



**VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th, 2010**

Attendees:

Agency	Primary	Alternate
Alhambra - ALH	Battalion Chief Tom Phelps	
Arcadia - ARC	Deputy Chief Dave Haney	
Burbank - BRK	Asst. Chief Tom Lenahan	
Glendale - GLN	Battalion Chief Corey Creasey	
Monrovia - MRV	Battalion Chief Dave Dennis	
Montebello - MTB	Deputy Chief Dominic Hebert	
Monterey Park - MPK		Firefighter Ryan Weddle
Pasadena - PAS		Training Chief Marty Johnson
San Gabriel - SGB		
San Marino - SNM		
Sierra Madre - SMD	Captain Todd Conrad	
South Pasadena - SPS		FF/PM Eric Zanteson
Verdugo Fire Comm.	Don Wise Lenia Scanlon Jason Pfau	

I. New Business:

- A. Radio Narrowbanding** – discussion with the group on Narrowbanding concepts, and what the impending change will mean for field personnel. It will mean a great deal of planning, performing firmware upgrades to radios, optimizing all radios (Mobile/Portables), performing new code-plug changes (2010/2011 TICP), being sensitive to a volume issue (where a radio is programmed for narrowband vs. one that is not), this also being an excellent opportunity to inventory radios.

Narrowbanding includes mountain top repeaters/sites, all conventional and ACCESS channels. The California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSEIC) may lead the planning effort for the state and LARICS may take local/regional lead. There will be extensive Motorola involvement and ICIS commitment. UASI/SHSGP Grants are being looked at for funding firmware updates if needed. 2013 is the FCSS deadline (we're shooting for completion by end of 2010). There are significant penalties; if an agency is not licensed for 12.5 kHz the FCC will cancel the license in 2013; Millions of licensees are affected by this program in order to create more efficient radio spectrum. This will continue to be a part of the TF Agenda – for at least 2010. VHF licensing and Narrowbanding will be confirmed at the Verdugo Radio Progress meeting 1/13/10.

- B. Tiered Dispatching** – Glendale Fire is starting a Tiered (BLS) Dispatching program effective January 27, 2010. Ambulance Operators (EMTs) have been hired and are going through a special Academy. Two BLS units (21 & 25) will be deployed 12 hours each, with overlapping time frames covering about 17 hours of the day (0730-1930 & 1200-0000. An Engine and BLS unit will be dispatched for any BLS Type Code; approximately 20 Type Codes are being reviewed for BLS type responses by Medical Director, Dr. Noll. Generally, BLS units will respond Code 2 along with the Engine or Truck as Code 3. A new button on the MCT will help field personnel identify to dispatchers whether an Engine is in or out of service as a Paramedic – placing the unit in or out of Special Contact status in CAD (thanks to our I.T. Applications Specialist Jason Pfau and FCSS Manny Soto!).

Usually, there is at least one Paramedic on each Engine who will assist with the BLS responses. BLS Type Codes will generate a BLS response only within GLN, and any other agency in the Verdugo System, having a response using the same type code, will receive an ALS response. The Engine/Truck company officer will fill out any necessary forms. An EMT Coordinator is also being recruited for this effort to help

manage the program. This work replaces RA22. Dispatchers will receive a very small set of new Type Codes and EMD Pre-Arrival Instruction changes; changes will reflect new questions, in order to help dispatchers to determine which code is best to use. The program will be closely monitored for all inputs and outcomes.

- C. **ARC Methodist Hospital** – Due to a significant radio coverage issue at Arcadia Methodist Hospital, the following procedure is being utilized for contact of field personnel at that location, should there be no response by radio. Once personnel walk into the E.R., they lose contact with the radio system. A phone number of (626) 574-3456 has been established as “always answered”. It will be the responsibility of field personnel to advise Verdugo by phone of the contact number and when they need to be placed into Special Contact status. This status is for long E.R. wait time and/or restock time.
- D. **USGS Earthquake Notification Project** – We’ve been in contact with representatives of the U.S. Geological Service who are considering us as a notification point for a future and more advanced communications and notification service for any significant earthquakes such as those expected to be generated in/around the Salton Sea. There’s an expectation that the initial event will start in this area. With the advance notification, this will potentially give Fire Departments in the area up to a 40-45 second window to move apparatus out of buildings and into open areas, preserving those resources for continued rescue/recovery efforts. This will be a 3-year pilot project.
- E. **Earthquake Operations/Sub-Committee** – will be meeting Tuesday Feb. 9th. One hour early, and ahead of Task Force from 0800-0900. Current members are Chief’s: GLN-Creasey, MPK-Harper, BRK-Lenahan, MTB-Hebert, and ARC-Haney.
- F. **SPS/Audio Amplifier Question** – TF Members to provide detail/information as to what type of audio amplifier is being used in their station for alerting purposes to Eric Zanteson.

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II. Update on Continued Areas/Issues:

- A. **Red Phone – Outside Fire Station Phones** – A follow-up audit has been completed. Each individual agency given their latest updates/fixes. Those agencies in green are completed; yellow needs follow-up work, red needs substantial work. FCA Wise continues to work with those agencies needing follow-up work with the phone companies. Those agencies having substantial work will need equipment work completed.

ALH ✓ ARC ✓ BRK ✓ GLN ✓ MRV ✓ MPK ✓ MTB ✓ PAS ✓ SGB ✓ SNM ✓ SMD ✓ SPS ✓

- B. **Tech Plan** – The Technical Committee, a steering group for existing and future/proposed technology for the Verdugo System, met on 1/11/2010. Lenia Scanlon presented information to the Task Force regarding that meeting and if any TF member desires a copy of the plan, please contact her.
- C. **Unified Response Website** – Updated calendar year statistics will be posted shortly to the Unified Response website, as many agencies rely on this information for their internal reports. Please contact Lenia Scanlon for any questions.
- D. **Verdugo Staffing** – Fire Communications Operator Shari Ryan resigned effective 11/29/09 and has returned to her former employer. A new recruitment for full time FCO will be started 01/19/10. A bulletin and recruitment for part-time FCO will be created and started shortly. The recruitment for one vacant FCSS position has been initiated with three applications currently on file. The Executive Administrator bulletin and recruitment was started 8/2009 and closed 1/2010. Training for FCO Stephen Pierson and new hourly FCO Moe Torres continues with both performing well.
- E. **AVL/MCT Mobile Map** – Discussion on status of AVL and Mobile Map for the Verdugo System. The Mobile Map data conversion has been completed and is in testing on 4 units from GLN Fire Station 21 prior to making it available systemwide. The new map fixes several display issues and creates a new panning functionality where the user can touch the edges of the screen to cause the map to pan in that direction. The scaling is improved and the boundaries of the map extend well past Verdugo System

city limits. Hydrants and parcel data have also been updated.

Additionally the AVL to CAD reporting is being improved with a new script designed to cause “forced” reporting every six hours to the CAD system; previously a driver issue was believed to be the concern and all units in the system were updated to correct that issue. A subsequent issue with the underlying software bridge in the MCTs between AVL and CAD now appears to be resolved with this new script.

This too is undergoing testing with the same four units from Fire Station 21. Once testing is finalized, and the software and map is made available systemwide, then both the mobile map and the script can be installed at the same time. A great deal of thanks goes to our I.S. support personnel Jason Pfau and Rafik Aghajani for this extensive work.

- F. LAC Water/Helispot Directories** – Lenia Scanlon obtained, created, and distributed CD’s to TF representatives. They contain two large files of maps and related data which identify Los Angeles County Fire water and helispot locations within our immediate area, adjoining Area C. These files can be uploaded to the MCT’s of Battalion Chiefs’ rigs. Updates will be redistributed as they are made available to us, with all of Los Angeles County Fire area data and maps soon.

III. Roundtable:

ALH – The new Training Center appears to be on track for dedication in mid-February. Chief Phelps will send a copy of the invitation to Don Wise for redistribution to system users. One temporary Captain’s position is open.

ARC – Jack Twitchell is a new Captain effective 1/3. Capt. Andy Troncale continues his battle with cancer and we wish only the best for him and his family. An Engineers exam is scheduled for February, looking for raters. A Firefighter exam is scheduled for March. A new 100’ Pierce Truck will be arriving in April.

BRK – A new Seagrave Truck is arriving in March. An additional 5% budget reduction is being requested of the department; they’re working with the union on how to achieve this new request. Thank you to Jason Pfau and Lenia Scanlon for their research on recent requests. Dave Burke is a new Captain. Ray Krakowski remains Interim Fire Chief.

GLN – Will be hosting a HazMat class at the Regional Training Center in March/2010. USAR29 will likely be moved to FS22 in February. Cost recovery efforts have started for all false alarms in GLN. A Captains exam is scheduled for February 2nd. Backgrounds for 12 Firefighter positions will be started shortly with a scheduled academy March 1st. A new Rescue Ambulance has been ordered and will be reviewing a new Pierce Engine. Chief Creasey had a question about number of air bottles for Burbank that will be needed as there is a different interconnect with the new Draeger SCBA’s. Chief Lenahan will have Chief Barone make contact on the issue. GLN is very close to finishing their ISO review.

MPK – E61 has recently been certified by DHS as a Paramedic Assessment Engine; E261 is in service for approx. 8 weeks while T61 is repaired. New SCBA’s are in service from Sperian. Poor audio quality is found using the new mic and Bluetooth interconnect.

MRV – Needs a new fire station alerting interface box; Radio Progress group will be asked to provide a prototype box if available. Operational change requested to have Squad 101 first up for all medical calls in Arcadia – implemented 0800 1/13. They have 4 Firefighter openings and have 6 in backgrounds; upcoming retirements also.

MTB – Had 3 retirements in Dec., with more coming and several promotions. City council is in a state of flux with elections forthcoming. They’ve had City Manager and Police Chief retirements recently.

PAS – Rose Bowl/Parade & BCS game operations/communications went very well. Interesting increase with incidents at the beginning of the parade this year; usually it’s post-parade. A new Truck is on order. Recently completed an Engineer’s Academy with a Captain’s Academy scheduled shortly – goal is to have personnel better qualify in their position.

SGB –

SMD – 3 new apparatus arriving shortly: Rescue Ambulance, KME, and Water Tender. A new Fire Chief’s vehicle has been placed into service. Several new Firefighters graduated top of their class from the recent Verdugo Academy. Sperian’s are in service and personnel are being trained on their use.

SNM –

SPS – Training with Sperian SBCA’s; City Council decided recently to not renew the Police Chief’s contract after 8 years of service.

Verdugo – Next Task Force Meeting: Tuesday, February 9th, at 9 a.m.