



VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Task Force Meeting Minutes October 13th, 2020

Present: ALH, ARC, BRK, MPK, SNM (via webex), SPS, SMD, FCSS Garrett, BC Ambrose, Jason Pfau, Dr. Loza, BC Tucker (GLN), Gordon Arnold (ICI)

Absent: PAS, SGB, MTB, BUR, MRV

Meeting Conducted in person and via Webex. No votes taken. Arson paging defined. Vote recommended for change in misc fire response (see below).

Old Business:

- BC Ambrose discussed the dispatch type code changes and requested feedback on previous changes. Home unit and closest unit example was presented where PAS and SNM units were both dispatched to a baby delivery (baby delivered with the help from FCO Domingo). In this case the closest unit was not the home unit and the closer unit arrived on scene to the ALS call first and initiated care.
- The type code discussion raised the issue of when the closest unit is not the home unit and responds to single engine fire calls. The problem is that when an out of area engine responds to a small fire the home agency may not ever be aware of the incident and is a problem for NFIRS as well as tracking. VFCC did not make changes to Priority 4 fire related calls as agreed by TF but can review response to this call type. BC Ambrose suggested an email be sent to entire TF which would include all of the type codes impacted. For those type codes the closest unit and home unit would be dispatched to alleviate the problem. Email will be sent for consensus and changes will be made based on the decision.
- Preposition/Augmented Brush: BC Ambrose explained the mobilization score and that it is calculated whenever a weather event occurs to determine if preposition is possible.
- Arson notification: BC Ambrose reminded the group that Verdugo does not maintain a list of on duty Arson Task Force members. BC Ambrose proposed that VFCC will send a page to the arson group whenever a request for additional arson investigators is needed by the IC. The investigators would then obtain permission from their BC and notify VFCC if they are able to respond. It is the arson members' responsibility to make sure their information is up to date in the paging group and to obtain permission to respond.

VFCC updates:

- Chief Ambrose presented the hand-out: status report for Verdugo CAD project. Reviewed pending items as well as enhancements such as log in from CADWeb. Discussed current GIS issues and status of fixes.
- VFCC Staffing: BC Ambrose explained that the FCO interview process has been completed. Candidates for FCO have been given pre-background questionnaires and are awaiting a Fire Chief interview. Public Safety Business Specialist position still vacant but expecting a bulletin to be posted soon.
- Chief Ambrose explained we are still waiting on new maps from NG for MDTs. The mobile maps which were presented to the MDT work group were good but the group recommended changes to improve the functionality on an MDT.



VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER Task Force Meeting Minutes October 13th, 2020

- Jason Pfau has rebuilt the data sets in Tableau to make any and all data available to our agencies. Currently any of your data requests can be obtained via Tableau in the SharePoint file. Jason reported that GLN IT will be moving to One Drive so a new access link will be sent. If you have trouble accessing notify Jason for new permission link. If you have trouble using Tableau let Chief Ambrose know and we can assist.
- There are still agencies who have not updated their cradle point naming. A standard was created to make it easier to identify each cradle point, 100% participation is needed.
- Chief Ambrose explained a new feature in CAD for assigned unit notification. Email was sent out earlier by FCSS Soto explaining that a logged in member can receive a text whenever their unit receives a dispatch. If interested contact FCSS Soto to update your notification settings.
- Regarding the question of districts, BC Ambrose explained that Glendale GIS created a drive time analysis that shows the area surrounding each fire station in one-minute drive increments. The map helps to visualize districts and response area. Initially created for BRK, the interactive maps will be created for each City. The new CAD has advanced features for road closures which will be tested for deployment when roads are temporarily closed.

New Business:

- Dr. Loza presented an update on COVID-19 and the vaccine distributions. Prior to the release of the vaccine the CDC plans to accelerate the readiness for the large-scale vaccination campaign. The CDC is currently in Phase III of trials and when complete would be offered to first responders in the initial deployment. Dr. Loza spoke about the flu vaccination and explained that the DHS needs to be informed if personnel want to decline the flu shot.
- BC Ambrose explained that 10/15 will be the California Shake Out at 10:15 AM, and that VFCC would be participating. The drill will give each agency an opportunity to practice their earthquake procedures.
- Group discussion on Civil Unrest and Earthquake policies. Civil unrest policy spearheaded by Chief Rueda is moving forward. VFCC earthquake policy revision reviewed. The goal for the new earthquake policy is to update and revise the policy while removing any confusion. TF assisted with review of modes, defining VFCC role and review of radio frequency. Gordon Arnold explained options for additional frequencies as well as reallocation of current frequencies. Discussion on VFCC plan for when systems fail and the center needs to relocate.
- Group discussion on practicing 'automatic dispatch mode'. BC Ambrose suggested a 2021 plan to conduct monthly drills across all agencies to address less frequent modes of operation.
- Significant Events: DC Spriggs presented lessons learned from Bobcat IC with input from Chief Bartlett and Chief Weddle.



VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER Task Force Meeting Minutes October 13th, 2020

Roundtable

GLN – Academy in process. Type 6 Engine has been received, it will soon be deployed. Still waiting on Type 3 Engine.

BUR – DC Alvarez needed to leave the meeting early. Nothing to report.

SGB – Unable to Attend. Nothing to report

SPS – Discussed incorporating the use of second radio by the Co. Officer to the communications plan. Item will be added to the November agenda.

MRV – Nothing to report

SNM – Participated via WebEx. Submitted draft of Civil Disturbance Policy.

SMD – Lost two firefighters to LA County. Two currently in backgrounds. New rescue ambulance is being built; expected delivery in March or April. Building new Pierce Fire Engine, similar to Arcadia.

MPK- Station 62 temporary quarters is now occupied by Engine 62. RA 62 will be out of Station 63. In the process of hiring two new fire fighters. Would like to add two BC to structure fires to next agenda.

ALH- Temporary BC on C shift. Engine and Captain's test upcoming. RTG drills and MOBEX moving forward in November. Quint 61 reserve being used by Alhambra. Took over Pasadena's logistics trailer which will eventually be available to Area C. Plan to hire two new firefighters and send two to paramedic school.

ARC- Ongoing issues with Emergency Reporting. Other member agencies with similar problems; will coordinate together to reach resolution, VFCC can assist.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: November 10th, 2020 at 0900 Location TBD/Webex