



12 Past Presidents of the CPRA Chapter Gather in Golden State

A DOZEN PRESIDENTS – The California Public Radio Association (CPRA), which is the Southern California Chapter of APCO, had a historic moment at a recent chapter meeting. All of the chapter's Past Presidents ... all those still "on the air" ... were at the meeting. Chapter President Spence Leafdale said it'd never happened before and it was an excellent time to take a photo for the APCO Museum. So, here they are (front row from left) Bill Williams (1984 and 1989) of the City of Pasadena, Lynn Diebold (1990) of the California Highway Patrol, Donald E. Root Jr. (1992) of the State of California, Joe Parrino (1993) of the City of Montebello, and

Spence Leafdale (1994) of the City of Los Angeles. Back row (from left) are Eddie Simon (1958 and 1968) of the City of San Diego, Gary David Gray (1980) of Orange County, Brownie B. Spanovich (1979) of the City of Pasadena, Richard L. Miller (1982) of Riverside County, Paul Salter (1986) of the City of San Diego, Garrett Mayer (1987) of Los Angeles County, and J.T. "Jack" Keating (1991) of the City of West Covina. Interestingly, two of them went on later to become APCO President, Gary David Gray in 1988-89 and Richard L. Miller in 1985-86. And, Jack Keating is a candidate for the Board of Officers this year.

Montreal Fire Department's CAD System

From Opposite Page

If a section of the territory is left uncovered due to a response elsewhere, the system will automatically warn the dispatcher. The system will suggest a redistribution of vehicles according to the algorithm integrated into its geomatic plan.

In the future, some vehicles will be equipped with cameras. Images from the disaster scenes will be recorded and relayed to the giant screen in the communications center.

In the unlikely situation where the communications center, located at Headquarters, has to be evacuated, the Montreal Fire Department can operate from a mobile command unit, which is capable of taking over from the center and maintaining dispatch of vehicles for

the entire city. It is equipped with its own computers, a telephone line connected to the 9-1-1 system and cellular phones. Currently, the mobile command unit is deployed for major accidents.

Under the current system, when a citizen needs the fire department, he or she calls 9-1-1, and the dispatcher forwards the call to the department's communication center. With the new system, as soon as citizens make a telephone connection with us, their name, telephone number and address will appear immediately on the screen in front of the operator. Simultaneously, the system will indicate on the screen what vehicles are within easy reach of this address, as well as the inherent risk category of the building.

Supplementary information also can be sent to the firefighters once they are

in their vehicles so it can be reviewed on the way to the scene.

If for any reason a vehicle is unable to respond to a call, the dispatcher is notified and the system immediately suggests a replacement vehicle. Also, if the situation worsens, the dispatcher simply enters the number of alarms into the system, and all vehicles available and suited to the particular situation will appear on the screen and be dispatched automatically.

In conclusion, we are confident that this new system is allowing us to reduce our response time to emergency calls and provide a wealth of relevant information for each situation directly to the firefighters. The end result is ultimately an increase in the safety of citizens, as well as that of the firefighters who serve them. ■