



VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Task Force Meeting Minutes August 10, 2021

Present: ARC (Suen), BRK (Alvarez), GLN (Julian), PAS (Sell/James), MPK (Weddle), SGB (Wallace), HBA (Pianka), SNM (Rueda), SPS (Corrao) BC Ambrose, Jason Pfau, Oscar Barrera, Gordon Arnold, Dr. Loza

Absent: MRV, SMD, ALH, MTB

Meeting Conducted via MS Teams, vote taken.

Review of previous minutes: SMOKEI approved by OPS committee but had not yet moved forward based on other type code changes pending, intro by PAS DC's Sell and James.

Strategic Plan: (Ambrose)

Review of VFCC strategic plan and priorities by BC Ambrose. Plan documents available upon request.

VFCC updates: (Ambrose)

- CAD/GIS– Update and review of CAD, BC Ambrose creating a presentation for new Captains on VFCC and CAD. GIS - Updating the polygons and street centerlines with the help of a vendor funded by State funds is complete; Oscar is performing a general review of the completed project. We are now on a less frequent update cadence for GIS errors, which shows a remarkable improvement as fewer anomalies exist in the data. We are working with Pulse Point and Peraton to add freeway data to PP. Brian Derocco, our project manager, has left Peraton, and we have a new PM from Chicago.
- Staffing – 4 Trainees doing well. Two are now out of radio training and will be pinned with their badges at the upcoming promotional ceremony. The other two are doing very well and will be rotated to radio training soon.
- Tech Committee (Jason Pfau) – Next meeting is scheduled for August 19th.
- Finance/Data Update – BC Ambrose presented data dashboard Gor created in MS Power BI. The near-real-time data connects directly to CAD. The dashboard allows finding data needed for ISO and council requests. We can examine the initial and final type codes. We used the dashboard to look at how many SMOKEI were updated to a working fire. Gor Galstyan will be the point of contact for the data dashboard.
- ISO Documents – we had received several, sometimes last-minute requests for accreditation documents. VFCC is creating a document that contains all of the pertinent ISO information typically requested. Requestors may still need specific items, but the paper, which will be updated as required, will have almost all of the information typically requested.
- Sacramento Visit – We had a two-day visit with a large cadre of stakeholders in the Sacramento Regional Dispatch Center. SAC will be going live with Command Point CAD and met to discuss lessons learned, project management, change management, and promote mutual interests to leverage the vendor.

Workgroups:

- Tablet Command – Ambrose: Final scope of work from Peraton for API to connect to CAD was reviewed by VFCC and approved by VFCC a few weeks ago. We have requested a timeline for completion. We attempted to ensure the API will have the items needed by TC and the ability to extract further data.
- Communications Plan – Weddle: G. Arnold was asked about radio reprogramming. Technically changes are doable but will need to be coordinated with respective radio shops/vendors. DC Weddle proposed a tentative date of September 7th for train the trainer on the communications plan. Also discussed were the automated dispatch voice options. During the SAC visit, their dispatch supervision staff members gave high praise for their auto outbound voice. They noted a reduction in their workflow as well as a



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quieter floor, improving room awareness. Jason Pfau pointed out that both Westnet and USDD could be options to provide the auto voice. Chief Weddle updated the timeline for launch as early 2022.

- Mayday/RIC – Chief Brown will send some updates via email
- QI – Alvarez: SMOKEI will be taken to the Executive Committee as voted by Task Force and OPS Committee. DC Alvarez reported that we have agreed to review/QI call data and response times quarterly. He requested that data be available at the September meeting (this data will be available real-time once set up with MS Power BI). Discussion on CAD times – servers specified for CAD are due for an upgrade next year. The size of the servers may be partially responsible for slower processing times. This data will be reviewed by/at the next Task Force meeting.

Old Business:

- Standards of command – Alvarez: BRK draft edition was sent out to TF. The only comments submitted were from Chief Rueda. BRK has since implemented and trained on their version of the policy. TF had recommended a version adopted system-wide. DC Alvarez offered to do a VFCC train the trainer for what BRK conducted for their personnel, Rueda agreed, and the consensus was to have a version put into VFCC policy for everyone to follow. DC Sell reported that PAS had several recommendations/comments that their team may not have sent to DC Alvarez. The consensus was to move forward with a policy for all to follow and revise a draft to be sent to the OPS committee. Chief Alvarez will collect comments and edit for review.
- Mayday – Chief Rueda inquired about Mayday policy and stressed that the result should be an area-wide document ensuring all BC's operated consistently. Chief Weddle commented about a recent meeting where the intent was to adopt the RTG FF safety series pertaining to Mayday and combine it into a written policy for Verdugo.
- BC Ambrose will reach out to Chief Brown on status. Volunteers for this group are welcome to contact Chief Brown or Chief Weddle.

New Business:

- Area C BC Training – Rueda. Third Quarter training planned for September 21,22,24 at Fire Station 21, 8-Noon. We are currently reviewing existing Area C ASHER policies which will be sent to the presenters for review and find differences that they can iron out.
- Type Code Improvement/Consolidation – BC Ambrose discussed OPS meeting and review of fire-related type codes. BC Ambrose had pulled type code information and response cards from area dispatch centers. Discussion on if the type codes encourage too many questions resulting in extra time to dispatch. Consolidate redundant type codes and make it more straightforward for the dispatchers; we may be asking too many questions that units on the scene can only verify. The proposal is to reduce overall type codes to Commercial, Multi-Family, and Single-Family and see if this improves our call processing times.
- GLN commented that there are too many type codes, and if it would improve the call processing times, it should be changed. PAS agreed with the need to consolidate type codes.
- Discussion on the impact that there will be more units responding with the change in type codes. The change would result in these Fire Type codes getting a full response of 3E/2T/1BC but can be changed in the future (i.e., plus 1 Engine for Commercial). Discussion on exploring going to non-emergent response upon 'nothing showing' and that Task Force can further explore this. The consensus was to reduce the number of type codes by consolidating. It will be incumbent on company officers and BC's to utilize what resources are needed and canceling the rest. A vote was taken to prepare a proposal with data for the OPS committee to consolidate and reduce type codes to streamline call taking, simplify type codes,



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and reduce dispatching times. Data to include how many times we would have upgraded, how many times a lower type code was upgraded, and baseline of call processing times. VOTE: Unanimous with the group present.

Roundtable

GLN – 6 FFPM who were formerly AO's graduated academy, promoted 1 BC, 3 Captains, and 3 Engineers. The list will likely be exhausted by the end of the year. Promotion ceremony in two weeks, information will be sent to the group.

ARC – 1 FF to be hired, Captains exam at end of September – will be looking for raters. 2 FF's with OCEMT. Type 6 should be repaired and in service soon. Question on website sign up for Type 6 – the OES rigs are considered in service until they are not. When OOS we are required to notify Chief Stone. Discussion point on a resident inquiring vaccination status of firefighters – ARC position is due to privacy they would not divulge a person's vaccination status to the public. Others in the group had not fielded any of these questions.

HBA – Flights getting back to normal levels. Inquired about tac channel for their multi-unit responses.

SGB – Thanks for recent assistance on STR fire. Staffing challenges remain.

MKP - OES 395 on Dixie crew swap this week for 1840A, one new FF on floor and currently fully staffed. Station 62 remodel almost complete, groundbreaking on or near September 11th.

SNM – Nothing to report.

BRK – Two Engines out with LA County Strike Team. Graduated 18 from academy a few months ago and lateral recruitment in process.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: September 14th 2021 - Live vs. Virtual TBD