



**VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2009**

Attendees: Don Wise-VFCC, Lenia Scanlon-VFCC, Jason Pfau-VFCC, Corey Creasey-GLN, Tom Lenahan-BRK, Ray Gordon-PAS, Dominic Hebert-MTB, Joe Parrino-MTB, Bryan Frieders-SGB, Derrick Doehler-SGB, Jim Frawley-SNM, Dave Dennis-MRV, Dave Haney-ARC, Randy Harper-MPK, Tom Phelps-ALH, Eric Zanteson-SPS (Missing SMD)

I. New Business

- A. Montebello** – Verdugo welcomed Montebello to the Verdugo System on Feb. 26. Chief Hebert commented on the smooth transition, with some minor items still to be worked out. Chief Hebert noted the good results were from extensive work by Verdugo Staff and Joe Parrino.
- B. Task Force Agenda** – Should any member have agenda items that need to be addressed or included, please forward those items by the first Tuesday of each month for the following Tuesday’s meeting. The agenda will be sent to the Task Force members by the following day.
- C. Strike Team Leader Refresher Training** – is scheduled for June 8, 9 & 10, 0830-noon at Dunsmore Park Community Room, 4700 Dunsmore in La Crescenta (cross-street Foothill Bl.) Please encourage all Chief Officers and Strike Team Trainees to attend a session. Sessions will cover the OES, operations, and dispatch aspects of strike team responses. Verdugo staff will be reminded that if a Battalion Chief Trainee is available as part of the daily sign-up process, that individual will take precedence over a Captain so as to further that trainee’s progress/status to qualified with needed experience.
- D. Red Phones Outside Fire Stations** – Audit results were passed out for follow-through by each member. A number of outside public red phones for the public were found to be inoperable or needing some type of repair or data display update with the ANI/ALI information. Each member needs to contact their respective city phone or ATT contact person for repairs or for data display changes. The Task Force will revisit this item at the May meeting for updates.
- E. BC Alerting Radio – Procedural Issue** – When turning one of the two duty radios off, please turn the 1st one off so that it stops affiliating with the radio system; then turn the one that is off...on, so that it re-affiliates. Some agencies’ BC’s, when they respond, may be leaving the radio in the station in the “on” condition and then turning on the duplicate radio in their vehicle – in these events, the system is still recognizing the radio in the station as the primary affiliated radio and not the secondary. Both radios, because they are programmed with the same ID number, cannot be on at the same time. This may be why we have seen a recent increase in Battalion Chief alerting failures.
- F. Public-Safety Confidentiality Notice/Documents** – some materials/documents/information is being posted onto websites/radio enthusiast sites directly from Verdugo documents; those items will now carry a confidentiality clause. This action will hopefully discourage any future internet document postings.
- G. Data System Replacement Needs & Wishes** –
 - a. **Task:** The Mobile Data Working Group is looking into options and alternatives for the future of the Verdugo Fire mobile data system. We are seeking input from the field users to gain a better

understanding of the preferences and desires for the next system that will be used for the next 10-15 years.

- b. **Background:** The current mobile data system that was upgraded in 2003 has reached the end of the manufacturer's support lifecycle, so a replacement infrastructure will be researched, procured, and installed in a reasonable time frame.
- c. **Options:** A number of platforms are available, and each has its benefits and drawbacks. The Working Group is asking the Task Force to discuss it within their departments and come up with a list of items that they would like to see in the next generation of the data network, by next month. The Task Force will then prioritize the list from "necessary" to "nice-to-have," then the Working Group will review the list and determine feasibility versus costs.

Examples for your department's list might include:

Mandatory

1. Must be able to pass dispatch-related text and status updates
2. Must be able to access the Verdugo CAD/RMS system
3. Must support automatic vehicle location (AVL) capability with frequent location updates

Nice to Have

1. Able to access pre-fire plans in PDF or related format from shared server
2. Able to access the Emergency Response Guidebook remotely
3. Able to access FireHouse (et. Al) for remote form completion
4. Able to access EMS forms for form completion/submitting to ER ahead of transport
5. Able to display GPS locations of other Verdugo System units on the map
6. NFIRS/FireHouse/SunPro applications uses

Low Priority

1. Must be able to receive wide-band video from remote command posts
2. Must be able to access the internet
3. Etc...

II. Updates on Continued Issues

- A. Area Code Overlay** – Beginning April 18, there will be a new overlay in the 818 area code; 747 will be the new code and all phones will need to be programmed within/without the 818 area code with a 1+10-Digit Phone Number.
- B. Staffing** – Verdugo has a bulletin open for a vacant Fire Communications Shift Supervisor position. With the addition of a 12th city to the Verdugo System, approval was received to staff an additional Fire Communications Operator position. Three personnel have been interviewed for one of the open Fire Communications Operator positions and a fourth individual will be interviewed shortly as well for the second opening as part of the certification process.
- C. Request for Quote** – Santa Fe Springs has contacted Verdugo requesting a quote on dispatch service. Initial test results revealed that the Verdugo Data System has extensive coverage throughout the area. This test will now be followed with a qualitative test in addition to a voice propagation map test.
- D. Code 2 Response Data** – Code 2 response data will be removed from statistical reporting based upon input from all members of the Task force. This action was approved by the Operations Committee with exception of VEGFWY and FLOOD, which should remain reportable type codes as agencies should be

responding Code 3 on these types of incidents. Lenia pointed out that the enroute and response time statistics are updated via the Unified Response newsletter and website every quarter.

- E. Mobile Map Testing** – SGB reported significant slow-down of the Mobile Map application on several apparatus. Jason indicated that it sounded like the resolution on the MCT may be too high; Chief Frieders and Derrick Doehler will investigate with Day Wireless. SNM reported that they have it installed and it is working fine, as does MRV with their installs.

III. Roundtable

ARC – They held an Engineer’s exam, and recently promoted a Paramedic to Engineer. There was brief discussion on importance of Short Team development and implementation; All-Hazards interim Type III or Type II Management team to be used locally for an incident until such time as a Type I team can be brought in. FCA Don Wise supported that this team would be initiated by paging group, would trigger an incident to be entered into ROSS (for potential team ordering, resource ordering), and potentially Expanded Dispatch to be started. I.C.’s should consider FMAG processes for any incidents that would need reimbursement; Wildland Fires usually are mutual-aid and have reimbursement processes/agreements already in place.

MPK – Asked about potential cost savings with inclusion of Montebello to the Verdugo System.

MTB – Very happy to be with Verdugo and identified to the group the availability of two (2) Type III Engines to the system; Verdugo is programming CAD to include them on Brush assignments where/when possible. They are experiencing on-going issues with FireHouse.

SGB – Derrick Doehler was introduced as the Task Force representative Alternate to Chief Frieders. They are in process of hiring three (3) Firefighters. There was some discussion regarding Fire Hydrant layers and available information; Lenia provided that Verdugo could supply the 4-year old data and SGB could generate their own maps from the data and/or utilize available data from the SGB GIS person. There was some discussion on the AVRR part of the AVL/GPS Mapping and Lenia advised that without a full-time GIS person working for a period of months it will be difficult to proceed with AVRR.

SPS – Advised they are working on Disaster Protocol plan and fall-back communications plan in the event that ICIS is not available.

BRK – Would like an updated copy of the Verdugo Directory. Lenia will provide in Excel format and Task Force members will need to return any updates to Lenia for inclusion in the next distribution. (Email Attachment)

Verdugo – Lenia asked that everyone use the new nomenclature of “Verdugo System” instead of Area C; this is due to the inclusion of Area E agency Montebello Fire Department to the system and the possibility of other agencies coming into the system. Lenia reminded that agencies should be setting aside budgetary placeholders for radio re-programming (TICP for spring/09 and Narrowbanding radio programming) in addition to Fire Station Alerting box installations (Verdugo supplies the interface box).

Next Task Force Meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 14, 9 a.m. – Please bring your Disaster Action Plan to the next meeting for discussion.