

# **Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force Report**



**Updated  
January 18, 2008**



# CALIFORNIA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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January 22, 2008

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State of California  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered via: Mr. Tom Sawyer, Public Safety Liaison  
Office of the Governor

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Last October, California experienced its second catastrophic wildland firestorm within a four-year period. In the wake of this disaster, you requested that the independent Blue Ribbon Task Force, established after the fires of 2003, provide advice on the critical issues facing our state's fire service.

On behalf of the Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force, I am pleased to submit to you an interim report of the Task Force detailing these critical issues. Per your request, this document summarizes the most critical issues facing the fire service and the State of California as a result of the most recent fires of October 2007. It also contains a series of specific recommendations aimed at addressing those items that require immediate attention if we are to respond to this ongoing and ever-growing threat.

Also included per your request is an index of the current status of the nearly 50 recommendations contained in the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission Report, issued in 2004. As you know, this report was the result of the original Blue Ribbon Commission, established by yourself and then-Governor Davis in the wake of the 2003 fires. In the years since, our independent task force has tracked these recommendations closely. Many are in process or continuing, some have been accomplished, others remain to be completed many will be ongoing.

We feel this report, which will also be submitted to the Legislature, can serve as a "road map" to serve our collective efforts to improve fire and life safety for all Californians. If the report is used effectively and kept updated it can help us be pro-active in providing essential life safety services. To that end we are making a strong recommendation that the Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force be formally established to continue to monitor the progress of implementation and make periodic reports to you and the Legislature and as new lessons are learned, capture those lessons to help us continue to improve the delivery of essential life safety services.

I would like to acknowledge the following for their tremendous support and assistance on this important project and agreeing to be members of the BRC Task Force:

Chief Bob Roper, Ventura County Fire Department, Association of Contract Counties  
Chief Jeff Bowman, San Diego City FD Retired  
Chief P. Michael Freeman, LA County FD, FIRESCOPE  
Chief Ruben Grijalva, Director Cal Fire  
John Malmquist, Executive Director, California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA)

*"Leading the California Fire Service Into The Future"*

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
January 22, 2008  
Page Two

Chief Sheldon Gilbert, Alameda County FD, President CFCA  
Lou Paulson, President of California Professional Firefighters (CPF)  
Chief Chip Prather, Orange County Fire Authority, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs  
Chief Ed Hollenshead, US Forest Service  
Carroll Wills, California Professional Firefighters (CPF)  
Chief Kim Zagaris, Governors Office of Emergency Services (OES)  
Bob Wolf, CDF Firefighters Local 2881  
Chief Kate Dargan, State Fire Marshal  
Chief Mike Esparza, Riverside City Fire Department, California State Firefighters Association  
Chief Pat Dennen, San Bernardino County Fire Department, FIRESCOPE  
Chief Pat McIntosh, Orange County Fire Authority  
Chief Tracy Jarman, San Diego City Fire Department

As a Task Force, we appreciate the confidence you have shown in the fire service professionals who comprise the Task Force, and stand ready to continue support your efforts and those of the Legislature in dealing with this constant threat in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Warren".

Chief Michael Warren,  
Chairman Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force

# Blue Ribbon Fire Task Force Critical Recommendations

01/18/08

Fire protection and prevention is an urgent need that can't wait for the next catastrophic disaster. It is imperative that investment in fire services and protection of our communities be secure, ongoing and, where necessary, expanded at all levels of government.

While we are mindful of the current financial challenges facing local, state and federal officials, the financial consequences of downsizing fire protection in the face of the current threat far outweigh any short-term savings.

Therefore the following critical issues have been identified and should be addressed as soon as possible. Some of these can be found in the original Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations from 2004.

## **Issue:**

Agencies responding to Wildland Urban Interface incidents should have enough resources for the threat potential and highly trained adequate staff for each fire engine.

## **Recommendation:**

- Year-round staffing for CALFIRE statewide with a minimum of three person staffing per engine, and four-person staffing for CALFIRE, and on all state-funded engines during peak and transition fire seasons.
- Establish and promote a Blue Ribbon Fire Task Force Committee to develop standards of coverage for firefighting in the urban-wild land interface.
- Establish and implement standards to ensure that all responding fire personnel are trained, equipped, qualified and led to safely and effectively perform in the Wildland Urban Interface environment.
- Create and fund an on-going POST-style training program for the California fire service.
- Update Title 8 to adequately reflect firefighter personal protective equipment needs.
- Introduce federal and state liability protection for firefighters acting without gross neglect.

**Agencies:** Governors Office, OES, Cal Fire, Cal Chiefs, FIRESCOPE, US Forest Service, California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee, California Professional Firefighters, California State Firefighters Association, and all responding fire departments.

**Issue:**

Fire agencies have the reserve capacity to staff additional fire engines during extreme situations, yet lack the fire engines. Only 19 of the 150 2004 Blue Ribbon Commission recommended engines have been purchased. Cal Fire's aging Helicopter Fleet needs replacing with modern aircraft with night flying capability.

**Recommendation:**

- Fund the acquisition of 131 additional fire engines to the OES fleet, with delivery to be completed by December, 2009 to address surge capacity.
- Provide and maintain funding for ongoing replacement and maintenance of CAL FIRE and OES fleet, as provided for in the original Blue Ribbon Commission report.
- Streamline procurement processes and eliminate bureaucratic impediments to an accelerated acquisition schedule for CALFIRE and OES, similar to that employed by CHP.
- Fund the Cal Fire Helicopter Replacement Program, with redeployment of aviation assets to local fire agencies, as they become available, to create additional surge capacity.

**Agencies:** Governor's Office, State Legislature, Cal Fire, Office of Emergency Services

**Issue:**

Adequate surge capacity is critical to keeping small fires from becoming large ones. There is a risk that budget issues could impact pre-deployment decisions in major emergencies, especially at the local level.

**Recommendation:**

- Create funding mechanism to insure adequate pre-deployment of local resources, based upon the predicted scale of the emergency event under the mutual aid system.

**Agencies:** Governor, Legislature, Office of Emergency Services

**Issue:**

Coordination between military assets (National Guard, DoD, Coast Guard, MAFFS) and state/local fire departments needs to be further improved and refined to maximize asset availability during fire season.

**Recommendation:**

- Annual report with updated policy and deployment agreements for military assets should be publicized each May to the fire service community and the public. The report would be sent out a month in advance for refinement and comment prior to its public release.
- Provide funding to create a liaison position within Office of Emergency Services that is empowered to coordinate with federal & state military assets for training, agreements and deployment of resources.
- Encourage local base commanders to create local agreements with their respective neighboring fire departments for deployment of military assets.
- Congress identifies firefighting as an ancillary mission of the military, and funding for equipment and training should be provided by Congress. Congress should also finance coordination between military assets – California National Guard, US Navy Reserve, US Marines and others – and other federal, state and local firefighting organizations.
- Develop a mechanism for federal, state and local government to have direct and immediate access to all available intelligence information during suppression efforts, including that generated by federal agencies.

**Agencies:** Department of Defense, Coast Guard, National Guard, U.S. Forest Service, CALFIRE, Cal Chiefs, Office of Emergency Services

**Issue:**

The efforts and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission cannot become reality without the commensurate policy level oversight and financial support.

**Recommendation:**

- Request the establishment of an on-going Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force to ensure that the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations achieve the best possible odds for achievement.

- The Blue Ribbon Task Force shall serve as an oversight council for all recommendations stemming from the 2004 Blue Ribbon Fire Commission report.
- FIRESCOPE shall serve as the primary body for tracking, research and developing staff recommendations for the Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force. FIRESCOPE, CalChiefs and California Professional Firefighters will serve as a liaison committee between the Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force and the governor and Legislature.

**Agencies:** Governor, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee, Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force

**Issue:**

Not all jurisdictions or governmental entities take responsibility and have provisions for proper Wildland Urban Interface growth and land use decisions.

**Recommendation:**

- Direct Cal Fire to form a working group of stakeholders at all levels of government to develop a model strategy for pre-wildfire hazard reduction.

This strategic plan shall address:

- Firesafe Land Use Planning Guidelines and Community Wildfire Protection Plans
  - Firesafe/Firewise Council Funding
  - Wildland Urban Interface Public Education programs and training recommendations for Wildland Urban Interface critical professions (planners, architects, landscape designers, builders, etc).
  - Defensible Space training and enforcement recommendations
  - Implementation guidelines and standards for integrated planning data and GIS across all jurisdictions to support Wildland Urban Interface mitigation and risk analysis.
  - Wildland Urban Interface Model Building and Fire Codes
- Develop legislative and funding mechanisms to implement the recommendations of the Wildland Urban Interface Prevention and Planning Strategic Plan.
  - Support partnerships with all key Wildland Urban Interface stakeholders including the insurance industry, firesafe councils, and local, state, government.

**Agencies:** Insurance industry, FSC, Federal, State, Local Agencies

**Issue:**

Fire and Emergency resources from mixed agencies still do not have common statewide frequencies capability to communicate.

**Recommendation:**

- Provide satellite capability or other technology for the fire service and other emergency responders that can provide “cross-band” repeating ability.

**Agencies:** Federal, FCC, State, Local

**Issue:**

The public oftentimes gets mixed communications about an incident.

**Recommendation:**

- Local agencies need to form a Joint Information Center (JIC) so one concise message is given to the public.
- Fund and create community emergency notification systems and local AM radio stations for emergency information dissemination in those counties that currently do not have this capability.

**Agencies:** FCC, Federal, State Legislature, Local Governments



**BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION**  
**ORIGINAL RECOMMENEDATIONS**  
**STATUS 2008**

**BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY**

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENCIES	PRIORITY	COMPLETION/ PROGRESS	REPORT PAGE
<b>SECTION I: JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that OES arrange a meeting of federal, state and local partners to further clarify and improve the process of utilizing federal resources and access to military assets.	OES, CDF, USFS	High	Ongoing; Annually	7
2. The Commission recommends that federal (USDOJ, USFS) state (CDF, OES) and local fire agencies work in conjunction with the military to jointly develop and adopt agreements, regulations and operating policies for the employment of aerial assets during WUI firefighting efforts. In addition, FIRESCOPE should develop a statewide plan to increase local agency capacity to provide additional resources for combating WUI fires.	OES, CDF, USFS	High	Ongoing	10
3. The Commission recommends that a task force be established to review the social, political, economic and scientific issues relating to conflicts between environmental and ecosystem values and land management planning and their impact on the use of proven fire prevention and fire safety measures to protect lives and property in our WUI areas.	Resources Agency	Medium	Ongoing	13
4. The Commission recommends that federal and state statutes be clarified, where necessary, to reaffirm the status of the fire service as a public safety entity, and to recognize the integrated responsibilities for fuel management as reflected in the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Restoration Act and existing agreements between the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and federal, state and local fire agencies.	Local Government, CSAC and CA League of Cities	Medium	Legislative Changes January 1, 2007	16
5. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local forest firefighting agencies review their aircraft operations cut-off time and determine if there can be a window of flexibility to expand incident operations times, while at the same time taking into consideration flight crew safety. Additionally, these agencies should review technological capabilities to extend available aerial emergency response capabilities.	CDF, USFS, Local Government	High	Ongoing	18
6. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local fire agencies implement 4-0 staffing for all fire engine companies responding to OES Mutual Aid calls for immediate, planned response, and set a goal of 4-0 staffing for WUI initial attack response.	OES, Local Government	High	Ongoing	20
7. The Commission recommends that all firefighters responding to WUI fires be provided with the necessary wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment.	OES, CDF, USFS, Local Governments , Cal Chiefs	High	Ongoing	23
8. The Commission recommends that sufficient funds be allocated to state and local fire agencies to address California's fire prevention and suppression needs.	Governor's Office, Local Government, OES	High	Ongoing	26
9. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local policymakers consider creating a stable funding infrastructure for the California Fire Alliance and Fire Safe Councils.	OES, CDF, USFS, California Fire Alliance, California Fire Safe Councils	High	Not Completed	28

<b>BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY</b>				
<b>COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>AGENCIES</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION/ PROGRESS</b>	<b>REPORT PAGE</b>
<b>JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that the federal government (DOD, USDOT, USFS, etc.) investigate whether the successful MAFFS program concept of operation and other emerging technologies can be applied to aerial firefighting systems.	OES, CDF, USFS	High	Ongoing	30
2. The Commission recommends that Congress support and fund a single source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence.	USFS	Medium	In progress	32
3. The Commission recommends that Congress consider authorizing additional federal grant funds for wildland fire mitigation including the establishment of a National Fire Science Research Institute to compile, evaluate and fund technological advances related to fire prevention and suppression at the federal level.	USFS, Legislative Oversight Committee	Medium	Drop Parallel Programs	34
4. The Commission recommends that the federal government reduce or eliminate "match" requirements for federal grant funds for hazard mitigation programs in areas where there has been a state declaration of emergency.	USFS, Legislative Oversight Committee	High	July 1, 2005	38
<b>JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends development of a permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security. As part of the Committee's mandate, it will have responsibility, in so far as possible, to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Committee will oversee all relevant rules and regulations to resolve conflicting issues. Additionally, this Committee will have technical advisory committees to help evaluate strategies, and periodically report its progress to the Governor and Legislature.	State Legislature	High	Ongoing Annually	39
2. The Commission recommends that it reconvene 6 months after the submission of this report, and again 6 months later, to assess progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations.	Cal Chiefs	Medium	May 31, 2005; Adhoc Committee directed to proceed	40
3. The Commission recommends that FIRESCOPE research and pursue efforts so mutual aid deployed engines have the capability to utilize newer technologies, such as foams and gels.	All federal, state and local fire	Medium	July 1, 2005; Revised July 2006	41
4. The Commission recommends establishing a secure year-round operational capability for CDF, where appropriate, including the implementation of 4-0 staffing for all CDF state funded engine companies.	CDF	High	July 1, 2005; 3.0 year-round staffing approved, E.O. for 4.0 staffing during fire season	43
5. The Commission recommends that the state examine alternatives for replacement and diversification of CDF's aging helicopter fleet and fire engine apparatus, and begin a replacement planning cycle.	CDF	High	Partially Complete Ongoing	45
6. The Commission recommends that the state develop a program to fund the acquisition of 150 additional OES fire engines and the requisite logistical support necessary to address California's fire suppression needs.	OES	High	Partially Complete Ongoing	47
<b>SECTION II TRAINING: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				

<b>BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY</b>				
<b>COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>AGENCIES</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION/ PROGRESS</b>	<b>REPORT PAGE</b>
1. The Commission recommends that nationwide training agreements be expanded.	OES, CDF	Low	Ongoing	49
<b>TRAINING: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The 1. Commission recommends that Congress increase efforts to provide training for local fire departments through federal grant programs, and expand the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grant program.	Cal Chiefs, CPF, CDF, USFS	High	Ongoing	50
<b>TRAINING: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that the state create a multi-layered public education outreach campaign for residents living in WUI areas.	Cal Chiefs, Fire Safe Councils, California Fire Alliance, CDF, OES	High	Ongoing	52
2. The Commission recommends that CDF/OSFM develop and maintain an adequately funded P.O.S.T. type standards, training and education program to ensure that trained and qualified personnel are prepared to respond to major events. This system should support the use of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) and incorporate the Fire Officer Certification process approved by the State Board of Fire Services.	Legislative Oversight Committee, OES, CDF	High	Not Complete Ongoing	54
3. The Commission recommends that state funds be provided to each Operational Area to hold annual wildland fire suppression training exercises that includes National Guard and federal military resources. Funding should also be made available by the state to improve the training level of smaller fire departments.	Legislative Oversight Committee, CDF	Low	Ongoing	56
<b>SECTION III: INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local fire agencies in California review their various assistance for hire agreements for appropriateness and their potential to undermine California's Master Agreement and Master Mutual Aid System.	OES, CDF, USFS, DOI	Medium	Ongoing	58
2. The Commission recommends that FIRESCOPE facilitate federal, state and local fire service agencies working together to reach consensus on the definition of structure protection versus perimeter control, and address the release of mutual aid companies back to their jurisdiction of origin when immediate needs dictate such return.	OES, CDF, FIRESCOPE	Medium	Ongoing	60
3. The Commission recommends that forest agencies integrate local incident command team members within their respective incident management teams when local agencies are in unified command on major WUI fires, and that a module relating to interfacing with local EOCs be included in USFS Type 1 and 2 team training programs.	CDF, USFS	Low	Ongoing	61
4. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies continuously maintain and update their mutual aid and cooperative agreements to reflect contemporary needs and costs.	CDF, USFS	Low	Ongoing	64
<b>INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that OES and FIRESCOPE incorporate the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) into the statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement.	OES	Low	Completed	65

**BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY**

<b>COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>AGENCIES</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION/ PROGRESS</b>	<b>REPORT PAGE</b>
<b>SECTION IV: LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that the Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security convene with appropriate representatives of federal, state and local governments to build upon existing governmental efforts to develop a comprehensive interagency, intergovernmental wildland vegetation management plan for California, and integrate the plan's direction into revised or amended federal, state and local land management, land use plans.	Legislature, CDF, OES, USFS	High	Ongoing	67
2. The Commission recommends that in WUI areas, the Statewide Fire Safe Council promotes the establishment of local Fire Safe Councils and encourages federal, state and local governments to assist in this effort.	Governor's Office, CDF, OES, California Fire Alliance	High	Ongoing	71
3. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies and officials give serious consideration to fostering and advancing citizen involvement in the establishment and operation of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding groups. Furthermore, the state should develop a disaster recovery model based on the collective input of OES, FEMA, faith-based and community groups, victim advocates and other relevant organizations.	OES	Medium	Ongoing	72
4. The 1. Commission recommends that USDOT, FEMA, USFS, CDF and OES identify ways to assist, including financially, local governments with WUI fire preparation and mitigation efforts.	CDF, OES, USFS, California Fire	High	On going	74
<b>LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends the Wildland Fire Leadership Council address issues of Wildland Fire Prevention and Control and inconsistencies in the interpretation and implementation of the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, Structure Protection, and Cost Apportionment process.	CDF, USFS, FIRESCOPE, California Fire Alliance	Medium	Ongoing	77
2. The Commission recommends that Congress consider establishing a National Wildland Fire Insurance Program (NWFIP), with appropriate eligibility criteria, under the direction of FEMA.	Legislative Oversight Committee	Low	Unknown	79
<b>LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continue to conduct fire research, including development of fire test protocols for vents, radiant heat exposure for windows and other applicable areas to improve ignition resistant construction techniques. The research process should include implementation of a comprehensive damage assessment process to collect data on efficiency and effectiveness of mitigation practices.	CDF, OES	Medium	Ongoing;	80
2. The Commission recognizes and applauds Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) type programs and recommends that MAST be considered as a model for other areas.	CDF, USFS, California Fire Alliance	High	Completed	82
3. The Commission endorses SB 1855 by Senator Deirdre Alpert.	Legislature	Low	Completed	83

**BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION STATUS SUMMARY**

<b>COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>AGENCIES</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION/ PROGRESS</b>	<b>REPORT PAGE</b>
<b>SECTION V COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that all EOCs dedicate a Public Information Officer (PIO) or establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. The PIO or JIC should be in or near the EOC which has timely access to the latest information. All available technologies should be explored to expedite the timely dissemination of information.	CDF, OES, USFS, Local Government	High	Ongoing	85
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends that sufficient standardized frequencies be issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to meet the interoperable communication needs of fire and emergency personnel.	Legislative Oversight Committee	High	Ongoing	86
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: STATE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recommends integration of the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) with the California Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid System.	CDF, OES, FIREScope, USFS	Medium	Completed	87
2. The Commission recommends that the state implement a research and development working group within FIREScope to explore emerging technologies for firefighting purposes (e.g., military technology, GPS, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles [UAVs], Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS).	CDF, OES, FIREScope, USFS, State & Federal Homeland Security	Medium	Ongoing	88
3. The Commission recommends that each engine crew and chief officer have the capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands.	CDF, OES	High	Ongoing Annually	90
4. The Commission recommends that local governments improve public outreach and emergency evacuation education.	Local Government, FIREScope	High	Ongoing	91
5. The Commission recommends that state agencies take advantage of the work that has been done locally to create regional communication systems and join with local agencies on a regional basis to enhance those systems.	OES, CALSIEC, Federal & Local Partners	Medium	Ongoing	92
6. The Commission recommends that the state update and expand current handheld and mobile radios to be utilized on major mutual aid incidents as a short-term, temporary solution to the interoperability problem.	CDF, OES	High	Completed	94
7. The Commission recommends that OES Fire and Rescue Command Nets be expanded.	OES, CDF, PSRSPC	High	2010	95
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH: LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
1. The Commission recognizes the critical role of timely emergency notification of the public of imminent threats and recommends that local governments prioritize the development of appropriate early warning systems to address the needs of their communities.	Local Government, OES	High	Ongoing	96

**JURISDICTIONAL AND  
OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**  
**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that OES arrange a meeting of federal, state and local partners to further clarify and improve the process of utilizing federal resources and access to military assets.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, USFS

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, July 1, 2005. Updated annually.**

*The interagency agreement between CAL FIRE, the Office of Emergency Services (OES), federal forest agencies and the California National Guard has been updated since 2003.*

*The state currently has resources and training agreements with the U.S. Navy Reserves and the California National Guard. These agreements are reviewed and updated annually. In 2004, the state approached the U.S. Marine Corps to enter a similar agreement for the use of Marine Corps assets for firefighting. After initially participating in discussions with CAL FIRE, the Marines informed the state that they would not be able to enter into an agreement and that, alternatively, requests for Marine Corps firefighting assets during a fire would need to be made via the U.S. Forest Service.*

*Locally, the City of San Diego has established local agreements with the federal Department of Defense installations in their area and Los Angeles County has an agreement with the Navy for the use of hover craft/LCAC assets stationed at Camp Pendleton.*

*CAL FIRE coordinated with OES to contact the Department of Defense and California National Guard within 24 hours of the October 2007 fire outbreaks and had access to national security information, such as satellite mapping and imagery, that aided in these fires.*

**Federal Response-** *Following the 2003 Blue Ribbon Commission Report, a reinvigorated FIRESCOPE began to address the findings. The Aviation Operations Specialist Group was formed to find solutions to the recommendations.*

*The USFS Pacific Southwest Region joined forces and met with this Group. As a result, the USFS PSW began working with the USMC 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Air Wing based primarily at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station and at Camp Pendleton.*

*Instruction was provided to USMC pilots in various Marine Heavy and Medium Helicopter Squadrons over successive intervals after the Squadrons rotated for*



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*deployments and successive Squadrons reported back to either Miramar or Camp Pendleton.*

*The USMC 3<sup>rd</sup> MAW coordinates with the USFS PSW helicopter program to participate with the preparatory wild land fire fighting training.*

*FIRESCOPE has developed an interagency work group to identify all available aviation assets in California. This Aviation Specialist working group has developed a document that identifies the asset, who owns it and how it is ordered through the ordering system. This includes state, federal and local aircraft. The list identifies, active military, military reserve, California National Guard, fire and non fire resources.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**November 11, 2005** – The initial task to develop operation guidelines that would clearly identify the process and procedures for the utilization of federal and military assets under existing federal laws has been completed. The Committee agrees to review and update the operational guidelines on an annual basis.

**April 11, 2005** - OES has been involved in discussions with CDF, the California National Guard (CNG), the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Defense on the process for the use of federal resources and for accessing active duty and reserve military assets. Currently, OES is reviewing existing procedures for use of the CNG Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) and helicopters to ensure that all avenues of access are identified and the numerous ways of accessing federal assets are also identified, clarified, and documented (FEMA, CNG, USFS, etc.). OES is documenting the thresholds that trigger the use of federal assets and the scope of use for equipment and personnel.

The U.S. Forest Service authorized nine contracted air tankers to return to service; there are eight military C-130 aircraft equipped with MAFFS available for use; and contracts are established with private companies for helicopters and helitankers capable of fire fighting.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Annually*    Priority: High

Action Plan: The USFS, OES and CDF will develop, through FIREScope, prior to July 1, 2005, operation guidelines that would clearly identify the process and procedure for the utilization of federal and military assets under existing federal laws. Updates to these documents will continue on an annual basis.

Desired Outcome: All agencies will have comprehensive operational guidelines to obtain federal resources for fire fighting purposes, to be distributed through the operational area by July 1, 2005.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**  
**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Commission recommends that federal (USDOJ, USFS), state (CDF, OES) and local fire agencies work in conjunction with the military to jointly develop and adopt agreements, regulations and operating policies for the employment of aerial assets during WUI firefighting efforts. In addition, FIRESCOPE should develop a statewide plan to increase local agency capacity to provide additional air resources for combating WUI fires.

This includes:

- Agreements to meet equipment, communications and training criteria as established by USDOJ, USFS, CDF AND OES;
  - Submission of annual declarations of participation to USDOJ, USFS, CDF AND OES by military base commanders by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year; and
  - Weekly affirmation of availability status in accordance with developed policy.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, USFS

### **Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-Partially Completed. California has agreements with the U.S. Navy Reserves, the California National Guard, and the U.S. Coast Guard, but no agreement was in place prior to the October 2007 fires with the United States Marine Corps. CAL FIRE and the Marine Corps began meeting on November 1, 2007 and have entered into a short term operational understanding for the current fires and continue discussions on a long term agreement.***

*The state currently has resources and training agreements with the U.S. Navy Reserves, the U.S. Coast Guard and the California National Guard. These agreements are reviewed and updated annually.*

*In 2004, the state approached the U.S. Marine Corps to enter a similar agreement for the use of Marine Corps assets for firefighting. After initially participating in discussions with CAL FIRE, the Marines informed the state that they would not be able to enter into an agreement and that, alternatively, requests for Marine Corps firefighting assets during a fire would need to be made via the U.S. Forest Service.*

*In response to the October 2007 fires, CAL FIRE and the U.S. Marine Corps began meeting on November 1, 2007 to establish a short term operational understanding for the current fires and re-open discussions about a long term agreement between the entities for future firefighting cooperation. The short term operational understanding is now in effect and discussions are ongoing for the long term agreement.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*For the October 2007 fires, 18 federal helicopters were deployed from the Navy (6), Marines (4), and National Guard (8). In addition 6 MAFFS air tankers were deployed from the Air Force. For local agency aircraft capacity, under the Governor's Executive Order (S-9-04, May 7, 2004), the County of San Diego was provided one helicopter, which is staffed by CAL FIRE flight crews.*

**Federal Response-** *The USFS R5 coordinates with the USMC 3<sup>rd</sup> MAW the required preparatory wildland fire fighting training in the Military Use Handbook, NFES 2175. Upon completion of the training, the USMC Helicopter Squadrons and pilots are identified in a letter of approval for cooperative use. This letter is provided to concerned parties, especially the Southern California Geographic Coordination Center, to allow for rapid call-out during a WUI wild land fire emergency.*

**November 11, 2005** – FIREScope managers have met and the initial assessment has been completed, however on-going assessments will be needed as availability and participation of military assets change. Agreements have been established with local military establishments at Miramar and North Island. A working group has been established to review on an annual basis.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF developed a plan for ongoing training and has already provided training for U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps aircrews in aerial wildland fire fighting.

CDF and the U.S. Forest Service have worked together to compensate for the grounding of U.S. Forest Service contracted air tankers.

CDF, working through the California Wildfire Working Group, is updating agreements for the employment of aerial assets used in the WUI. FIREScope will work with local governments to develop a statewide strategy to increase air resources capability.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Annually*    Priority: High

Action Plan: The agreements and procedures will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed. Each CDF Administrative Unit, rather than FIREScope, will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining participation status of military acquisition status.

FIREScope will develop a statewide plan to increase local agency capacity to provide additional air resources for combating WUI fires. The plan will include an inventory of existing air resources and agreements, instructions on how to increase local resources through interagency agreements, how to certify assets for use on CDF fires, and how to use the system at each level.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Desired Outcome: The process and procedures will be institutionalized and reviewed annually.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Commission recommends that a task force be established to review the social, political, economic and scientific issues relating to conflicts between environmental and ecosystem values and land management planning and their impact on the use of proven fire prevention and fire safety measures to protect lives and property in our WUI areas.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **Resources Agency**, CDF, OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, January 2006. Ongoing updates.**

*In 2004 and 2005, CAL FIRE reassessed fire hazard severity zones throughout California and, in cooperation with UC Berkeley, developed leading edge fire models to predict fire hazards. This approach was the first of its kind in the world and is being copied by others.*

*The reassessment of these fire hazard severity zones led to action by both state and local entities. At the state level, in January 2006, CAL FIRE created a "Planning and Risk Analysis" section under the authority of the State Fire Marshal. CAL FIRE also created the Wildland/Urban Interface Task Force, which includes planners, environmental groups, fire fighting personnel, and the federal government to study these conflicts and develop solutions.*

*In 2007, CAL FIRE partnered with Sierra Forest Legacy to develop conservation-based community wildfire protection plans. CAL FIRE is also participating in the Alluvial Fan Task Force through Department of Water Resources to mitigate fire impacts to watersheds in Southern California.*

*California's Office of Emergency Services is a member of the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG), Wildland Urban Interface Working Team which provides a forum to increase the public awareness of the wildland/urban interface fire problem, develop local solutions to the issue, form partnerships among problem solvers and interest groups, and promote safety for firefighters and the public in the wildland/urban interface.*

*At the local level, the Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST) in San Bernardino and Riverside, as well as the Forest Area Safety Task Force (FAST) in San Diego,*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*have included representatives from all public safety and land management agencies and are currently identifying risks and tracking progress.*

**November 11, 2005** – A Budget Change Proposal has been funded to establish the Biodiversity Council.

CDF Director Geldert has been assigned to a committee which includes modelers, ecologist, foresters, economists and analysts. The committee's focus is on thinning forests to reduce wildfire risks and to make them more resilient to insect and disease, and how these thinning forests produce a significant volume of biomass as a waste product. The committee will model, identify and analyze the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of using forest biomass to generate electrical power.

Director Geldert met with local residents, officials, and Fire Safe Council Members from the region for a progress report on the MAST on July 21, 2005.

**April 11, 2005** - The California Biodiversity Council, co-chaired by Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman and Bureau of Land Management Director Mike Poole, met in Lake Arrowhead in June 2004 and launched a project to help minimize any institutional barriers to the speedy removal of bark beetle-killed trees in the Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego areas. Thousands of trees have been removed and CDF and OES are making these models and experience available to other areas.

Between July and August a task force of 4 federal, 5 state, 4 local agencies, and 3 non-governmental groups met three times to complete the project of streamlining existing planning and integrating shared information and assessment tools to improve future collaboration. Because the agencies responsible for endangered species and land use planning were not on the public safety oriented MAST and FAST groups, key steps were sharing common information on sensitive areas to avoid, boiler-plate mitigations for necessary projects, sharing maps and key contacts, and developing procedures for rapid interagency consultations on challenging projects. The prevailing Governor's Proclamation has significantly improved state agency coordination and this task force extended the lessons to coordination across all levels of government. In September 16, 2004, all participating agencies identified efficiencies that would be achieved through the use of shared geographic information systems (GIS) and dynamic fire behavior modeling tools. Current staff is fully occupied with already planned projects for the next 2 years.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Each participating agency should provide dedicated staff to support a continuation of the pilot project for 2-3 months. The goal is to complete Task 3 by first assembling an integrated GIS data base for all participating agencies. Next, the team will develop an integrated plan for the pilot area, using both GIS spatial coverage's and the dynamic modeling tools of the "Fireshed Assessment" approach.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Desired Outcome: Improved efficiencies for everyone through cooperating in shared GIS systems and integrated “fireshed” planning.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. The Commission recommends that federal and state statutes be clarified, where necessary, to reaffirm the status of the fire service as a public safety entity, and to recognize the integrated responsibilities for fuel management as reflected in the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Restoration Act and existing agreements between the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and federal, state and local fire agencies.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Local Government, CSAC, **California League of Cities**

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-Partially Completed. In Progress - Statutory and regulatory changes being integrated into CAL FIRE's planning discussions.***

*CAL FIRE meets regularly with the federal Interagency Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and federal, state and local fire agencies and has participated in the development of a handbook for Wildland/Urban Interface Communities "Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan" in 2004 and "Community Wildfire Protection Planning in the West" in 2006. Regulatory and policy development by the WFLC contributes to CAL FIRE's wildfire protection planning process.*

*The federal Interagency Wildland Fire Leadership Council was established in 2002 by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of the Interior to further implement the National Fire Plan. The council consists of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment and the chief of the USDA Forest Service, the directors for the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and the chief of staff to the Secretary of the Interior. Each of these officials has bureau or department-wide National Fire Plan responsibilities.*

*In the Legislature, the Administration and CAL FIRE supported SB 1369 (Kuehl, 2005) which: (1) increased from 30 feet to 100 feet the minimum clearance requirement for flammable vegetation around structures in State Responsible Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) designated as very high fire hazard severity zones and (2) required property owners proposing to build new structures or rebuild a structure that was damaged by a fire in these areas to obtain certifications from their local building official that the plans and construction comply with all building standards, including special fire safety standards developed by the State Fire Marshal (SFM) for homes in high fire risk areas.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*In 2005, the Administration and CAL FIRE sponsored SB 1084 (Kehoe) which established several new programs designed to reduce the threat of wildfire and enhance wildfire suppression resources by: 1) certifying private individuals to become trained as fire safe inspectors and conduct vegetation clearance inspections, 2) reducing fires started by equipment that utilize internal combustion engines through a warning label, 3) expanding the geographical areas in which CAL FIRE can assist with wildland fuel reduction efforts and the methods that CDF can use to reduce wildland fuels, and 4) expanding water supply for emergency fire response requirements for homes located in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). The bill was heavily amended and provisions #1 and #2 above were ultimately removed from the bill before reaching the Governor's desk.*

**November 11, 2005** – No legislative action was taken in 2005.

**April 11, 2005** - None

Projected Completion Date: Legislative changes January 1, 2007      Priority:  
Medium

Action Plan: Continue to work through the legislative process to ensure there are no conflicting issues regarding the federal and state statutes.

Desired Outcome: Through legislation, agencies will be allowed to ensure that the goals of these policies are met.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS

***MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS***

5. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local forest firefighting agencies review their aircraft operations cut-off time and determine if there can be a window of flexibility to expand incident operations times, while at the same time taking into consideration flight crew safety. Additionally, these agencies should review technological capabilities to extend available aerial emergency response capabilities.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **CDF**, USFS, Local Government

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007 - Completed, April 2005. Ongoing updates due to the incorporation of emerging technologies.***

*New operations guidelines since 2003 permit flexibility in firefighting operations by allowing pilots to extend 30 minutes past cut-off time (30 minutes past sunset), if the pilot determines it is safe.*

*Since 2003, CAL FIRE has outfitted 31 of 36 of their fixed wing aircraft with TCAS (air traffic collision avoidance system), which allows aircraft to fly safer in closer proximity to one another in smoke and low visibility situations. Additionally, 2 of 11 helicopters are fitted with TCAS and are currently undergoing testing.*

*The use of night vision goggles is also currently being studied. Existing technology severely limits the utility and safe usage of night vision goggles in nighttime firefighting operations, although some local agencies employ these goggles for search and rescue and emergency medical services operations.*

**Federal Response-** *USFS aviation policies permit aviation firefighting operations during the hours from 30-minutes before sunrise to 30-minutes after sunset. Because of the operational risks to aviation personnel, increased operational expenses, limited success and past mishap experiences, operations during the hours of darkness are not operationally undertaken by USFS resources. Only a few local government fire agencies in Southern California are able to conduct night time fire fighting aviation operations because they have agency pilots that provide continuity in familiarity within their response area, consistency in training and supervision, and dedicated funding to support the associated training and equipment costs.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**November 11, 2005** – Due to emerging technology, fire agencies will continually be looking at expanding their policy and procedures.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF has clarified its process relating to aircraft operational times and has implemented new policies. These policies provide for longer flight windows while still preserving pilot safety.

The evaluation of emerging technologies is an ongoing process.

Projected Completion Date: April 2005; *Ongoing*      Priority: High

Action Plan: FIREScope will form an air operations working group that will survey federal, state, and local agencies that provide emergency air operations and compile a summary of flight policies. A draft policy relative to Interagency Air Operations will be developed promoting consistency in operational guidelines while maintaining individual agency autonomy.

FIREScope will work out any inconsistencies between agencies.

Desired Outcome: Aircraft will be able to fly the maximum amount of time while maintaining the highest standard of safety for the pilots.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

6. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local fire agencies implement 4-0 staffing for all fire engine companies responding to OES Mutual Aid calls for immediate, planned response, and set a goal of 4-0 staffing for WUI initial attack response.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, Local Government

### **Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007- Completed, May 2004. CAL FIRE engines in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties, as well as engines under state contract in Orange and Los Angeles counties, have year-round 3-0 staffing and 4-0 staffing during the fire season. Other engines are staffed as needed pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders S-09-04 and S-07-07.***

*On May 7, 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-09-04, which directed CAL FIRE to secure and deploy the following additional resources to protect the safety of persons and property from wildfires during the 2004 fire season:*

- *Assign a minimum crew of four firefighters to 53 CAL FIRE engines in the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego;*
- *Assign additional resources in the CAL FIRE Contract Counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Orange as warranted based on established criteria of fire threat conditions;*
- *Place back into service ten refurbished fire engines to be staffed with a minimum crew of four firefighters to increase CAL FIRE fire engine resources to assist with wildfire suppression in the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego;*
- *Staff four additional CAL FIRE Conservation Camp Fire Crews in the Southern portion of the state; and*
- *Lease, staff, and deploy a helicopter to be based in San Diego County.*

*On May 9, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-07-07 and directed CAL FIRE to take the following actions during periods of elevated fire risk:*

- *Staff additional fire crews, fire engines, fire bulldozers, and aviation resources as warranted based on fire threat conditions.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

- *Assign a crew of four firefighters to selected CAL FIRE fire engines as warranted based on fire threat conditions.*
- *Assign a Helitack Crew to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department helicopter.*
- *Provide for immediate availability and utilization of the Supertanker aircraft.*
- *Assign additional resources in the CAL FIRE contract counties as warranted based on fire threat conditions.*
- *Coordinate with the military for those resources that may be available for assistance during emergencies in California.*
- *Assign additional fire safety inspectors where and when beneficial to reduce fire risk.*
- *Assign fire lookouts during peak fire conditions as part of CAL FIRE staffing patterns.*
- *Increase staffing for command and control functions at CAL FIRE Unit Emergency Command Centers, Northern and Southern Operations centers and the CAL FIRE Sacramento Coordination Center when necessary to respond to significant fire events.*

*The Executive Order also directed:*

- *CAL FIRE to continue to expedite the processing of contracts and grants of federal funds to the communities as quickly as possible and support all local and regional responses to the bark beetle affected tree eradication and community emergency planning efforts.*
- *The Office of Emergency Services (Office of Emergency Services), in consultation and coordination with CAL FIRE, as fire threat conditions warrant, to deploy Office of Emergency Services fire engine strike teams to ensure a substantial response capability to any wildland fire situation in California.*
- *The California National Guard to prepare its aviation assets, and pre-position ground support equipment as appropriate for immediate response to major wildfires and report to Office of Emergency Services weekly on the status of all aircraft.*
- *The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, including the Division of Juvenile Justice, to place the highest priority for assignment of level-one inmates and wards to staff Conservation Camp Fire Crews.*
- *The California Conservation Corps to report to CAL FIRE daily on the status of all its support crews for response to wildfires.*
- *CAL FIRE and Office of Emergency Services to work closely with federal, state and local government agencies, bordering states, and the government of Mexico to maximize California's fire prevention and*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*fighting capabilities and to provide appropriate reciprocal assistance when requested.*

**November 11, 2005** – OES addressed the issue at their regional and operational meetings and will continue sending annual notifications to local agencies.

**April 11, 2005** - Provisions currently exist to encourage 4-person staffing in response to CDF requests for mutual aid and assistance by hire; local entities respond with 4.0 person staffing when possible.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF, OES, Cal Chiefs and Metro Chiefs will encourage local entities, including CSAC and CA League of Cities, to work toward developing adequate 4-person staffing and equipment policies for response to mutual aid and assistance by hire requests for wildland incidents.

Agencies will work to develop a clear matrix that will identify the staffing levels, who's paying and costs surrounding each type of OES deployment.

OES & FIREScope will issue a notice reinforcing the Commission's recommendations regarding 4-person staffing.

Desired Outcome: Entities responding to WUI initial attack will be adequately staffed.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

***MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS***

7. The Commission recommends that all firefighters responding to WUI fires be provided with the necessary wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, USFS, Local Government, **Cal Chiefs**

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-Partially Completed. In Progress – Additional gear, training, and equipment are provided each year as funds become available.***

*CAL FIRE firefighters have this equipment and have been issued New Generation Fire Shelters, which offer improved protection from radiant, thermal, and convective heat.*

*Since 2003, CAL FIRE has provided \$3.75 million in federal grant funds to local fire chiefs who administered programs to provide local volunteer firefighters with personal protective gear and additional safety and communications equipment. As a result of this funding, in 2005, 440 first responders were trained and received (at no cost to their departments) a complete set of Personal Protective Equipment. In the spring of 2006, an additional 100 received the same training and equipment.*

*Beginning in 2006, the federal Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program was adjusted to make the purchase of personal protective equipment a priority for grant requests from volunteer fire departments.*

**Federal Response-** *Volunteer Fire Assistance grant award of \$957,000 for CAL FIRE to pass through to rural and volunteer districts in California for organizing, training and equipping rural firefighters. Funds are matched by \$957,000 in local funds and in-kind contributions.*

*State Fire Assistance grant awarded which includes following training/educational projects:*

- *\$80,000 for fire protection training for Incident Command Teams, Conservation Camp.*
- *Workshops and Safety Workshops.*
- *\$250,319 to continue development of CAL FIRE Southern Academy fire training grounds in Riverside County. This is second year funding of three year project—FY2006 funded \$275,000 for similar development purposes.*



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

- *\$198,000 for replacement of console at CAL FIRE's Fire Academy at Ione.*
- *\$51,000 for development of a video and brochure on local government contracting program to be used in informational and educational needs statewide.*

*Funds are matched dollar for dollar with state and local funding and in-kind contributions.*

**November 11, 2005** – 440 first responders were trained and received (at no cost to their departments) a complete set of Personal Protective Equipment (excluding boots). In conjunction with the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, in the spring of 2006, an additional 100 students will receive the same training and equipment. The Personal Protective Equipment was provided by the USFS, Parks and BLM grant training dollars.

**April 11, 2005** - OES and CDF, with FIREScope, are creating a survey for local governments to identify the status and the need for wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment. In addition, see *Communications and Interoperability, Information Technology and Public Outreach, State Recommendations, Recommendation #6.*

In August 2004, the USFS awarded a \$988,000 grant to CDF to assist approximately 20 rural fire departments with the purchase of safety equipment and to provide wildland urban interface fire training for firefighters in southern California. The effective match to the rural fire departments was 10 percent, as CDF contributed to the overall match.

A \$246,000 State Fire Assistance grant has been awarded to the California Fire Chiefs Association to train 300 rural firefighters in wildland urban interface fire protection techniques. At the conclusion of the training, each firefighter, successfully completing the training, will receive a set of wildland firefighting protective equipment, a headlamp and a field pack. The grant was matched for a total project cost of \$492,000.

A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to CDF for \$261,500 to provide training upgrades at the CDF Fire Academy in Ione, CA.

Volunteer Fire Assistance grants have been awarded to CDF in the amount of \$949,000 for distribution to rural fire departments statewide for training, equipment, and supplies to assist with fire protection. A 50/50 match was required.

A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to California Fire Chiefs Association for \$1 million to assist rural fire departments with the purchase of needed fire equipment and supplies and to provide fire training in the drought/bug kill affected areas of southern California. California Fire Chiefs will issue sub-grants to selected departments who will match 25 percent of the total cost of the proposed project.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005      Priority: High

Action Plan: Cal Chiefs will conduct a wildland personal protective equipment (PPE) survey and report back to FIRESCOPE.

Request that IAFC will conduct a wildland personal protective equipment survey of the Western Division of the IAFC and report back to Cal Chiefs.

As a condition, when applying for California Fire Chiefs Association grants, a personal protective equipment verification form and item specific list must be completed and submitted with the application.

OES/CDF and other responsible agencies will annually notify all fire entities of equipment requirements (PPE) and potential consequences of responding without that compliment.

Cal Chiefs to work with Western Division of IAFC to encourage all members to obtain appropriate training and PPE.

Desired Outcome: All firefighters responding to a WUI fire will possess the appropriate personal protective gear.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

***MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS***

8. The Commission recommends that sufficient funds be allocated to state and local fire agencies to address California's fire prevention and suppression needs.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Governor's Office, **Cal Chiefs**, Local Government, OES

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-Partially Completed. In Progress – Additional activities undertaken as funds become available.***

*Since 2003, CAL FIRE has provided an additional \$35.9 million for local fire prevention and suppression needs. Southern California counties received an additional \$1.35 million in direct state grants for these efforts and more than \$5 million was allocated to Fire Safe Councils throughout the state, as well as to the California Forestry Improvement Program and the Vegetation Management Program.*

*In 2007, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, CAL FIRE also added 700 more seasonal firefighters whose responsibilities included fire prevention and suppression activities. CAL FIRE also supplies staffing and equipment to leverage federal fuel and fire prevention grants.*

**November 11, 2005** – OES continues to monitor federal grants for prevention funding and notifies fire agencies as appropriate. CDF monitors grants through the California Fire Safe Council and California Fire Alliance grant programs.

Prop 40 Fuel Reductions funding: \$3.2 million dollars were allocated to the Fire Safe Councils and \$2.0 million were allocated to CFIP and VMP.

**April 11, 2005** - OES and CDF will continue to work with local governments to identify funds to address fire prevention and suppression needs statewide.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: Cal Chiefs to send a letter to CSAC, League of Cities and the Governor's Office requesting that sufficient funds be allocated to state and local fire agencies for fire prevention and suppression needs.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Desired Outcome: It is anticipated that a response back to Cal Chiefs will be received by July 1, 2005.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. The Commission recommends that federal, state and local policymakers consider creating a stable funding infrastructure for the California Fire Alliance and Fire Safe Councils.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES/CDF, USFS, **California Fire Alliance**, California Fire Safe Councils

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007- Partially Completed. In Progress – Long term funding concepts.***

*Since 2003, almost \$5 million in additional state grants and over \$23 million in Federal grants have been utilized to support Fire Safe Councils. Currently, the State Fire Marshal and California State Fire Safe Council are developing proposals and concepts for voluntary, bond and state funding concepts.*

*Fire Safe Councils are formed in areas at risk of wildfires (i.e. The Wildland/Urban Interface), which is usually located near or adjacent to State Responsibility Areas. They are required to write Community Fire Prevention Plans (CWPP), which requires technical fire and vegetation information and these plans must be reviewed and signed by the fire agencies.*

*In addition to Fire Safe Councils, CAL FIRE supports numerous other fire prevention organizations, including the Mountain Area Taskforce (MAST) in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, the Forest Area Safety Taskforce (FAST) in San Diego County, nationally recognized Firewise Communities, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Fire Corps, and CDF Volunteers-In-Prevention. CAL FIRE participates in these fire prevention projects statewide through public displays utilizing fire engines and personnel, news releases and, more significantly, thousands of hours of inmate fire crew services removing brush and clearing fire sensitive areas.*

**Federal Response-** *The US Forest Service has provided 14.8 million dollars in grants for fiscal year 2004-2007 to the Fire Safe Councils.*

**November 11, 2005** – Lobbying continues for support through federal grant funding.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**April 11, 2005** - As they become available, CDF and OES are providing more resources to create new Fire Safe Councils and to enhance the ability of existing councils to develop and implement mitigation plans. As part of this action, in the 2004-05 fiscal year:

- CDF has directed \$100,000 to assist in development of an integrated Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin;
- CDF will allocate \$250,000 for new Community Wildfire Protection Plans that incorporate a watershed protection/fuel treatment project element or for modifications to existing fire plans to develop watershed protection/fuel treatment elements; and
- CDF will deliver \$1.2 million to local Fire Safe Councils for use on community fuel reduction projects in the Sierra Nevada.

The Administration will work with Congress and the President to Insure full funding of Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); secure fair and equitable distribution of HFRA Title I monies to California; secure continued funding under the National Fire Plan's Community Assistance Grant program to support operations of Fire Safe Councils; reduce the "match" requirements for federal hazard mitigation programs; and secure continued funding for training, fire equipment, apparatus, and safety gear.

CDF Director met with CSFC and provided guidance and alternatives for long term stable funding.

Projected Completion Date: January 1, 2006; Ongoing      Priority: High

Action Plan: Continue to foster the Clearing House concept to coordinate the current Cal Fire Alliance with the Fire Wise National program used by most states (includes "local fire safe councils"). The partnership includes NFPA, as well as grants, for a more stable funding source.

New Action Plan: *To be Written*

Desired Outcome: Secure funding for a strong California Fire Alliance and Fire Safe Councils throughout California. 13 Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that the federal government (DOD, USDOJ, USFS, etc.) investigate whether the successful MAFFS program concept of operation and other emerging technologies can be applied to aerial firefighting systems.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, USFS

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-Ongoing.***

*CAL FIRE has used aerial technology in the October 2007 fires that was not available to the state in 2003. Specifically, CAL FIRE has used the DC-10 "Super Air Tanker", Unmanned Aerial Aircraft (UAVs), and the Martin Mars ("water scooper" tanker aircraft from Canada) aircraft for the second time.*

**Federal Response:** *Per Federal policy, MAFFS is limited to wildland firefighting emergencies whenever sufficient commercial civilian operators cannot fulfill the requirement for air tankers. The MAFFS system is less efficient because it is an accessory piece of equipment for military aircraft that does not permit the substantial airframe modifications required to meet operational coverage level requirements (Limited to coverage level 4). Moreover, wildland firefighting support is an auxiliary action for the military and necessarily competes with other, higher order military objectives. Improving private-sector ability to provide purpose built airtankers would be advantageous.*

*USFS R-5 has implemented an integrated infrared, high-resolution video system and a geo-referenced mapping system in an aerial FIREWATCH program. The USFS R-5 has placed two of these systems into operation.*

**November 11, 2005** –Evaluate of night vision technologies continues, including USFS unmanned aerial device. OES is seeking funding for new airtanker capabilities (i.e., the Russian BE200 and Evergreen 747 Supertankers).

Gel technology for aerial application is being investigated and the USFS continues to work with developing Cobra helicopters.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

The California National Guard is investigating the possibility of obtaining UAV Capabilities.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF and OES are promoting the use of the MAFFS program as a model for other air assets. OES and CDF will continue ongoing efforts to assess emergency technologies that may be applied to other aerial firefighting systems.

Currently, the USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center is researching Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology for remote sensing intelligence gathering, communication relay, and weather observations in class sizes ranging from hand-launched to space-borne models. Additionally, work is being conducted with various contractors and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory relative to the system requirements, followed by proof-of-concept demos for small UAVs (10-15 feet in wing span). Together, OES/CDF is working in concert with federal government agencies (DOD, FAA, and NASA) in an effort to identify technology and policy issues that would impede the introduction of UAVs. The USFS is also working with the United States Air Force and Georgia Tech University on flight planning software.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: Develop partnerships with appropriate state and federal agencies to secure funding and authorizations to utilize existing and new technologies to achieve the Desired Outcome. Ensure this technology is not limited to the actual time during an incident but allowed to foresee or project the future.

Desired Outcome: To have the necessary authorizations in place to allow the resources to be used when needed in emergency situations.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Commission recommends that Congress support and fund a single source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence.
- 

Agency/Agencies: USFS

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Ongoing.**

*The October 2007 fire deployment included real-time and nighttime intelligence that was delivered directly to fire operations, and a task force has been established to develop a permanent plan for this need. (See State Recommendation #2 for a full description of October 2007 fire intelligence asset usage.)*

*Although a federal responsibility, Cal Fire and OES have been planning for this intelligence function and field-tested it during the October 2007 fires. In 2006/2007, Cal Fire modified the departmental structure to better develop planning, intelligence, and GIS functions across the department to support both incident response and WUI planning. In the spring of 2007, it contracted for a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) feasibility study to create a strategic plan for that would create the necessary infrastructure required to support the capabilities needed for planning, mitigation and emergency response needs.*

*A proposal supporting this concept was presented at the October 2007 FIRESCOPE meeting by CAL FIRE and the State Fire Marshal. FIRESCOPE concurred to undertake a collaborative effort to pull intelligence and GIS resources together within the fire service to further these goals.*

**Federal Response:** *Several uncoordinated programs have been made available, sometimes during the efforts to suppress a WUI wildland fire.*

*The Forest Service has implemented a new program called "Firewatch" with the goal of meeting the Commission's recommendations for a single source database to enhance real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence. "Firewatch" is a Cobra helicopter, outfitted with specialized equipment for intelligence gathering and mapping for command and control. The aircraft is equipped with a multi-channel microwave transmitter, capable of down linking real-time, color camera, laser range finder and spotter scope. Presently the*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*program has requested Night Visions Goggles to expand its technology into a nighttime operation and is working with Southern California Fire Departments with a program called Strong Angel 3 that is working towards real-time intelligence gathering.*

**November 11, 2005** - In addition a collaborative effort centered around the "Firewatch" as a research program with the US Forest Service, UC Davis & NASA have worked to provide a functional Aircraft Health Management Program. This will provide quality assured maintenance conformity, fatigue life analysis, environmental monitoring, cost effective maintenance methods and prognostic program management tools. This is part of a larger effort with the US Forest Service Region Five, UC Davis & NASA who have established an Aircraft Health consortium to address issues around firefighting aircraft airworthiness and aircraft safety. Also part of this program through UC Davis Extension and the Forest Service is a new aviation Safety Management School designed for all aviation programs in emergency response services. This training is now being offered at the Forest Service McClellan facility.

**April 11, 2005** - The Forest Service has implemented a new program called, "Firewatch," with the goal of meeting the Commission's recommendation for a single-source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence. This program utilizes two Bell 209 helicopters, equipped with specialized equipment for intelligence gathering and mapping for command and control. The aircraft are equipped with a multi-channel microwave transmitter, capable of down linking real-time, color or infrared camera images to a portable microwave receiver. The Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) system on the ship's equipped with an infrared camera, a 3 CCD color camera, laser range finder, and spotter scope. The FLIR turret is integrated to work with computerized mapping programs. Presently, the program has requested Night Vision Goggles to expand this technology into a nighttime operation.

Projected Completion Date: In progress; Operational Priority: Medium

(With future development in progress)

Action Plan: Utilize existing and test new technology to determine their feasibility and uses.

Desired Outcome: Ensure real-time information is collected during local and state emergency operations. This information will be available in a data base for incident command.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Commission recommends that Congress consider authorizing additional federal grant funds for wildland fire mitigation including the establishment of a National Fire Science Research Institute to compile, evaluate and fund technological advances related to fire prevention and suppression at the federal level.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **USFS**, Legislative Oversight Committee

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Ongoing.**

*Prior to the 2003 fires, the federal government had provided a single grant for dead tree removal on private lands. Since 2003, federal authorization through omnibus funding bills have resulted in an additional funding level of \$150 million for dead tree removal and fuel reduction on non-federal land. Of this amount, \$120 million was delivered directly to San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The balance of the funding was delivered through programs administered by the United States Forest Service and went directly to California counties or CAL FIRE. Including the \$3.1 million CAL FIRE received prior to the fires of 2003, CAL FIRE has received a total of \$12.8 million from the U.S. Forest Service.*

**Federal Response:** Drop – Existing Joint Fire Sciences Program (parallel efforts) meets this intent.

Parallel Efforts:

*What other groups / entities are working on similar issues?*

- *The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) was created by Congress in 1998 as an interagency research, development, and applications partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Funding priorities and policies are set by the JFSP Governing Board, which includes representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Geological Survey, and five representatives from the Forest Service.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*What is their objective and how does it relate to the intent expressed for this recommendation by the Blue Ribbon Commission?*

- *The Joint Fire Science Program:*
  - *Provides credible research tailored to the needs of fire and fuel managers*
  - *Engages and listens to clients and then develops focused, strategic lines of new research responsive to those needs*
  - *Solicits proposals from scientists who compete for funding through a rigorous peer-review process designed to ensure the best projects are funded*
  - *Focuses on science delivery when research is completed with a suite of communication tools to ensure that managers are aware of, understand, and can use the information to make sound decisions and implement projects*

*The Program is uniquely positioned to tailor Wildland fire research in response to the emerging needs of policymakers and fire managers. An annual cycle of proposal solicitation, review, and funding ensures timely response to evolving conditions. Research projects complement and build on other federal research programs, such as those in the Forest Service Forest and Rangeland Research Stations, U.S. Geological Survey, and National Fire Plan. Synthesis of research findings and targeted delivery to managers are essential components of the Program.*

*More than 90 colleges and universities have also collaborated on and partnered with JFSP-sponsored research projects. By engaging masters and doctoral candidates in these projects, we are training the next generation of resource managers and scientists. This collaboration extends to private, non-profit organizations and tribal, state, county, and local governments as well. In all, nearly 200 organizations have become partners in JFSP-sponsored research.*

*In response to congressional direction, the JFSP develops science-based knowledge and tools to support federal, tribal, state, and local agencies and their partners in the following areas:*

- *Fuel inventory and mapping*
- *Fuel treatment planning, scheduling, and risk assessment*
- *Fire effects and fire behavior*
- *Monitoring and evaluation*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

- *Restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems*
- *Post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation*
- *Remote sensing*
- *Developing and integrating research information for local land managers*

*From 1998 through 2006, the Program has funded 380 research proposals. A highly competitive, peer-review process consisting of land managers, technical specialists, and scientists ensures that the very best projects are accepted for funding. On average, about 20 percent of the submitted proposals are selected.*

*Land managers regularly use results from JFSP projects to plan and implement fuels treatments, support fire management decisions, restore lands affected by fire, and meet regulatory requirements*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*The Program was funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 at \$14 million. Of that amount, 96 percent went directly to new research projects at universities, federal research agencies, and other scientific institutions. The Program Office consists of a staff of four employees who provide administrative and technology transfer support.*

*JFSP partners also contributed approximately \$8 million and substantial in-kind resources in support of JFSP projects in 2007.*

**April 11, 2005** - Over the past year, USFS provided \$2.6 million in federal funds (75/25 match) to CDF to reduce hazardous fuels in southern California.

In addition, the following grants were awarded for hazardous fuels reduction programs directly to the southern California Counties by the USFS:

- \$11.8 million to San Bernardino County
- \$5.0 million to Riverside County
- \$7.8 million to San Diego County

In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress earmarked \$2.4 million in Forest Service State and Private grant funding to the California Fire Safe Council. This grant funding was to be used for fuel reduction projects in the Southern California communities affected by the 2003 wildfires.

The University of CA Forest Products Lab conducted tests (in conjunction with STATE FIRE MARSHAL and Fed grant) on several building materials to determine fire resistance to radiant heat and embers. Standards were developed for roofs, eaves, exterior walls, windows, and decks. Additional work needs to be done on vents. The STATE FIRE MARSHAL is working to incorporate results of tests into new requirements – needs support to become CA code. Currently, the BEHAVE and SIAM models are used to determine defensible space distance and fire resistance needs. Nether model was developed for that use and there are limitations and reliability concerns. Work to create effective models is needed. Criteria for determining safe distances should then be developed (general prescriptive guides for initial assessment).

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing. Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Identify existing research and development programs that support technological advances related to fire prevention and suppression. Work through legislation to obtain additional funding. Eliminate conflicting legislation and policies.

Desired Outcome: Increased hazard reduction and Firefighter safety; increased funding and decreased match for projects.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. The Commission recommends that the federal government reduce or eliminate “match” requirements for federal grant funds for hazard mitigation programs in areas where there has been a state declaration of emergency.
- 

Agency/Agencies: USFS, Legislative Oversight Committee, **OES**, California Fire Alliance

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Ongoing**

**Federal Response:** *The Forest Service has been successful in reducing the match requirements from 50:50 to 75:25 for the earmark and special emphasis funding. Match requirements for regular SFA and VFA remain 50:50.*

**November 11, 2005** - The current FEMA program for federal hazard mitigation grants, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) had its match requirement permanently changed from 50/50 to 75/25 in 1993. Also, the USFS provides special appropriations to address significant fire threats throughout the United States which typically have a 50/50 match requirement. In support of the WUI areas impacted by drought and Bark Beetle infestation, The USFS provided funding for CA local governments for the 2004 federal funding cycle which Congress subsequently reduced the match requirement from 50/50 to 75/25. OES will draft a letter and send to the federal government requesting a permanent change to the match requirements for these special fire appropriations by January 2006.

**April 11, 2005** - State Fire Alliance matching requirements were reduced from 50/50, dollar-for-dollar, match to 75 percent federal government and 25 percent partner for grants delivered to southern California's drought affected WUI areas for the 2004 grants only.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005      Priority: High

Action Plan: OES to draft a letter to FEMA requesting permanent change to federal grant “match”.

Desired Outcome: FEMA would permanently reduce the federal grant “match” from 50/50 to 75/25.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends development of a permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security. As part of the Committee's mandate, it will have responsibility, in so far as possible, to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Committee will oversee all relevant rules and regulations to resolve conflicting issues. Additionally, this Committee will have technical advisory Committees to help evaluate strategies, and periodically report its progress to the Governor and Legislature.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **State Legislature**

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007- Completed.***

*The Committee met in August, 2007 to review preparedness and prevention actions with Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, California National Guard, and California Office of Homeland Security.*

**November 11, 2005** – The Committee has been reestablished for the 2005-06 legislative session. It will take further legislative action to continue it beyond November 30, 2006.

**April 11, 2005** - Requires annual reauthorization.

Projected Completion Date: Completed for 2005-06; *biennially thereafter* Priority: High

Action Plan: Legislative Issue

Desired Outcome: That the Committee be reestablished as desired by the Legislature.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Commission recommends that it reconvene 6 months after the submission of this report, and again 6 months later, to assess progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **Cal Chiefs**

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Incomplete.**

*A Blue Ribbon Task Force was created to follow up on these recommendations and, since 2004, that group has met periodically, including as recently as August 2007 and November 6, 2007.*

**November 11, 2005** – The letter requesting that the Commission reconvene was sent to the Governor by Cal Chiefs. In July 2005 Cal Chiefs requested a meeting with the Governor's Office to submit the Blue Ribbon Commissions Ad Hoc Committee's Report. The Governor's Office decided to utilize the Ad Hoc Committee to proceed forward with the recommendations rather than reconvene the original Commission.

**April 11, 2005** - Request being drafted.

Projected Completion Date: May 2005; *Ongoing*      Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Cal Chiefs will prepare a letter by April 1, 2005 to the Governor requesting that the Commission reconvened prior to fire season.

Desired Outcome: That the Commission formally reconvenes.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Commission recommends that FIREScope research and pursue efforts so mutual aid deployed engines have the capability to utilize newer technologies, such as foams and gels.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, All Federal, State and Local Fire Entities

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Ongoing updates.**

*FIREScope completed the research as requested and more state and local government fire engines are being deployed with these capabilities. For CAL FIRE, all engines have the capability to spray foam and two test models are equipped to spray gel. For the Office of Emergency Services, all 110 fire engines and 12 water tenders have class A foam and Thermo-Gel on board and all are equipped with both structure and wildland equipment.*

*The gel is a super-absorbent polymer that can hold many times its weight in water and clings well to vertical surfaces and glass. The substance is relatively new to firefighting, having been developed about a decade ago, and is not widely used.*

**November 11, 2005** – OES missed the Projected Completion Date because of funding issues. OES is currently writing a non competitive bid justification to utilize Thermo Gel as the primary agent vendor.

CDF is in the process of preparing an information document on agents for use by the fire service. Distribution of this document will be made through CDF, OES, Cal Chiefs and the USFS.

**April 11, 2005** - OES will continue efforts to ensure that its mutual aid deployed equipment has the capability to utilize newer technologies such as foams and gels. OES has already equipped 50 of the 110 fire engines and 12 water tenders in its local government fleet with this capability. Modifications to the remaining 72 engines and tenders will be completed over the next several months. OES is also sharing best practices on this technology with local governments. Financial constraints have made it improbable for the state to fund this effort on the local level.

OES is working through the internal budget process for approval.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Revised to July 2006*      Priority:  
Medium

Action Plan: FIRESCOPE shall develop a recommendation to local governments regarding the appropriate use of gels and foams.

Desired Outcome: All engines responding to mutual aid incidents are equipped with foams and/or gel capabilities.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. The Commission recommends establishing a secure year-round operational capability for CDF, where appropriate, including the implementation of 4-0 staffing for all CDF state funded engine companies.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007-Completed, May 2004.**

*CAL FIRE engines in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties, and engines under state contract in Orange and Los Angeles counties, have year round 3-0 staffing and 4-0 staffing during the fire season. Other engines are staffed as needed pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders S-09-04 and S-07-07.*

*The Governor signed into law budgeting provisions to maintain permanent year-round 3-0 staffing in the counties of San Bernardino, San Diego, and Riverside.*

*See **Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendation 6.** The Governor's Executive Orders directed CAL FIRE to: 1) Staff additional fire crews, fire engines, fire bulldozers, and aviation resources as warranted based on fire threat conditions; and 2) assign a crew of four firefighters to selected CAL FIRE fire engines as warranted based on fire threat conditions.*

**November 11, 2005** – A Budget Change Proposal was approved in the amount of \$9.0 million for the 2005-06 fiscal year to operate 3.0 staffing year-round in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. Escalating to 4.0 staffing during extreme fire conditions will continue to be addressed through the Executive Order process.

**April 11, 2005** - Executive Order S-9-04 was issued on May 7, 2004 to increase the assistance provided by the state for fire response in Southern California during the 2004 Fire Season. The Governor's order assigned four firefighters to CDF engines in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties; provided additional resources in Los Angeles and Orange Counties based on fire threat conditions; redeployed 10 refurbished fire engines to increase engine resources in San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego Counties; added four CDF Conservation Camp fire crews in Southern

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

California; and provided for an additional helicopter based in San Diego County.

Through the budget process, CDF developed a proposal for a year-round 3.0 operational capability in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties for wildland fire fighting. The continued increases in population in the WUI make it increasingly difficult to fight fires, especially in Southern California. During the past three years, funding for an extended fire season in this area has been authorized by gubernatorial executive order. Providing this coverage has likely saved millions of dollars in extra fire suppression costs to battle what likely would be much larger fires under normal funding and staffing situations. Fires are kept smaller and less destructive, which means significant cost savings to the state for fighting the fires and to residents for loss of life and property.

CDF will examine expanded staffing for all CDF fire engines statewide. As a general rule, fire engines are staffed for eight months out of the year on the theory that the risk of fire starts in the winter months is very low. However, investing in additional staff to provide coverage over a longer period of time has proven its effectiveness in keeping fires smaller by allowing CDF fire engine companies to be more productive and efficient in pre-fire protection activities.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005

Priority: High

Action Plan: The Governor's proposed budget for 2005-06 provides \$9.0 million for year round 3.0 staffing on all CDF Southern Units engine companies. The Administration will work with the Legislature to ensure that the funding is included in the final Budget Act for

2005-2006. CDF retains the ability (through the Executive Order process) to increase staff levels to 4.0 based on current conditions.

Desired Outcome: Adequate engine staffing to meet year round WUI fire fighting efforts.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. The Commission recommends that the state examine alternatives for replacement and diversification of CDF's aging helicopter fleet and fire engine apparatus, and begin a replacement planning cycle.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007-Partially Completed. In progress – 109 new CAL FIRE engines purchased. Helicopter fleet study is ongoing.**

*Beginning in Fiscal Year 2005/2006, CAL FIRE has been provided \$10.8 million for replacement of fire engines. Since 2003, CAL FIRE has purchased 109 new fire engines and has received delivery of 61 of these engines. Additionally, CAL FIRE has begun the process to purchase 42 more fire engines in the 2007/2008 Fiscal Year.*

In 2005, CAL FIRE also commissioned an independent feasibility study with regard to replacement of its helicopter fleet. The report was submitted to CAL FIRE, was deemed incomplete and is in the process of being redone with a renewed focus on the feasibility of a helicopter replacement program.

**November 11, 2005** – CDF is moving forward in the procurement of 42 “Model 34” engines and is estimating production and delivery summer 2007.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF, working through the California Wildfire Working Group, is updating agreements for the employment of aerial assets used in the WUI. FIRESCOPE (Fire Fighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies) is working with local governments to develop a statewide strategy to increase local air resources capability.

Through the budget process, CDF developed a proposal to replace its obsolete fire engines over a five-year period. CDF operates a total of 390 fire engines from 229 fire stations throughout the state. The current CDF fire engine fleet replacement budget has not significantly changed since 1982-83 due to limited General Fund resources and budget reductions and has therefore caused CDF to fall behind in its equipment replacement schedule.

CDF operates 11 1960 vintage Bell UH-1 Hueys which have been converted for aerial fire fighting work by the state and are designated CDF “Super Huey” helicopters. Acquired as excess military aircraft, they were later specially modified to meet CDF's mission and have served the department well. However, because of their

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

age and the lack of spare parts, airframes and support mechanisms within the federal and civilian markets have become scarce. Thus, they are nearing the end of their useful service life.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005      Priority: High

Action Plan: By utilizing funding allocated through the budgetary process, CDF will initiate aggressive fire apparatus purchase cycles to procure and place into service replacement first line fire engine apparatus. The Governor's budget includes \$10.9 million for the acquisition of these apparatus. The Administration will work with the Legislature to ensure that the funding is included in the final Budget Act for 2005-2006.

These funds will also be used to acquire helicopters designed to meet CDF's mission in the future.

Desired Outcome: To provide CDF with a safe and reliable fire engine apparatus and helicopter fleet.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

6. The Commission recommends that the state develop a program to fund the acquisition of 150 additional OES fire engines and the requisite logistical support necessary to address California's fire suppression needs.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Incomplete. In Progress - OES has added an additional 19 engines to its force.**

*The Office of Emergency Services has increased its fleet of firefighting vehicles from 110 in 2003 to 143 in 2007, a 30% in four years. Since 2003, the Office of Emergency Services has added 19 additional fire engines, 12 additional water tanker trucks, and 2 additional communications units to their existing fleet.*

*Office of Emergency Services firefighting vehicles are assigned to local governments for their local use, with first call by the state to respond in state emergencies.*

*In addition to these firefighting vehicles, the Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Services encouraged local fire departments to apply for fire suppression assets under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program by convening regional workshops and providing technical assistance. Since 2003, 125 firefighting vehicles have been acquired by local fire departments through the AFG program.*

**November 11, 2005** – The Governor's May Revise obtained \$5 million for the acquisition of additional engines. OES is working with CDF on the procurement of 15 "Type 3" engines and 4 "Type 1" engines as part of that purchase.

In addition, OES is seeking additional funding to supplement OES's engine fleet.

**April 11, 2005** - OES is developing recommendations on the acquisition strategy for additional fire apparatus to be used in California's WUI fire suppression efforts. OES is in the process of developing a BCP to address this issue.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2006      Priority: High

Action Plan: Working through the budget process, OES will identify potential fund sources.

Desired Outcome: Additional engines at the local level available for both local and state fire responses.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

# **TRAINING**

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**TRAINING**

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that nationwide training agreements be expanded.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF/State Fire Marshal

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007-Completed.**

*The National Wildfire Coordinating Group, California Wildfire Coordinating Group OES/California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, State Board of Fire Services, and CAL FIRE/OSFM have developed and expanded Wildland/Urban Interface training requirements to support certification and safety training for all firefighters. For example, in 2004, California fully implemented the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) which ensures that all personnel meet a minimum standardized certification process (training and experience) for Incident Command System positions*

**November 11, 2005** - CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL and OES will on November 15, 2005, be taking part in Golden Guardian 2005, Emergency Preparedness Training Exercise. The exercise is a statewide mandatory emergency preparedness training exercise with the California National Guard and the Office of Homeland Security.

**April 11, 2005** – CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL has developed effective model training agreements and is working to expand the use of those agreements with federal agencies.

OES and CDF, with FIREScope, are preparing a training needs assessment and will explore funding sources for state and local fire fighter training.

CDF is preparing a needs assessment for training exercises with the California National Guard and military resources.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing    Priority: Low

Action Plan: Continue to foster relationships with other agencies to ensure interoperable procedures and training. This training should include criteria for identifying vegetation risks and maintaining safe communities and models/regulations for planning/developing fire safe communities. Work to determine what if any funding sources need to be established to accomplish this additional training.

Desired Outcome: Seamless interoperable resource response and incident operations.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**TRAINING**

**FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that Congress increase efforts to provide training for local fire departments through federal grant programs, and expand the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grant program.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **Cal Chiefs**, CPF, CDF, USFS

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Ongoing**

*The Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grant program is under the umbrella of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978 and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management directly with local fire agencies. RFA is intended to increase local firefighter safety and enhance the fire protection capabilities of Rural Fire Departments (RFD) by helping RFDs meet accepted standards of wildland fire qualifications, training, and performance for initial and extended attack at the local level. The RFA program supports the overall goals of the National Fire Plan by improving the capacity and capability of local fire departments to protect their communities from the effects of wildland fire.*

**Federal Response-** *Volunteer Fire Assistance grant award of \$957,000 for CAL FIRE to pass through to rural and volunteer districts in California for organizing, training and equipping rural firefighters. Funds are matched by \$957,000 in local funds and in-kind contributions.*

**April 11, 2005** - Cal Chiefs is developing a survey to assess the training facility and existing wildland training capabilities in the southern California counties.

USFS awarded a grant in the amount of \$988,000 to CDF to assist approximately 20 rural fire departments in the purchase of safety equipment and to provide training in southern California.

Three hundred (300) rural firefighters will be trained in wildland urban interface fire protection techniques courtesy of a \$246,000 federal grant awarded to the California Fire Chiefs Association. Additionally, each firefighter who successfully completes this training course will receive a set of wildland firefighting personal protective equipment, as well as a headlamp and field pack.

A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to CDF for \$261,000 to provide training upgrades at the CDF Fire Academy in Ione. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants were

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

awarded to CDF in the amount of \$949,000 for distribution to rural fire departments statewide for training, equipment and supplies to assist in fire protection.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF, OES and local governments will continue to pursue federal grants and appropriations to support and expand training efforts. 26 Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**TRAINING**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that the state create a multi-layered public education outreach campaign for residents living in WUI areas.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Cal Chiefs, Fire Safe Councils, **California Fire Alliance**, CDF, OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, 2005. Campaign is Ongoing.**

*In cooperation with Fire Safe Councils, CAL FIRE developed an aggressive public education and outreach campaign that started January 1, 2005 to educate homeowners about defensible space. The public education campaign includes billboards, postcards, theme songs, brochures, websites, and collaboration with local fire prevention groups.*

**November 11, 2005** – CDF has finalized and distributed the “California Living Fire Safe” CD throughout the state.

The CDF Fire Prevention Education and Communications Committee (FPECC) is meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> to begin discussions on a new 100’ defensible space educational campaign and theme for the 2006 Wildfire Awareness Week. The group is exploring the possibility of using the First Lady in a statewide preparedness campaign.

CDF received a \$40,000 federal grant to upgrade the CDF Pre-Fire/Fire Planning section of the CDF website. CDF also receives \$45,000 annually to maintain the California Fire Alliance website and is currently in the process of completely redesigning the California Fire Alliance website to include grant resources, success stories and a new section dedicated to Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).

In 2005, CDF assumed statewide responsibility for coordination of the FIREWISE Communities USA Program. The state continues to work with the National Wildland Coordination Group on the WUI working team.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF is preparing an analysis of the effectiveness of current public education programs for fire prevention.

CDF has a draft “California Living Fire Safe” CD that will be finalized and available for distribution in spring 2005.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

The California Fire Alliance sent a letter of support to Cal Chiefs for their Wildfire Summit on January 28, 2005.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005      Priority: High

Action Plan:

*New Action Plan – To Be Written*

April 11, 2005 - CDF (in association with Cal Chiefs, CFSC, California Fire Alliance and OES) will develop and provide statewide education and outreach programs for residents living in the WUI as funds are made available.

The Governor has agreed to participate in PSA development for subsequent distribution.

Desired Outcome: An improved statewide education and outreach fire prevention program for persons in or near the WUI. To include the consolidation of Firewise/Fire Safe/Fire Alliance.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**TRAINING**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Commission recommends that CDF/OSFM develop and maintain an adequately funded P.O.S.T. type standards, training and education program to ensure that trained and qualified personnel are prepared to respond to major events. This system should support the use of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) and incorporate the Fire Officer Certification process approved by the State Board of Fire Services.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Legislative Oversight Committee, OES, CDF/State Fire Marshal

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007-Partially Completed, 2006 – Training program developed. Ongoing – implementation and funding.**

*CAL FIRE, the Office of Emergency Services, and FIRESCOPE have completed development of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) and will be implementing training card identification for all firefighters responding to wildland incidents beginning in 2008.*

*In July 2003, the California State Fire Marshal and the California Fire Chiefs partnered with a grant-funded training plan and held a 4-day training workshop. In addition, they have developed the California State Fire Training Blueprint 2020 to fully implement this recommendation. Blueprint 2020 is slated to be approved by State Board of Fire Services at their November 7, 2007 meeting.*

**November 11, 2005** – Efforts continue; Action on this item was delayed pending resolution of Government reorganization. This issue requires more effort than originally anticipated.

**April 11, 2005** - OES and CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL, with FIRESCOPE, are preparing a training needs assessment coordinated through the State Board of Fire Services and will explore funding sources for state and local firefighter training.

Projected Completion Date: Needs assessment January 1, 2006      Priority: High  
Legislative changes January 1, 2007

Action Plan: Design an all risk Fire Service training and standards organization that mirrors the current Peace Officer Standards and Training program. Promote the new organization to Fire Chiefs and Fire Labor. Secure Governor and Legislative support for the new organization.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Additions: Include a Fire Prevention Track. Training should include criteria for identifying vegetation risks and maintaining safe communities and model/regulations for planning/developing safe communities.

Desired Outcome: A training standard that is integrated into various fire training programs for current and future Fire Service Personnel.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**TRAINING**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Commission recommends that state funds be provided to each Operational Area to hold annual wildland fire suppression training exercises that includes National Guard and federal military resources. Funding should also be made available by the state to improve the training level of smaller fire departments.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Legislative Oversight Committee, **CDF**

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, November 2005.**

*CAL FIRE, the California National Guard, and the California Office of Emergency Services collaboratively facilitate annual pre-fire season fire preparedness exercises for local government fire units across the state.*

*The United States Forest Service, OES and CAL FIRE have successfully worked together in maintaining a training and currency program with the California Army National Guard. This program has allowed fire suppression agencies to utilize National Guard Resources in suppression efforts. In 2007, these entities held joint training exercises in April at Los Alamitos AASF and in May at Mather AASF and Stockton AASF.*

**November 11, 2005** – CDF continues to provide annual preparedness exercises throughout the state. Every spring, CDF, OES, the California National Guard and the US Forest Service conduct a joint helicopter firefighting training exercise.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF is preparing a needs assessment for training exercises with the California National Guard and military resources.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Low

Action Plan: CDF will continue to conduct fire preparedness exercises through its statewide administrative units which participation is encouraged to local government fire services, with the outreach to military installations. A training assessment will be conducted, to help identify the need for and provide assistance with fire suppression as military resources are developed and incorporated. Additional operational funding would definitely assist CDF with improved outreach

Desired Outcome: Improved training and coordination with local government and military firefighting resources.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**INTERSTATE/REGIONAL  
MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS**

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS**

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local fire agencies in California review their various assistance for hire agreements for appropriateness and their potential to undermine California's Master Agreement and Master Mutual Aid System.
- 

Agency/Agencies: **OES**, CDF, USFS, Department of Interior

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, November 2005.** *Lack of an agreement with the United States Marine Corps undermined response to the October 2007 fires.*

*The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) working group has reviewed and developed revised language as part of the agreement renewal process that will be incorporated in the agreement by early 2008. As part of the review, the working group ensured the agreement works in concert with and enhances established local agreements.*

*As previously stated, (See Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers, Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations 1 and 2) the state had no agreement in place prior to the October 2007 fires with the United States Marine Corps. CAL FIRE, the Office of Emergency Services and the Marine Corps met on November 4 and 5, 2007 and have since entered into an agreement.*

**Federal Response-** *The new Agreement is signed and the agencies will meet together this winter to continue work on certain exhibits in the Agreement. The US Forest Service has given Cal Fire Chief's a grant for \$50,000 for training local Fire departments in Agreements. This should reduce errors in applying the Agreements.*

**November 11, 2005** – FIRESCOPE has met four times and addressed the current issues.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF and OES have developed statewide agreements covering the use of local government resources by federal and state agencies. The agreement addresses requesting, utilizing, and reimbursing local governments in a manner that does not conflict with California's master mutual aid system.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing; *January 2007* Priority: Medium

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Action Plan: CDF and OES will annually review the agreements to ensure the CFAA, CDF, USFS, agreements compliment each other and eliminate any conflicting language.

Desired Outcome: Seamless response to any given emergency. Assisting agencies are aware of (at the time of dispatch), which response agreement applies CFAA or MMA.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS**

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Commission recommends that FIREScope facilitate federal, state and local fire service agencies working together to reach consensus on the definition of structure protection versus perimeter control, and address the release of mutual aid companies back to their jurisdiction of origin when immediate needs dictate such return.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, **FIREScope**

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007-Partially Completed – Facilitated discussions have begun on these issues. In Progress – Working with other agencies to reach consensus.**

*Both FIREScope and the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG) are reviewing recommendations from fire agencies at local, state and federal levels regarding the definitions of structure protection and perimeter control. The differing fire and fiscal policies within each of the involved agencies have made developing consensus on these definitions difficult. Meetings continue on a regular schedule*

**April 11, 2005** - CDF and OES are working with FIREScope to reach consensus on defining responsibility for structure protection and perimeter control. They are also working to clarify the release of mutual aid resources back to their original jurisdictions.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Continue to work to strive for consistency in the structure protection definition through the FIREScope process. Once this definition is established the National Fire Plan may need modification to ensure national acceptance. Clarify release back procedures...

Desired Outcome: Clear acceptable definitions for structure protection for all levels and release back procedures.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS**  
**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Commission recommends that forest agencies integrate local incident command team members within their respective incident management teams when local agencies are in unified command on major WUI fires, and that a module relating to interfacing with local EOCs be included in USFS Type 1 and 2 team training programs.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, USFS

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007- Partially Completed – Local governments are fully represented on CAL FIRE teams. In Progress – Local government representation on federal incident management teams.***

*This is a U.S. Forest Service responsibility that is in progress. Local government representatives are fully represented on CAL FIRE incident management teams and some are represented on federal incident management teams.*

**Federal Response-** *Module training - In 2005/2006 the USFS hosted, conducted and paid for over 20 sessions of ROSS training for our inter-agency partners at the McClellan training center. Module training will not be developed outside of NWCG standards.*

*As of September, CICCS has adopted 310-1 as the training policy which will dovetail local, state and federal training for better efficiency.*

*All NWCG 400 level Command and General Staff position training are conducted on an interagency level with Cal Fire and the Federal agencies.*

*Air Attack Supervisor course at NCSC is conducted on an interagency level with Cal Fire and the Federal agencies.*

*Both S-420 Command and General team training are conducted on an interagency participation. USFS has provided funding to conduct both courses in 2007.*

*The USFS McClellan Training center hosted and provided logistics support to the first Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) session to be held in California in 2007. Funding for the CIMC sessions came from a USFS national grant program through the National Association of State Foresters.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*The USFS McClellan Training center hosted and provided logistics support to the Department of Defense during the Golden Guardian exercise conducted in 2006. The DOD setup and operated a fully functional JOC (Joint Operations Center).*

*In the spring of 2007, the USFS hosted the training officer's workshop in Southern California. Representatives from Cal Fire, LA County, Orange Co. Kern Co. and San Diego were in attendance.*

*US Forest Service Regional Training Officers have been attending the OES sponsored California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) committee meetings on a routine bases. USFS Training Officers have been providing technical assistance to local and state wildland fire departments as the committee recommends a state wide wildland certification system.*

*US Forest Service has provided funded cadre's to conduct NIMS/ICS to the Federal Emergency Management Agency beginning in 2005 to the present.*

**November 11, 2005** – CDF conducted its annual Incident Command Team (ICT) meeting on May 26, 2005. The USFS conducts its annual ICT meeting in the spring of each year.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF has ten Type 1 State Incident Command Teams that are interagency made up of team members from both the state and local governments.

There are five California Federal Type 1, six California Federal Type 2 and one local Type 2 Incident Management Teams in the state of California. All are interagency teams—made up of team members from both the federal and local governments. Further, the Forest Service has adopted the practice of, upon entering into unified command with a local agency; they incorporate those team members into the Team's organization.

To date, during the 2004 Fire Season, 60 percent of the Type 1 fires, managed by federal incident management teams, have entered into unified command with a local agency and have successfully incorporated the local team members into their command and general staff structures.

To date, the recommended training module relating to interfacing with local Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) has not been included in USFS Type 1 and/or Type 2 team training programs. This subject, however, will be incorporated into the spring 2005 California Team Meetings. Additionally, a recommendation will be forwarded to NWCG for inclusion in classes for Command and General Staff positions in the future.

OES and CDF will raise at the CWCG meetings and work with federal fire agencies to better define incident command protocols and to improve integration of local expertise in both operational and PIO functions.

Projected Completion Date: July 2005; *Ongoing*      Priority: Low

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Action Plan: Forest Agencies will continue to integrate local government representatives on Incident Command Teams as regularly assigned team members and will integrate local representatives during unified command operations. The importance of interfacing with local EOCs will be addressed with command teams.

Desired Outcome: Provide for enhanced coordination with local government entities during major incidents.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS**

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies continuously maintain and update their mutual aid and cooperative agreements to reflect contemporary needs and costs.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, USFS

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, April 2005. Updates are ongoing**

**Federal Response-** *A review of local agreements and operating plans is planned for this year. We are doing this review to make sure there is consistency with the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement (former four party agreement) that now includes all DOI agencies, the USFS and Cal Fire as signatories.*

**April 11, 2005** - CDF and OES will continue to update mutual aid and cooperative agreements with federal and local governments and assess associated needs and costs.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Low

Action Plan: Recommend the review of all agreements annually.

Desired Outcome: Ensure consistency and reduce conflicts in all mutual aid and cooperative agreements.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS**

**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that OES and FIREScope incorporate the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) into the statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, September 2007.**

*Working with CALFIRE and the Office of Emergency Services, EMSA has published the updated "California Disaster Medical Response Plan" (September, 2007) and "Medical Mutual Aid Annex" (September, 2007) and is developing an operational manual for mutual aid resource coordination. This manual will be coordinated with all medical, health and public safety partners.*

**November 11, 2005** – The Ambulance Strike Team Leaders (ASTL) program is almost complete and OES has met with EMSA to discuss further development of ASTL mutual aid.

**April 11, 2005** - OES is setting up a meeting with State Agency Directors.

OES is evaluating the Emergency Medical Services Authority's role in mutual aid including identifying obstacles and impacts to private ambulance companies.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing    Priority: Low

Action Plan: OES will meet with the appropriate entities to discuss the issues.

Desired Outcome: Recommendation is made regarding statewide emergency medical services mutual aid.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers  
Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations

**LOCAL BUILDING,  
PLANNING, AND LAND USE  
REGULATIONS;  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND  
FUEL MODIFICATION**

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that the Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security convene with appropriate representatives of federal, state and local governments to build upon existing governmental efforts to develop a comprehensive interagency, intergovernmental wildland vegetation management plan for California, and integrate the plan's direction into revised or amended federal, state and local land management, land use plans.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Legislature, CDF, OES, USFS, California Fire Alliance

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-Partially Completed – CAL FIRE has updated its Fire Hazard maps and established new building standards for structures in Wildland/Urban Interface areas. In Progress – Legislative guidance on a comprehensive, interagency management plan.***

*CAL FIRE is preparing for this with the fire hazard maps and the creation of the CAL FIRE Planning and Risk Analysis Section. CAL FIRE's Resource Management Section is increasing integration between CAL FIRE foresters and CAL FIRE firefighters to accomplish this purpose (known as CAL FIRE's "Total Force Task Force").*

**Federal Response-** *As of 2007, 1251 of 1264 (99%) total Communities at Risk (CAR) in California have Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs or equivalent) in places which provide comprehensive interagency and intergovernmental plans for addressing hazardous fuel reduction.*

*State Code has been revised to increase the 30 foot clearance requirement around homes and other structures to 100 feet. Federal partners are supporting application of this State Code on federal lands within the State as appropriate (Special Use Permit requirement for example on NFS lands) and some local ordinances have been enacted reflecting the 100 foot requirement (for example Trinity County).*

*The National Response Plan has been revised and improved to provide comprehensive and comprehended intergovernmental and interagency processes including the Hazard Mitigation Program which addresses wildland vegetation hazardous fuel buildup.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**November 11, 2005** – CDF has requested that the following distribution for the Fiscal Year 2007 be a “special earmark” of the State Fire Assistance funds for hazardous fuel reduction on state and private property in high-hazard areas for the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs,) and to assist with fuel hazard reduction on state and private land in high-hazard areas near the San Bernardino National Forest:

1. FSC/CWPP: Direct all \$3.981 million to the State Fire Safe Council for distribution through the California Fire Alliance Grants Clearinghouse;
2. BDF: Direct the available \$2.488 million as follows: \$275,000 to the California Fire Safe Council for grant opportunities to non-forested communities which interface the BDF in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. This would typically be desert or valley community groups;
3. \$640,000 to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to continue Small Lot Green Tree Removal Program management and oversight in cooperation with the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA); and
4. The remaining \$1.573 million would be rolled into the existing Small Lot Green Tree Removal Program under the CDF/SBNFA Grant. These dollars would apply to forested lands only. It is anticipated that with the funding increase, 3000 parcels rather than 1700 parcel will be treated.

April 11, 2005 - Utilizing federal, state and local resources, more than 86,000 dead and dying trees have been removed from over 663,000 acres in the Southern California areas most heavily impacted by the drought and the bark beetle infestation. Forest areas at risk to impacts from insects, disease and other factors have been mapped and evaluated. Evacuation routes and centers, and critical infrastructure have been treated to maximize public safety. CDF has provided education and enforcement of the California Forest Practice Rules, targeting tree service contractors and licensed timber operators from all over the United States who have worked in the area during the past 10 months.

The Legislature approved the Administration's proposal to provide \$39 million to CDF from Proposition 40 funding to reduce hazardous fuel build up in the Sierra Nevada range over the next five years.

Working with the Department of Corrections and the California Conservation Corps, CDF is maintaining its fire conservation crews at nearly full strength. Conservation crews at CDF camps provide a cost effective means to mitigate the effects of wildland fires through vegetation management and initial attack. Without a vigorous program to reduce decadent fuel buildups before a fire starts, the danger of major fire activity is dramatically increased.

CDF is updating its current Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to include the treatment of all fuels on non-federally owned land and for all treatment types. In doing this, CDF is consulting with private, local, state and federal interests. Watershed values, life and property values, and high fire hazard areas are

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

intermingled throughout the state, but are particularly concentrated in Southern California and the Sierra Nevada foothills. CDF has several programs that provide for the treatment of fuels to reduce fire hazard. Each of these programs operates under the CEQA process to obtain authority to be implemented within the VMP. CDF is looking to update the VMP's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report to expand CDF's ability to treat fuels on a broad variety of landscapes and ownerships with differing treatments. Lessons learned from this effort can be used in other state, local and federal programs as time and resources permit.

CDF is providing \$100,000 in the 2004-05 fiscal year to the California Biomass Collaborative to develop proposals, including legislation, to improve the ability to dispose of biomass related to fuel reduction.

CDF will continue to provide staff and technical assistance to WUI communities to prepare new community wildfire protection plans.

Working with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, CDF will accelerate and enhance the California Fire Plan as a tool for statewide analysis of wildland fire safety and level-of-service needs. The goal of the California Fire Plan is to reduce the total costs and losses from wildland fire by protecting assets at risk through pre-fire management and increased initial attack success. At its core, the solution is to integrate competing objectives, streamline environmental review and increase the scale and scope of implementation.

USFS took the lead in developing and implementing a Fireshed Assessment Process. This is an analysis tool, for developing projects that will change fire behavior over a large scale landscape. Training is currently being conducted for the Forests in California.

An agreement has been written which would allow for cooperative prescribed burning projects between the federal land management agencies and CDF. This agreement is awaiting approvals.

Community Protection Grants in the amount of \$2.0 million were awarded in Fiscal Year 2004 for fuels work completed on private lands adjacent to National Forest Systems Lands. In Fiscal Year 2004, our goal was to complete 50 percent of our hazardous fuels work in WUI areas. This goal was exceeded by 14.4 percent.

Over 90,000 acres were treated as hazardous fuels. These projects focused on changing condition classes - 58,000 acres were in WUI (64.4 percent).

More than 62,000 acres of other treatments contributed toward a change in condition class - 28,000 acres were in WUI (45.2 percent).

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: High

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Action Plan: To be determined by Legislature. It is recommended that the plan include infrastructure issues such as adequate roads, water, construction methodologies, etc.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Commission recommends that in WUI areas, the Statewide Fire Safe Council promotes the establishment of local Fire Safe Councils and encourages federal, state and local governments to assist in this effort.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Governor's Office, CDF, OES, California Fire Alliance, State Fire Safe Council

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, November 2005. In progress - Search for additional funding.**

*Since 2003, both the state and federal governments have invested funding (\$5.9 million in federal funding and \$5 million in state funding) to establish over 200 local Firesafe Councils and certified Firewise Communities.*

**November 11, 2005** –Through the California Fire Alliance Grants Clearinghouse, \$5.9 million was earmarked for Fire Safe Councils in federal fiscal year 2005.

**April 11, 2005** - The Administration will work with Congress and the President to Insure full funding of Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); secure fair and equitable distribution of HFRA Title I monies to California; secure continued funding under the National Fire Plan's Community Assistance Grant program to support operations of Fire Safe Councils; reduce the "match" requirements for federal hazard mitigation programs; and secure continued funding for training, fire equipment, apparatus, and safety gear.

As they become available, CDF and OES are providing more resources to create new Fire Safe Councils and to enhance the ability of existing councils to develop and implement mitigation plans. There were 100 Councils in 2003 - today there are 135.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: California Fire Alliance will establish a working group for the purpose of promoting Fire Safe Councils and will work with the Governor's Office to promote Fire Safe Councils through the use of Public Service Announcements and other media. The Governor has agreed to participate in the PSA.

Desired Outcome: The expansion of local Fire Safe Councils/Fire Wise Programs throughout California.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies and officials give serious consideration to fostering and advancing citizen involvement in the establishment and operation of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding groups. Furthermore, the state should develop a disaster recovery model based on the collective input of OES, FEMA, faith-based and community groups, victim advocates and other relevant organizations.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, 2004. In Progress – continuing to expand the number of Fire Corps and CERTs in California.**

*The Fire Corps was established in 2004 and continues to grow throughout California, along with the Citizen Emergency Response Teams (CERT).*

*Fire Corps - Launched in December 2004, Fire Corps is designed to encourage active citizen support of volunteer and career fire departments. Fire Corps is a partnership of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the USA Freedom Corps.*

*Fire Corps was created to support fire departments by using community volunteers to handle non-emergency activities, thereby enabling fire service personnel to focus on acute emergency tasks. Non-emergency roles for volunteers include assisting with administrative duties, conducting education and outreach activities to encourage fire safety and prevention, supporting CERT training in emergency preparedness and basic response techniques, and other non-suppression activities unique to rural and urban areas.*

*CERT - California has 220 CERTs located throughout the state. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**November 11, 2005** - OES continues to work with the California Service Corps to expand the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)/California Fire Corps. Through public education and awareness campaigns, such as OES' Individual Preparedness Campaign, with Maria Shriver as spokesperson, we provide information local governments and the public of the opportunities to participate in community readiness programs by volunteering in community readiness programs through volunteer programs like CERT/Fire Corps. Additionally, OES is reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal government and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to streamline and coordinate on funding programs. The purpose of this MOU is to demonstrate a commitment in supporting a one-stop grant application process for grant programs implemented by partnering agencies. This MOU will allow for coordination and utilization of a Grants Clearinghouse that will be lead by the California Fire Alliance and MOU members to promote consistent and systematic funding assistance to local fire safe councils, including advancing community preparedness, and the CERT/CA Fire Corps concept and training. Finally, OES staff regularly works with Volunteer Agencies Active in Disasters (VOADs) to ensure their effective integration into emergency response and recovery activities.

**April 11, 2005** - OES is working with CDF and FEMA to educate local governments on the value of implementing volunteer programs in support of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding. OES will work with victim advocates and other relevant organizations to address issues facing victims and will explore the development of a disaster recovery model.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Expand Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) concept or related community groups to increase the available resource pool. Consider (through FIRESCOPE) a Volunteer Coordinator/Liaison position within the ICS organizational structure.

Desired Outcome: 1) Increase in the civilian resource pool and a list of those resources throughout the state, and incorporate management of volunteer services within the ICS.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The Commission recommends that USDOJ, FEMA, USFS, CDF and OES identify ways to assist, including financially, local governments with WUI fire preparation and mitigation efforts.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES, USFS, California Fire Alliance

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-Partially Completed – over \$16.5 million state funding to locals since 2003. In Progress – as funding becomes available.***

*CAL FIRE is actively engaged with FIRESCOPE, the California State Fire Marshal's office, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and the California Fire Alliance to support this effort.*

*Since 2003, grants to local government have included:*

*Fire Safe Councils - \$5 million*

*Counties, Fire Districts, and Resource Conservation Districts - \$4.2 million*

*California Conservation Corps (to locals via state entity) - \$1.2 million*

*Various grants for Fuels Reduction and Forest Health projects - \$6.2 million*

*The United States Forest Service has provided over \$2.6 million in federal funds and reduced the local government match requirements to reduce hazardous fuels in southern California. Additionally, both state and federal training regarding defensible space inspections and prevention best practices have increased.*

**Federal Response-***State Fire Assistance competitive WUI grant award of \$36,063 to CAL FIRE for focused fuel hazard reduction project in high-priority area (50/50 match required).*

*State Fire Assistance competitive WUI grant award of \$643,334 to California Fire Safe Council for focused fuel hazard reduction in high-priority areas (50/50 match required).*

*State Fire Assistance grant award of \$2,900,000 to California Fire Safe Council to fund high-priority fuel reduction and CWPP projects statewide (25% match required)*

*Volunteer Fire Assistance grant award of \$957,000 for CAL FIRE to pass through to rural and volunteer districts in California for organizing, training and equipping rural firefighters (50/50 match required).*

- 130 departments awarded sub-grants

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

- 572 communities assisted
- \$870,000 in sub-grants awarded for training, equipment and supplies
- 220 firefighters trained

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

*State Fire Assistance grant of \$1,130,000 awarded to CAL FIRE, which includes the following to assist in WUI preparation and mitigation efforts (50/50 match required):*

- \$51,000 for development of a video and brochure on local government contracting program to be used in informational and educational needs statewide
- \$20,000 hold-back for travel funding to key partnership workshops and meetings
- \$5,000 for in-state travel for coordination of program activities
- \$35,700 to purchase satellite receive and transmit system with T-1 connectivity for incident management

*Accomplishments:*

- 30 fuel reduction projects funded and 248 communities assisted
- 6,520 acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels
- 2,088 acres treated with biomass products utilized
- 7,270 fire prevention/education programs conducted
- Purchase, maintenance, and rehabilitation of \$ 695,785 in fire equipment  
*200 firefighters trained*

**November 11, 2005** – In federal Fiscal Year 2005, \$5.9 million dollars in grant funding was earmarked for the Fire Safe Councils statewide; \$3.2 million in Prop 40 Fuel Reduction funds was also earmarked for the Fire Safe Councils, and \$40,000 annually has been allocated to update and maintain the California Fire Alliance Website.

**April 11, 2005** - State Fire Alliance matching requirements were reduced for fiscal year 04-05 from a 50/50 match, dollar-for-dollar, to 75 percent for the federal government and 25 percent for our partners for funds delivered to southern California's drought affected WUI areas.

USFS provided \$2.6 million in federal funds (75/25 match) to CDF to reduce hazardous fuels in southern California.

In addition, the following funds were provided for hazardous fuels reduction programs, at CDF's request, directly to the southern California Counties by the USFS:

- \$11.8 million to San Bernardino County
- \$5.0 million to Riverside County
- \$7.8 million to San Diego County

In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress earmarked \$2.4 million in Forest Service State and Private grant funding to the California Fire Safe Council. This grant funding was to be utilized for fuel reduction projects in the Southern California communities affected by the 2003 wildfires.

Projected Completion Date: January 1, 2006    Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF will continue to provide technical assistance to WUI communities to prepare new community wildfire protection plans.

The Fire Alliance to develop a grants clearing house for local governments.

Desired Outcome: More efficient utilization of limited grant funding.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends the Wildland Fire Leadership Council address issues of Wildland Fire Prevention and Control and inconsistencies in the interpretation and implementation of the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, Structure Protection, and Cost Apportionment process.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, USFS, BLM, FIRESCOPE, California Fire Alliance

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Ongoing**

*Through FIRESCOPE, CAL FIRE and the Office of Emergency Services, in coordination with the National State Foresters and International Association of Fire Chiefs, continue working toward consensus and agreement among federal fire agencies on issues and inconsistencies in the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, structure protection and cost apportionment process. Additionally, these issues are being addressed in the revised California Fire Assistance Agreement with the federal government.*

**November 11, 2005** - OES continues to work with the California Service Corps to expand the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)/California Fire Corps. Through public education and awareness campaigns, such as OES' Individual Preparedness Campaign, with Maria Shriver as spokesperson, we provide information local governments and the public of the opportunities to participate in community readiness programs by volunteering in community readiness programs through volunteer programs like CERT/Fire Corps. Additionally, OES is reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal government and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to streamline and coordinate on funding programs. The purpose of this MOU is to demonstrate a commitment in supporting a one-stop grant application process for grant programs implemented by partnering agencies. This MOU will allow for coordination and utilization of a Grants Clearinghouse that will be lead by the California Fire Alliance and MOU members to promote consistent and systematic funding assistance to local fire safe councils, including advancing community preparedness, and the CERT/CA Fire Corps concept and training. Finally, OES staff regularly works with Volunteer Agencies Active in Disasters (VOADs) to ensure their effective integration into emergency response and recovery activities.

**April 11, 2005** - Through FIRESCOPE, CDF, and OES will continue working toward consensus and agreement among federal fire agencies on issues and inconsistencies in the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, structure protection and the cost apportionment process.

The USFS and DOI are working with FIRESCOPE, CDF and OES on the appropriate forum to review and resolve these national policy and direction issues.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Develop acceptance at all levels through the budgetary and legislative process to ensure consistency in agreements, definitions and the interpretations of the policies.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Desired Outcome: Consistent and acceptable policy amongst the federal agencies.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

***LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;***

**BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Commission recommends that Congress consider establishing a National Wildland Fire Insurance Program (NWFIP), with appropriate eligibility criteria, under the direction of FEMA.
- 

Agency/Agencies: State Legislative Oversight Committee

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-- Ongoing***

*The Governor supported an MOU between CAL FIRE and the California Insurance Commissioner to develop improved programs, training, and public information between the insurance industry and the fire service. The Director of CAL FIRE, the State Fire Marshal and California Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner signed the MOU on October 15, 2007.*

**April 11, 2005** - The Committee has been reauthorized, however no action has been taken.

Projected Completion Date: Unknown Priority: Low

Action Plan: None at this time.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Commission recommends that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continue to conduct fire research, including development of fire test protocols for vents, radiant heat exposure for windows and other applicable areas to improve ignition resistant construction techniques. The research process should include implementation of a comprehensive damage assessment process to collect data on efficiency and effectiveness of mitigation practices.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF/State Fire Marshal, OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, 2007. In Progress - Updates and research.**

*Codes already in effect that place standards on roofing construction and attic venting played an important role in saving thousands of homes in the October 2007 fires.*

*In 2005, CAL FIRE developed new construction requirements (building standards) and submitted to the California Building Standards Commission new building standards for all new buildings constructed within fire hazard severity zones in California. These standards were divided into two phases for implementation. The first phase of building standards included vent and roofing construction requirements. These requirements became effective on December 1, 2005.*

*The second phase of the building standards includes exterior wildfire exposure protection for ignition resistive eave construction, exterior siding, windows, exterior doors, decks, the requirement to enclose all under-floor areas and the underside of decks to within six inches of the ground and compliance with a vegetation management plan prior to the release of a building's final construction permit. These requirements, while in the building code as voluntary standards since December 1, 2005, become mandatory on January 1, 2008 for all homes in designated fire hazard severity zones.*

*A component of the implementation of the new building standards (Phase II) was the development and release of new fire hazard severity maps. These maps were developed to support building standard implementation throughout California. The maps are currently available for both state responsibility areas (SRA) and local responsibility areas (LRA).*

*The 2008 implementation of all phases of the new building standards will further reduce the risk of burning embers igniting buildings by requiring structural improvements. In addition to the building construction regulations, CAL FIRE is currently submitting a grant proposal to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to use data collected during the Angora Fire for research concerning structural losses during a wildland fire.*

**November 11, 2005** – The CDF/State Fire Marshal routinely conducts research as new products are developed.

**April 11, 2005** – CDF/STATE FIRE MARSHAL and OES will prepare a proposal for a Post Fire Assessment Team for major wildland fires. The expectation is that this team will prepare a report for each of these events that outline what pre-fire efforts conducted under the California State Fire Plan

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

were effective in reducing damage to property and resources, as well as those efforts that were not effective. The scope of these reports would include land use patterns, infrastructure, fuels management, building standards, fire prevention engineering, and suppression tactics and strategy. The reports would be provided to each private, local, state, and federal organization that may be able to contribute to increased pre-fire effectiveness.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Complete testing and the development/adoption of codes that incorporates the associated test results.

Desired Outcome: Improved building construction codes to reduce the ignition susceptibility of structures.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Commission recognizes and applauds Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) type programs and recommends that MAST be considered as a model for other areas.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, USFS, California Fire Alliance

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007- Completed, July 2005***

**November 11, 2005** - The California Fire Alliance is preparing an Action Plan to gather information and post to their website for statewide availability.

**April 11, 2005** - MAST priorities were used as a starting point when allocating grant funds to San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Likewise, FAST priorities were used to allocate grant funding in San Diego Counties.

Successful Task Forces along this model are active in Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. The California Biodiversity Council launched a project to further lessen impediments in the Riverside/San Bernardino projects.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing*    Priority: High

Action Plan: CDF and OES will make MAST-type models and examples available on a statewide level.

Desired Outcome: The expansion of MAST-type organizations to other communities with hazardous fuel conditions.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS;**  
BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  
STATE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Commission endorses SB 1855 by Senator Deirdre Alpert.

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Agency/Agencies: State Legislature

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, 2004.**

*Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2004 (Chapter 385, Statutes of 2004). This bill requires insurers to provide homeowners with more information with respect to insurance coverage on their homes. If not provided, insurers are liable for the full replacement value of the loss.*

**April 11, 2005** - Is intended to eliminate unintended underinsurance by requiring insurers to provide a cost comparison of available coverage's for a particular home, as well as an explanation of each available coverage, is currently pending before the Legislature and is endorsed by this Commission.

The Governor signed SB 1855 on August 27, 2004 - Chapter 385, Statues of 2004.

Projected Completion Date: Completed      Priority: Low

Action Plan: N/A

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers  
Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
INTEROPERABILITY,  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,  
AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that all EOCs dedicate a Public Information Officer (PIO) or establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. The PIO or JIC should be in or near the EOC which has timely access to the latest information. All available technologies should be explored to expedite the timely dissemination of information.

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Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES, USFS, Local Government

## **Progress to Date:**

### **November 15, 2007- Completed, April 2005.**

*Both CAL FIRE and the Office of Emergency Services were operating Joint Information Centers within 24 hours of the October 2007 fires.*

**Federal Response-** *Agreements at OSC (South Operations Geographical Coordination Center) for occasional use of a PIO have been developed but are not enforceable due to the current limitation that funding can only come from incident job codes.*

**April 11, 2005** - OES provided four training courses on crisis communication in 2004 to state and local Public Information Officers; more courses are planned. OES is continuing its work with local governments to emphasize the importance of evacuation pre-planning and early warning systems. OES and CDF are working with local and federal counterparts to improve integration of public information functions at incidents.

During Preparedness Levels 3, 4, and 5, both the Southern California Geographical Area Coordination Center in Riverside and Northern Geographical Area Coordination Center at Redding, CA, have a Type 2 Information Officer on-site available to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. Up-to-date technologies such as email and web sites are used to accomplish the timely dissemination of information.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing    Priority: High

Action Plan: Task an ad-hoc communications Committee through SEMS Advisory/Technical Committee to research and report on statewide applications for PIOs, JICs and timely incident information statewide. Operations Area Coordinators are responsible for defining the roles in dissemination of information.

Cal Chiefs will continue to work with CSAC and California League of Cities to orient elected officials on emergency information protocols.

Desired Outcome: A standardized procedure for professional information/media release for all fire agencies and a statewide system for sharing fire and emergency information between all fire agencies so that all parties have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends that sufficient standardized frequencies be issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to meet the interoperable communication needs of fire and emergency personnel.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Legislative Oversight Committee

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, November 2005.**

*Since 2003, the FCC has added additional frequencies for emergency personnel. CAL FIRE and the Office of Emergency Services utilized these frequencies for the October 2007 fires.*

**November 11, 2005** - In the wake of the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Henry Renteria, Director of the California Gov.'s Office of Emergency Services, and Matt Bettenhausen, Director of the California Office of Homeland Security traveled to DC to testify before the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security to report on CA preparedness where they also urged Congress to pass legislation freeing up more radios spectrum to help emergency agencies communicate and provide additional guidance on interoperability. OES learned that on October 26, 2005, the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted unanimously to establish a \$500 million fund to invest in interoperable communications networks for emergency responders. The proposal would set a hard date of Dec. 31, 2008, for television broadcasters to relinquish their valuable analog radio spectrum and begin broadcasting digital programming. The government expects to raise at least \$10 billion by auctioning off the analog spectrum to wireless carriers and other companies. Although some of the proceeds will be used to fund interoperability grants and a converter box subsidy program, the money may also be used to meet mandatory savings targets significantly exceeding the \$14.7 billion required under the fiscal 2006 budget resolution that may not provide emergency responders nearly enough money to upgrade their systems. The Senate has passed similar legislation with different dates and amounts. The two bills are in the reconciliation process at this time.

**April 11, 2005** - OES, FIRESCOPE and other existing groups are working on this issue.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing    Priority: High

Action Plan: To be determined by the Legislature.

Desired Outcome: Sufficient standardized frequencies to meet communication needs.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recommends integration of the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) with the California Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid System.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES, FIRESCOPE, USFS

**Progress to Date:**

***November 15, 2007-- Completed, November 2005.***

CAL FIRE not only integrated MIRPS, but then partnered with FIRESCOPE and federal agencies to implement the newest generation of incident resource processing called ROSS (Resource Ordering Status System). The Office of Emergency Services is in the process of implementing ROSS throughout the state and it is already in place in southern California.

**November 11, 2005** – CDF has 10 Dispatcher and 2 Administrative ROSS classes scheduled between now and May 2006. There are also 4 additional classes as Module 4 of the ECC Classes at scheduled at the CDF Academy in Ione.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF and OES are developing comprehensive telecommunications and resource management plans that will provide for updated equipment, provide for common cross-jurisdictional use and allow tracking of all fire fighting assets and resources available for mutual aid. These plans will provide for a phasing-in of new systems and will provide for a statewide handheld radio deployment system strategically located for use by local cooperators until a longer term solution can be found to issues related to frequency and interoperability. (4a)

In May 2005, the Pacific Southwest Region of the USFS will transition from the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) to the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). It is recommended the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System follow suit and integrates ROSS into its system.

Projected Completion Date: July 2006 Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Implement ROSS.

Desired Outcome: A more effective resource management system.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Commission recommends that the state implement a research and development working group within FIREScope to explore emerging technologies for firefighting purposes (e.g., military technology, GPS, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles [UAVs], Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS)).
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES, FIREScope, USFS, State and Federal Homeland Security

## **Progress to Date:**

### **November 15, 2007- Completed, April 2005.**

*CAL FIRE, the Office of Emergency Services, and FIREScope have re-established a task force within FIREScope to develop these technologies and partner with military intelligence contractors to supply best available intelligence for fire disaster response.*

*During the October 2007 fires, CAL FIRE and OES directed the employment of federal, Department of Defense, and National Guard aerial photography capabilities to directly support emergency response operations on the ground. This was the first time that local and state efforts have directly received and applied these national-level capabilities according to local ground priorities and actions.*

*For example, CAL FIRE assigned National Guard infrared video aircraft to support the incident command team at the Harris Fire while employing the Air Force Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle based at Beale Air Force Base to monitor the Slide, Witch, Poomacha, Santiago, and Harris Fire areas for potential threats to firefighters and the public.*

**Federal Response-** *FIREScope has implemented several specialist groups involving all the agencies. Current operational requirements for the military limit their ability to participate with consistency of personnel and organizations. Other functions for UAV (real time fire mapping) and OASIS are high-cost and limited.*

*Developmental use is accomplished prior to the emergence of a WUI wildland fire emergency. The USFS has a Joint Fire Science project with NASA using UAV. We have tested this application on several fires to include the Zaca fire and during the 2007 fire siege.*

*Currently, the Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center ( MTDC) is researching Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology for remote sensing intelligence gathering communicating relay, and weather observation in class sized ranging from hand-lanched to space-borne models. The Forest Service is also working on flight planning software and have implemented its aircraft with Global Positioning System receivers that transmit position data every two minutes to a satellite hat relays it in seconds back to database servers at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise Idaho.*

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**April 11, 2005** - Following the US Army and NATICK Solider Center's concept of Land Warrior/Objective Warrior, USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center is identifying requirements and conducting a proof-of-concept for the "firefighter of the future." This includes situational awareness, Command and Control, wearable computers, GPS, wireless data links and night vision.

USFS has Automated Flight Following, similar in capability to the Military Blue Force Tracking. Automated Flight Following includes the use of a satellite data transfer of GPS position.

USFS is working on an interface between the fight data recorder for near real time quality assurance/trend monitoring of air tankers and other aircraft.

The agency has researched and met with military contractors about using the Joint Battlespace Infosphere concept and adopting the concept for wildland fire.

The USFS is a participating member of the FAA Capstone project, a component of the Future Airspace Management.

Meetings have been conducted with Marines from the Camp Pendleton Marine Base to review the Turret/camera requirements of attack helicopters.

Originally funded by Special Forces, the USFS is working with a company to develop a small satellite modem that will send and receive data in remote locations. The information could be GPS, targets, fire locations, or medical emergencies.

Technology has been developed and distributed in the form of a digital camera with GPS that takes a picture of the fire and transmits the information to a web site via satellite. This is accomplished both from an onsite unit or from a hand held PDA.

A demonstration on "Command Post of the Future" will take place during March 2005 in San Diego and Orange Counties.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: Develop partnerships with appropriate state and federal agencies to secure funding and authorizations to utilize existing and new technologies to achieve the Desired Outcome. Ensure this technology is not limited to the actual time during an incident but allowed to foresee or project the future.

Desired Outcome: To have the necessary authorizations in place to allow the resources to be used when needed in emergency situations.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Commission recommends that each engine crew and chief officer have the capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007**~ *Partially Complete – CAL FIRE has bought and installed new radios and is in the process of replacing all CAL FIRE radio infrastructure. In progress – purchase and upgrade of additional communications equipment.*

*The California Office of Homeland Security has invested over \$200 million in federal preparedness funds to acquire large quantities of communications equipment and is working towards integrating all frequencies for local, state, and federal responders.*

*CAL FIRE has finished the purchase and replacement of all CAL FIRE handhelds and is in year three of a five year process to replace all radio infrastructure with P25 Repeaters (capable of dealing with multi-frequencies) and Control stations. They are investing \$2.4 million per year for this equipment and hope to have all new equipment installed by the 2010 fire season.*

**November 11, 2005** – Progress has been made on the development of a comprehensive communications standard to provide for common cross-jurisdictional use.

**April 11, 2005** - CDF and OES working with CalSEIC are developing comprehensive communications standards that will provide for common cross-jurisdictional use.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Annually* Priority: High

**Action Plan:**

Short term: It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction sending resources of any type or kind to ensure common communications capabilities as recommended in ICS 420-1, Fire Service Field Operations Guide, Appendix A.

OES/CDF and other responsible agencies will annually notify all fire entities of communication equipment requirements and potential consequences of responding without that compliment.

In addition, see Communications and Interoperability, Information Technology and Public Outreach, State Recommendations, Recommendation #6.

Long term: CDF and OES working with CalSEIC are developing comprehensive communications standards that will provide for common cross-jurisdictional use.

Desired Outcome: All sending agencies will have common communications capabilities.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. The Commission recommends that local governments improve public outreach and emergency evacuation education.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Local Government, FIRESCOPE

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, April 2005.**

*The Office of Emergency Services has provided numerous training courses on crisis communication to state and local public information officers. Additionally, the Office of Emergency Services has been developing evacuation education information and exercises for both local evacuation and special needs evacuation.*

**November 11, 2005** – Planning has been expanded in light of the recent Gulf Coast disasters.

**April 11, 2005** - OES provided four training courses on crisis communication in 2004 to state and local public information officers; more courses are planned. OES is continuing its work with local governments to emphasize the importance of evacuation pre-planning and early warning systems. OES and CDF are working with local and federal counterparts to improve integration of public information functions at incidents.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2006      Priority: High

Action Plan: OES & FIRESCOPE will task a Working Group to develop a comprehensive multi-hazard Evacuation Guide for local jurisdictions to address legal considerations, education, training, communication, templates, policies, procedures etc.

Desired Outcome: Improved public safety through communications regarding evacuations or necessary actions before and during crisis situations.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. The Commission recommends that state agencies take advantage of the work that has been done locally to create regional communication systems and join with local agencies on a regional basis to enhance those systems.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CALSIEC, Federal/Local Partners

### **Progress to Date:**

#### **November 15, 2007- In Progress - Ongoing system improvements.**

*Both state and federal Offices of Homeland Security are supporting regionalized communication systems through the use of Homeland Security grants in California. Since 2003, over \$1 million in federal grants have allowed the Office of Emergency Services to purchase 1,100 up-to-date handheld radios and eight portable repeaters to improve communication.*

*These repeaters are mobile communications gateway devices that are positioned throughout the State to provide additional tactical emergency communication and bridge different communication frequencies during emergencies. OES also completed upgrades and modifications to its Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) which provides emergency communications to state and local government during disasters and events.*

*OES, CAL FIRE and other key state agencies are involved in both statewide and local committees (Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC) and the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC)) that are charged with improving both regional and statewide communications. Local agencies actively participate in these committees to ensure consistency and that local perspective is recognized.*

**November 11, 2005** - The Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC) is a statutorily chartered coalition of state agencies that are working collaboratively to develop a interoperability strategy that recognizes the critical need to include CA local governments and other first responders to guide policy making, equipment evaluation, and procedure development. The PSRSPC's primary partner in this effort is the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC). The target date for the finalization of the strategy is January 2006. The report will document a current "snapshot" of wireless communication framework that identifies key emerging themes, trends, and problems, as well as depict a desired future condition (a system of systems) in California for wireless communications and recommend comprehensive strategic initiatives to achieve interoperability. Until this "system of systems" network is completed, there needs to be a technological bridge so emergency responders can work seamlessly. A number of agencies in California have taken the first step to address the interoperable radio communications gap by installing several stationary interoperability "gateway" switches to interconnect existing systems at several sites (usually on tall buildings or mountain ridges in urban areas), and installing gateway switches in mobile command vehicles. These gateway switches allow different radio

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

systems operated by different response agencies, on different frequencies, to connect with each other. OES, along with the PSRSPC and CALSIEC, continue to work to expand our capabilities to further improve communications for our first responders as the comprehensive interoperable system will take several years to develop because of the necessary engineering and costs.

**April 11, 2005** - California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC) will integrate fire service and regional communication planning into overall state interoperability planning. CALSIEC includes representatives of all of the major regional programs.

OES is modernizing its Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) emergency communication system. OES is replacing the outdated equipment in OASIS with state-of-the art technology to increase statewide communication capability to allow for high-speed wireless data and voice exchange during emergencies. OES will spend \$4.0 million to modernize its OASIS system.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing Priority: Medium

Action Plan: CALSIEC will develop an interim statewide plan that provides for communication procedures to be used on incidents in each geographical area until full interoperability can be achieved.

Desired Outcome: Increase statewide communication interoperability.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

6. The Commission recommends that the state update and expand current handheld and mobile radios to be utilized on major mutual aid incidents as a short-term, temporary solution to the interoperability problem.
- 

Agency/Agencies: CDF, OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed, November 2005.**

*Since 2003, CAL FIRE has purchased 400 new handheld radios and the Office of Emergency Services has purchased 1,100 up-to-date handheld radios for use in radio caches in strategic locations throughout the state.*

**November 11, 2005** – The procurement of 500 handheld radios has been completed and delivery is schedule for December 1, 2005. Also, the request for proposal on the portable repeaters will be completed by June 30, 2006 to begin the procurement process.

The Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC) has been tasked with the development of a telecommunications management plan and has met several times on the issue.

**April 11, 2005** - The Governor included \$500,000 in the proposed budget to expand CDF's cache of handheld radios and portable repeaters.

CDF and OES are developing comprehensive telecommunications and resource management plans that will provide for updated equipment, provide for common cross-jurisdictional use and allow tracking of all firefighting assets and resources available for mutual aid.

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2005; *Ongoing* Priority: High

Action Plan: The Administration will work with the Legislature to ensure that the funding is included in the final Budget Act for 2005-2006.

Desired Outcome: Mutual aid responders will have appropriate equipment radios for optimal communications.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**STATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. The Commission recommends that OES Fire and Rescue Command Nets be expanded.
- 

Agency/Agencies: OES, CDF, PSRSPC

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Incomplete. Additional expansion is Ongoing.**

*The Office of Emergency Services, the Department of General Services, and CAL FIRE have worked together to improve and expand the California Emergency Services Radio network (CESRS) that allows local and state mutual aid resources access to a multi-disciple interagency "travel net" that allows statewide communication capability. CAL FIRE and OES established an MOU for the use of this network and continue to fund upgrades to this system.*

*Additional work has been initiated to upgrade and expand the OES Fire and Rescue Command Net Radio System. This effort will involve securing funding to upgrade the current 22 microwave repeaters in the first phase, expanding the 22 stations by adding an additional repeater at each station in the second phase, then working with CAL FIRE to determine any gaps in the existing coverage.*

**April 11, 2005** - OES is working on long term funding issues.

Projected Completion Date: 2010      Priority: High

Action Plan: OES, working with partners, will develop statement of requirements and evaluate as part of overall state mountain top repeater modernization.

OES will continue to seek funding sources to purchase necessary radio transmitter equipment and will work in conjunction with CDF to install OES radio nets in CDF mountain top repeater sites throughout the state.

Desired Outcome: An expansion of VHF command net radio frequencies throughout the state which could be assigned and utilized to support federal, state and/or local government emergency (all risk) incident command frequencies needs.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY,**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**  
**LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Commission recognizes the critical role of timely emergency notification of the public of imminent threats and recommends that local governments prioritize the development of appropriate early warning systems to address the needs of their communities.
- 

Agency/Agencies: Local Government, OES

**Progress to Date:**

**November 15, 2007- Completed. Improvements Ongoing.**

*At the federal level, Homeland Security grants have incorporated this requirement into their grant proposal requirements. Local governments are expanding their reverse 911 systems, which allow emergency entities to directly call residents in their homes to inform them of an emergency situation in the area.*

*In the October 2007 fires, the use of reverse 911 systems in 35 counties have been credited with saving countless lives.*

*The California counties that currently have reverse 911 systems in place include: Del Norte, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, Solano, Alameda, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Diego, Modoc, San Bernardino, Riverside, Mono, Kings, Madera, Stanislaus, Yolo, Napa, El Dorado, Placer, Douglas County/Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa, Colusa, Lake, Kern, Fresno, Shasta, Amador, Glenn, Lassen, Contra Costa, and San Mateo (installing now).*

**November 11, 2005** - During 2004/2005, OES completed a series of well-attended Joint Information Center (JIC) Training throughout the state in which hundreds of local and state personnel were trained in standard and effective communication processes. Specifically, these trainings were held in San Diego, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Modesto, and Redding. OES plans on continuing to offer this course in the 2006 calendar year. Additionally, OES routinely offers a 5-day Crises Communication course conducted by our California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), and OES recently updated our JIC training module in our comprehensive State Operation Center/Regional Operation Center Training Curriculum. Furthermore, OES PIO staff conducts customized JIC training to local agencies upon request and availability of resources to address target communication areas.

**April 11, 2005** - OES provided four training courses on crisis communication in 2004 to state and local public information officers; more courses are planned. OES is continuing its work with local governments to emphasize the importance of evacuation pre-planning and early warning systems. In addition, OES and CDF are working with local and federal counterparts to improve integration of public information functions at incidents.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing    Priority: High

Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission  
**Section I: Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers**  
**Multi-Jurisdictional Recommendations**

Action Plan: OES with Local Government Emergency Managers will meet to discuss options for statewide early warning system.

OES and Cal Chiefs working with the League of Cities and CSAC will develop standards for Early Warning System.

Desired Outcome: A standardized Emergency Notification System and improved public safety through improved Early Warning Systems.