

Verdugo Fire Communications Center
TASK FORCE MEETING
June 12, 2007 Minutes

Persons present: Harold Scoggins, Marty Johnson, Tom Phelps, Bob Gattas, Tony Trabbie, Steve Heydorff, Ray Krakowski, Randy Harper, Cliff Hadsell, Dave Dennis, Phil Guiral, Lenia Scanlon

1. New Business

- a. **Hardware Distribution for AVL** – Remaining 16’ extension cables were distributed.
- b. **Ancillary Vehicles** – Lenia collected each agency’s list of ancillary vehicles, such as brush patrols and foam trailers. *Still need:* Sierra Madre and South Pasadena.
- c. **Chain of Command** – A reminder for your line personnel – questions and complaints about Verdugo procedures need to go up the chain of command to the Task Force rep if possible. Some line personnel have been calling Verdugo directly and arguing with the dispatchers about move-ups or other procedures.
- d. **Dispatching Issues – Please share with your departments and we will discuss again at our July meeting**
 - Sending closest appropriate unit to freeway responses, fire alarms, other incidents: Although Verdugo’s practice has been to avoid sending Trucks on fire alarm calls and non-extrication medical incidents on the freeways, it has been proposed that dispatchers be granted authority to go ahead and put a Truck on these types of incidents if the Truck states they are much closer than the dispatched unit.
 - The suggestion was made that an Engine *and* a Truck be automatically dispatched for fire alarm incidents at high-rise properties. It is also proposed that all 11 cities consider whether to add the “high-rise” target hazard back to CAD; it was removed when Unified Response was formalized. This would enable CAD to send additional or different resources in high-rise situations.
 - For those instances when a full assignment was dispatched but it appears that a lengthy investigation is going to be necessary to determine the situation, it was proposed that Verdugo refrain from automatically moving companies up to fill coverage gaps but instead check with the Incident Commander. Verdugo would continue to move companies up to fill gaps during a working fire. Concern has been expressed that only Verdugo can see the “big picture” of all Area C resources and that maybe move-up decisions should remain in their hands.
 - Reminder to release outside agencies’ units from incidents first whenever possible.
- e. **Unified Response Newsletter** – Deadline for summer issue covering April-May-June will be July 9.
- f. **CICCS** – Data needed from several TF members; forms distributed.
- g. **3rd Row Dispatch Consoles** – Verdugo’s new consoles have been delivered and they provide ergonomic features including the ability to raise the workspace in order to stand while taking calls.
- h. **ROSS** – LACoFD will be teaching two ROSS courses at Verdugo July 9-20. Verdugo will send as many people as possible. FCSS Soto and FCSS Sims have already completed ROSS Training. Completion of the ROSS course will eventually allow Verdugo to log in to the ROSS system and electronically/dynamically request strike teams, overhead resources, air support, and equipment into Area C. The reverse is also true; Verdugo will be able to send resources out of Area C to other areas upon request/availability. Verdugo hopes to have log-in access to ROSS in the next few months, after the majority of dispatchers and supervisors have completed the training and a demonstration will be provided at that time for anyone interested.

2. Radio Issues

- a. **“East- and South-End” Voice Radio Coverage** – Verdugo is now using RED4 as tactical channel for Monterey Park incidents because the reception is better than on RED7. On August 1 when we begin testing ICIS, we will have a better idea how much the addition of the Montebello site will help with MPK radio issues. A backup plan has already been identified if additional measures become necessary.

b. ICIS

Countdown to August 1 Testing Date – only 42 days left to complete your preparations.

Code Plug Distribution – Please DO NOT use the code plugs that were distributed on CD at our meeting. We had mentioned the possibility that further changes would be made and this turned out to be the case following the monthly ICIS Work Group meeting on June 14.

ICIS Work Group – Continuing to meet on second Thursday of each month.

c. Air to Ground Channel – LAFD and County Fire confirmed they'll use LA County FD TAC19 as their initial/primary coordination point for Air-to-Ground purposes. For the rare occasions when it's necessary to move to an alternate channel, it has been proposed that GREEN1 (also called SMD TAC G1) be used as a secondary air to ground channel for Area C. It is wideband/high power and is licensed for about 30 square miles out of our area and for up to 1,100 mobiles. Best of all, it can be programmed into a base station and planted at Mt. Thom for systemwide coverage, and it can also be programmed into Verdugo's Orbacom and Centracom consoles. We are discussing with Sierra Madre Fire the possibility of using GREEN1 for this purpose.

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 finally went live throughout LA County on June 13, several months later than they had planned. Now Verdugo can proceed with researching ways to get this new web-based information to the RA's.

4. Verdugo Staffing – Candidates for the three Fire Communications Operator openings are in the background phase. The Fire Communications Administrator bulletin went before the Civil Service Commission June 13 for salary adjustment and was approved to bring it more in line with similar positions at other regional dispatch centers in Southern California.

5. CAD Upgrade

Go-live for mapping on the dispatch floor was June 12. We have a 30-day testing/troubleshooting period and will complete it as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Then the vendor will schedule programming of the mobile map and install the AVL software on our test-CAD system so we can begin testing AVL on the busiest Engine and RA in each of the tri-cities first. The Radio Shops want to see how much of an impact the frequent but tiny data packets will make on the data system.

6. Roundtable

Glendale: Held FF/PM and Cadet orals, Fire Engineer promotional exam in progress. Chief Wright will be transferring to an ICIS-related position in the City Manager's office. BC bulletin starts June 18 for two openings. Work has begun on an Area C/LA County aid agreement. A tentative site has been chosen for a regional training center at Scholl Canyon in eastern Glendale.

Burbank: Switching to fiberoptic link to Verdugo. BRK & GLN helicopter units combining services, still using same call signs. Working out the details related to BRK & GLN joint hazmat teams. Getting fourth FF back on E14 starting 2008. Question on tiered dispatch on pandemic flu or disaster type incidents. Question on FMAGs and 209's – suggest individual agency continue to do FMAG and Verdugo do the 209. Ish Messer says there's updated software for printing IQS cards.

Pasadena: Question on tones related to multiple alarms – must they take so long? Verdugo is researching this. "Golden Phoenix" dill in July @ Rose Bowl might be requesting a strike team from Area C and possibly a USAR; 50-100 "patients." Open FF test for 1,860 applicants.

Arcadia: July 10 will be Tony's last TF meeting – he has been appointed Acting Fire Chief as of July 20, following Chief Lugo's retirement.

Monterey Park: New City Manager coming.

Sierra Madre: June 1 added paramedic service and had two STEMI incidents right away. People are now assigned to the Engine and stay at the station all evening on their assigned days (2 days on, 10 off).

South Pasadena: Mike Clark had back surgery, will return June 24. New Pierce Arrow engine going in service in time for the July 4 parade.

Alhambra: Compliments to Verdugo on MCI last week with outside RA's, etc. BC list has been established, announcement coming soon. As of July 1, staffing of T71 and E72 will be increased to 4. Garfield is now a STEMI center.

San Marino: Finishing ISO process, thanks to all who assisted. Buying a new engine from Pierce.

Monrovia: Moving back to Station 10 first week of August. New Paramedic Squad being ordered. BC promotion coming.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 9 a.m. at Verdugo.