courses on crisis communication in 2004 to state and local Public Information Officers; more courses are planned. OES is continuing its work with local governments to emphasize the importance of evacuation pre-planning and early warning systems. OES and CDF are working with local and federal counterparts to improve integration of public information functions at incidents.

During Preparedness Levels 3, 4, and 5, both the Southern California Geographical Area Coordination Center in Riverside and Northern Geographical Area Coordination Center at Redding, CA, have a Type 2 Information Officer on-site available to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. Up-to-date technologies such as email and web sites are used to accomplish the timely dissemination of information.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: Task an ad-hoc communications Committee through SEMS Advisory/Technical Committee to research and report on statewide applications for PIOs, JICs and timely incident information statewide. Operations Area Coordinators are responsible for defining the roles in dissemination of information.

Cal Chiefs will continue to work with CSAC and California League of Cities to orient elected officials on emergency information protocols.

Desired Outcome: A standardized procedure for professional information/media release for all fire agencies and a statewide system for sharing fire and emergency information between all fire agencies so that all parties have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH
FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that sufficient standardized frequencies be issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to meet the interoperable communication needs of fire and emergency personnel.

Agency/Agencies: Legislative Oversight Committee

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- In the wake of the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Henry Renteria, Director of the California Gov.'s Office of Emergency Services, and Matt Bettenhausen, Director of the California Office of Homeland Security traveled to DC to testify before the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security to report on CA preparedness where they also urged Congress to pass legislation freeing up more radios spectrum to help emergency agencies communicate and provide additional guidance on interoperability. OES learned that on October 26, 2005, the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted unanimously to establish a $500 million fund to invest in interoperable communications networks for emergency responders. The proposal would set a hard date of Dec. 31, 2008, for television broadcasters to relinquish their valuable analog radio spectrum and begin broadcasting digital programming. The government expects to raise at least $10 billion by auctioning off the analog spectrum to wireless carriers and other companies. Although some of the proceeds will be used to fund interoperability grants and a converter box subsidy program, the money may also be used to meet mandatory savings targets significantly exceeding the $14.7 billion required under the fiscal 2006 budget resolution that may not provide emergency responders nearly enough money to upgrade their systems. The Senate has passed similar legislation with different dates and amounts. The two bills are in the reconciliation process at this time.*

April 11, 2005 - OES, FIRESCOPE and other existing groups are working on this issue.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: To be determined by the Legislature.

Desired Outcome: Sufficient standardized frequencies to meet communication needs.

1. The Commission recommends integration of the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) with the California Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid System.

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES, **FIRESCOPE** and USFS

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– CDF has 10 Dispatcher and 2 Administrative ROSS classes scheduled between now and May 2006. There are also 4 additional classes as Module 4 of the ECC Classes at scheduled at the CDF Academy in Ione.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF and OES are developing comprehensive telecommunications and resource management plans that will provide for updated equipment, provide for common cross-jurisdictional use and allow tracking of all fire fighting assets and resources available for mutual aid. These plans will provide for a phasing-in of new systems and will provide for a statewide handheld radio deployment system strategically located for use by local cooperators until a longer term solution can be found to issues related to frequency and interoperability. (4a)

In May 2005, the Pacific Southwest Region of the USFS will transition from the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) to the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). It is recommended the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System follow suit and integrates ROSS into its system.

Projected Completion Date: July 2006 Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Implement ROSS.

Desired Outcome: A more effective resource management system.

2. The Commission recommends that the state implement a research and development working group within FIRESCOPE to explore emerging technologies for firefighting purposes (e.g., military technology, GPS, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles [UAVs], Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS).

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES, **FIRESCOPE**, USFS and State & Federal Homeland Security

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - Following the US Army and NATICK Solider Center's concept of Land Warrior/Objective Warrior, USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center is identifying requirements and conducting a proof-of-concept for the "firefighter of the future." This includes situational awareness, Command and Control, wearable computers, GPS, wireless data links and night vision.

USFS has Automated Flight Following, similar in capability to the Military Blue Force Tracking. Automated Flight Following includes the use of a satellite data transfer of GPS position.

USFS is working on an interface between the fight data recorder for near real time quality assurance/trend monitoring of air tankers and other aircraft.

The agency has researched and met with military contractors about using the Joint Battlespace Infosphere concept and adopting the concept for wildland fire.

The USFS is a participating member of the FAA Capstone project, a component of the Future Airspace Management.

Meetings have been conducted with Marines from the Camp Pendleton Marine Base to review the Turret/camera requirements of attack helicopters.

Originally funded by Special Forces, the USFS is working with a company to develop a small satellite modem that will send and receive data in remote locations. The information could be GPS, targets, fire locations, or medical emergencies.

Technology has been developed and distributed in the form of a digital camera with GPS that takes a picture of the fire and transmits the information to a web site via satellite. This is accomplished both from an onsite unit or from a hand held PDA.

A demonstration on "Command Post of the Future" will take place during March 2005 in San Diego and Orange Counties.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Develop partnerships with appropriate state and federal agencies to secure funding and authorizations to utilize existing and new technologies to achieve the desired outcome. Ensure this technology is not limited to the actual time during an incident but allowed to foresee or project the future.

Desired Outcome: To have the necessary authorizations in place to allow the resources to be used when needed in emergency situations.

3. The Commission recommends that each engine crew and chief officer have the capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands.

Agency/Agencies: CDF, **OES**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– Progress has been made on the development of a comprehensive communications standard to provide for common cross-jurisdictional use.*

April 11, 2005 - CDF and OES working with CalSEIC are developing comprehensive communications standards that will provide for common cross-jurisdictional use.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Annually* Priority: High

Action Plan:
Short term: It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction sending resources of any type or kind to ensure common communications capabilities as recommended in ICS 420-1, Fire Service Field Operations Guide, Appendix A.

OES/CDF and other responsible agencies will annually notify all fire entities of communication equipment requirements and potential consequences of responding without that compliment.

In addition, see *Communications and Interoperability, Information Technology and Public Outreach, State Recommendations*, Recommendation #6.

Long term: CDF and OES working with CalSEIC are developing comprehensive communications standards that will provide for common cross-jurisdictional use.

Desired Outcome: All sending agencies will have common communications capabilities.

4. The Commission recommends that local governments improve public outreach and emergency evacuation education.

Agency/Agencies: Local Government and **FIRESCOPE**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– Planning has been expanded in light of the recent Gulf Coast disasters.*

April 11, 2005 - OES provided four training courses on crisis communication in 2004 to state and local public information officers; more courses are planned. OES is continuing its work with local governments to emphasize the importance of evacuation pre-planning and early warning systems. OES and CDF are working with local and federal counterparts to improve integration of public information functions at incidents.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2006 Priority: High

Action Plan: OES & FIRESCOPE will task a Working Group to develop a comprehensive multi-hazard Evacuation Guide for local jurisdictions to address legal considerations, education, training, communication, templates, policies, procedures etc.

Desired Outcome: Improved public safety through communications regarding evacuations or necessary actions before and during crisis situations.

5. The Commission recommends that state agencies take advantage of the work that has been done locally to create regional communication systems and join with local agencies on a regional basis to enhance those systems.

Agency/Agencies: OES, **CALSIEC**, Federal/Local partners

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- The Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC) is a statutorily chartered coalition of state agencies that are working collaboratively to develop a interoperability strategy that recognizes the critical need to include CA local governments and other first responders to guide policy making, equipment evaluation, and procedure development. The PSRSPC's primary partner in this effort is the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC). The target date for the finalization of the strategy is January 2006. The report will document a current "snapshot" of wireless communication framework that identifies key emerging themes, trends, and problems, as well as depict a desired future condition (a system of systems) in California for wireless communications and recommend comprehensive strategic initiatives to achieve interoperability. Until this "system of systems" network is completed, there needs to be a technological bridge so emergency responders can work seamlessly. A number of agencies in California have taken the first step to address the interoperable radio communications gap by installing several stationary interoperability "gateway" switches to interconnect existing systems at several sites (usually on tall buildings or mountain ridges in urban areas), and installing gateway switches in mobile command vehicles. These gateway switches allow different radio systems operated by different response agencies, on different frequencies, to connect with each other. OES, along with the PSRSPC and CALSIEC, continue to work to expand our capabilities to further improve communications for our first responders as the comprehensive interoperable system will take several years to develop because of the necessary engineering and costs.*

April 11, 2005 - California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC) will integrate fire service and regional communication planning into overall state interoperability planning. CALSIEC includes representatives of all of the major regional programs.

OES is modernizing its Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) emergency communication system. OES is replacing the outdated equipment in OASIS with state-of-the art technology to increase statewide communication capability to allow for high-speed wireless data and voice exchange during emergencies. OES will spend $4.0 million to modernize its OASIS system.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: CALSIEC will develop an interim statewide plan that provides for communication procedures to be used on incidents in each geographical area until full interoperability can be achieved.

Desired Outcome: Increase statewide communication interoperability.

6. The Commission recommends that the state update and expand current handheld and mobile radios to be utilized on major mutual aid incidents as a short-term, temporary solution to the interoperability problem.

Agency/Agencies: **CDF**, OES

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *– The procurement of 500 handheld radios has been completed and delivery is schedule for December 1, 2005. Also, the request for proposal on the portable repeaters will be completed by June 30, 2006 to begin the procurement process.*

The Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC) has been tasked with the development of a telecommunications management plan and has met several times on the issue.

April 11, 2005 - The Governor included $500,000 in the proposed budget to expand CDF's cache of handheld radios and portable repeaters.

CDF and OES are developing comprehensive telecommunications and resource management plans that will provide for updated equipment, provide for common cross-jurisdictional use and allow tracking of all firefighting assets and resources available for mutual aid.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: The Administration will work with the Legislature to ensure that the funding is included in the final Budget Act for 2005-2006.

Desired Outcome: Mutual aid responders will have appropriate equipment radios for optimal communications.

7. The Commission recommends that OES Fire and Rescue Command Nets be expanded.

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, **PSRSPC**

Progress to Date:

April 11, 2005 - OES is working on long term funding issues.

Projected Completion Date: 2010 Priority: High

Action Plan: OES, working with partners, will develop statement of requirements and evaluate as part of overall state mountain top repeater modernization.

OES will continue to seek funding sources to purchase necessary radio transmitter equipment and will work in conjunction with CDF to install OES radio nets in CDF mountain top repeater sites throughout the state.

Desired Outcome: An expansion of VHF command net radio frequencies throughout the state which could be assigned and utilized to support federal, state and/or local government emergency (all risk) incident command frequencies needs.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH
LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recognizes the critical role of timely emergency notification of the public of imminent threats and recommends that local governments prioritize the development of appropriate early warning systems to address the needs of their communities.

Agency/Agencies: Local Government, **OES**

Progress to Date:

November 11, 2005 *- During 2004/2005, OES completed a series of well-attended Joint Information Center (JIC) Training throughout the state in which hundreds of local and state personnel were trained in standard and effective communication processes. Specifically, these trainings were held in San Diego, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Modesto, and Redding. OES plans on continuing to offer this course in the 2006 calendar year. Additionally, OES routinely offers a 5-day Crises Communication course conducted by our California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), and OES recently updated our JIC training module in our comprehensive State Operation Center/Regional Operation Center Training Curriculum. Furthermore, OES PIO staff conducts customized JIC training to local agencies upon request and availability of resources to address target communication areas.*

April 11, 2005 - OES provided four training courses on crisis communication in 2004 to state and local public information officers; more courses are planned. OES is continuing its work with local governments to emphasize the importance of evacuation pre-planning and early warning systems. In addition, OES and CDF are working with local and federal counterparts to improve integration of public information functions at incidents.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: OES with Local Government Emergency Managers will meet to discuss options for statewide early warning system.

OES and Cal Chiefs working with the League of Cities and CSAC will develop standards for Early Warning System.

Desired Outcome: A standardized Emergency Notification System and improved public safety through improved Early Warning Systems.