

**Verdugo Fire Communications Center**  
**TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**May 8, 2007 Minutes**

*Persons present: Don Wise, Harold Scoggins, Marty Johnson, Tom Phelps, Tom Alva, Bob Gattas, Tony Trabbie, Steve Heydorff, Ray Krakowski, Randy Harper, Rich Garstang, Jim Anderson, Dave Dennis*

**1. New Business**

- a. **Hardware Distribution for AVL** – Garmin GPS units, 16’ extension cables, Rescue Tape, and instructions were distributed to all Task Force members for their front-line and reserve apparatus (additional extension cables for the reserve units are on order and will be distributed when they come in). Summary below.
- b. **Annual Report Distribution** – Bound copies of the FY2005-6 report were distributed to TF members. These reports, dating back to 1999, are now available online at [www.unified-response.org](http://www.unified-response.org), under Publications.
- c. **Satellite Phones** – Several agencies shared that they are having difficulty with Global Star service. Glendale is satisfied with the service provided by Iridium.
- d. **Ancillary Vehicles** – Please supply a list of your agency’s ancillary vehicles, such as brush patrols and foam trailers, to Lenia.
- e. **Reminder** – As a courtesy to your neighbors, please keep other Operations BC’s informed when you take a scarce resource like a truck or RA out of service if you believe the other agency might be impacted and have to help cover your city. A heads-up to Verdugo is appreciated as well so we know who is covering for whom.

**2. Radio Issues**

- a. **“East- and South-End” Voice Radio Coverage** – Monterey Park Fire has asked Verdugo to send an expert to test which of their areas continue to receive inadequate radio reception.
- b. **ICIS:**
  - Countdown to August 1 Testing Date** - only 84 days left to complete your preparations.
  - Code Plug** for programming your radios will be distributed at the June Task Force meeting, if not sooner.
  - Governance Committee Update** – Approved the addition of Verdugo’s eight contract cities to the system with no per-unit monthly charges added.
  - Technical Committee Update** – Met for the first time April 12 and made excellent progress defining talk groups and identifying what needs to be accomplished before the changeover. Next meeting: May 14.
  - Orbacom Upgrade** completed at Verdugo, bringing the platform from DOS-based software to Windows XP.
- c. **Air to Ground Channel** – Chief Krakowski asks that a VHF radio channel be identified for air to ground communication if the usual channel (154.400) is tied up on another major incident. If the pilot tells us they can communicate with us on a different channel, we need to be sure that channel is programmed in our radios. Don Wise will follow up with the radio experts at LAC & LFD to confirm an alternate air to ground frequency exists in the TMAC plan.
- d. **ICIS Agreements** – We are drafting an agreement related to ICIS service for each of the eight contract cities.

**3. ReddiNet Hospital Status on Handheld Devices** – ReddiNet upgrade should be occurring in the next few weeks.

**4. Verdugo Staffing** – Nine applicants for the two Fire Communications Operator openings are proceeding to the oral panel interview phase this week.

**5. CAD Upgrade**

Automatic Vehicle Location: Okay to proceed with having your Radio Shop or radio vendor install the Garmin GPS units on your front-line and reserve apparatus. Our survey showed virtually all of the private shops are charging about \$75 an hour and estimating an hour or two for each install. There is no deadline for installations, but we could be going live with Automatic Vehicle Location before the end of June if all goes well.

Mapping on the dispatch floor: Go-live planned for Tuesday, May 15. Final geofile testing is occurring through May 14, along with any necessary troubleshooting.

## 6. Roundtable

**MPK** – Question about ROSS. We are looking into getting web-based access rights (read-only) for Area C.

Two of our Shift Supervisors have received the ROSS training so far and we're hoping to have a ROSS terminal by this time next year.

**PAS** – Will be needing some changes in USAR web log-in function, buying three RA's, big increase in gang-related shootings recently, fifth RA is helping to balance the call-load more evenly, arranged with Radio Shop for UPS replacement cycle for station alerting power backups. Lenia noted that each stations audio alerts need to be on the UPS backup as well – many are not.

**ALH** – BC and Captain tests coming up. Reorganizing: Stedman and Kabala will be Assistant Chiefs as of July 1, additional FF on the Truck, additional FF/PM on E72. New RA next month, a MedicMaster. New Pierce Engine next year. Their radio comm guys are doing their GPS installs.

**MRV** – Chief Young retired.

**ARC** – ISO audit in progress – next meeting May 22. FF exam coming up. Testing for all ranks over the next year. Chief Lugo's retirement: July 19. New E107 going into service June 1.

**SGB** – 2 FF openings. New RA coming soon.

**SNM** – Captains written exam. FF openings. Test for Division Chief coming soon. May 19 pancake breakfast.

**BRK** – 12 FF in September academy. Engr exam coming up. Several private BLS ambulance companies have requested licenses to operate in Burbank but have been sent to County DHS. Buying 2 Seagrave CAF Engines. Angeles National Forest currently has no Fire Chief – we need to identify a contact person there and invite them to our TF meetings. Ventura County is going to single-layer brush clothing – Nomex pants and brush jacket.

**GLN** – Lots of new apparatus on the horizon. Actively researching a BLS transport program. LFD delays in notifying Verdugo are being addressed. FF/PM bulletin is out, good number of applications so far. Cadet test was May 7. Engineer exam end of May. Captain exam this fall. BC exam later this year.

**VFCC** – Pasadena's BC Suburban recently got a wireless fax with email capability. Please keep Don Wise informed if your agency has similar changes so he can keep our contact database up to date. Four agencies currently involved in ISO-related activities: ARC, MPK, SNM, SPS.

### GPS Hardware Distribution (additional extension cables on order – will need one for every rig)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Garmin GPS Devices</u>	<u>16' USB Extension Cables</u>
ALH	14	7
ARC	12	7
BRK	21	13
GLN	30	14
MRV	10	6
MPK	12	8
PAS	29	18
SGB	5	3
SMD	9	8
SNM	5	3
SPS	5	4

### Announcements:

- ◆ **Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS)** – Sign up for your personalized notifications based on type and severity of alerts: [www.edis-by-email.net](http://www.edis-by-email.net). Messages regarding red flag alerts, high wind warnings, upcoming storms, earthquakes, etc. can go to your portable device or email.
- ◆ **Reminder: Area C Apparatus Group** – With so many agencies making major apparatus purchases in the next year or two, Chief Scoggins would like to convene an Area C Apparatus Task Force if there's sufficient interest so we can pool our expertise, experience, and buying power. Names of proposed participants so far: Law, Haney, Lenahan, Dandridge.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 12, 9 a.m. at Verdugo.