



# STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Pacific Standard Time

### **Sacramento**

May Lee Complex  
651 Bannon Street, Room SE245  
Sacramento, CA 95811

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Donald Butz, Fire Districts Association of California, Vice Chair  
Anale Burlaw, CAL FIRE  
Yvonne de la Pena, California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program  
Ian Bostek, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Zoraida Diaz, California Fire Chiefs Association  
David Rocha, Fire Chief, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs  
Ed Foster, California State Firefighters Association  
David Gillotte, International Association of Firefighters \*  
Frank Lima, California Labor Federation \*  
Peter Munoa, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881 \*  
Michael Williams, California State Firefighters Association  
Janet Ruiz, Insurance Industry  
Len Nielsen, Cultural Burning Liaison

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters  
Robert Magee, City Government  
Cindy Gustafson, County Supervisor

### **STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:**

Vickie Sakamoto, Assistant State Fire Marshal  
Tim Spears, Assistant Deputy Director  
John Morgan, Assistant Deputy Director  
Chris Fowler, Division Chief  
Brice Bennett, Division Chief  
Brandon Erickson, Supervisor I \*  
Jillian Fisher, Supervisor I  
Carrie Lewis, Analyst II  
Danh Dao, Analyst I

\* Attended meeting virtually

## A) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daniel Berlant called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1006 hours.

1. Welcome and meeting logistics.
2. Roll Call was held; there was a quorum with 11 members present.
3. Approval of the August 6, 2025, Draft Meeting Minutes (Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

**Motion:** Member Donald Butz moved to approve the August 6, 2025, meeting minutes. Member David Rocha seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Approval of the November 5, 2025, Draft Meeting Minutes (Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

**Motion:** Member Donald Butz moved to approve the November 5, 2025, draft meeting minutes; Member Michael Williams seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

5. Approval of the February 11, 2026, Meeting Agenda (Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

**Motion:** Member Michael Williams moved to approve the February 11, 2026, meeting agenda; Member Zoraida Diaz seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

6. Announcements  
There were no announcements.

## B) CONSENT ITEMS

2. State Fire Training Division  
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

- a) [STEAC Charter](#)
- b) [California Incident Command Certification System \(CICCS\) Guide 2026](#)
- c) [Allan Hancock College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- d) [Mission College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- e) [Palomar College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- f) [Los Angeles County Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
- g) [Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)

**Motion:** Member Donald Butz moved to approve the Consent Items; Member Michael Williams seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

## C) ACTION ITEMS

### 2. State Fire Training Division

*(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)*

#### a) [First Responder Inspector \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

Second reading of the First Responder Inspector Curriculum with no stakeholder requests for edits following the January 2026 STEAC meeting. State Fire Training has updated the curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030, the standard for professional qualifications.

**Motion:** Member Michael Williams moved to approve the First Responder Inspector (2024) Curriculum; Member Zoraida Diaz seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### b) [Fire Inspector \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

Second reading of this curriculum with no stakeholder edits requested following the January 2026 STEAC meeting. State Fire Training has updated the Fire Inspector Curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030 standard for professional qualifications.

**Motion:** Member Ed Foster moved to approve the Fire Inspector (2024) Curriculum; Member Michael Williams seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### c) [Fire Marshal \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

Second reading of the curriculum with no stakeholder edits following the January 2026 STEAC meeting. State Fire Training has updated the curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030, the standard for professional qualifications.

**Motion:** Member Michael Williams moved to approve the Fire Marshal (2024) Curriculum; Member Donald Butz seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### d) [Fire Plans Examiner \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

Second reading of the curriculum with no stakeholder edits following the January 2026 STEAC meeting. State Fire Training has updated the Fire Plans Examiner curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030, the standard for professional qualifications.

**Motion:** Member Michael Williams moved to approve the Fire Marshal (2024) Curriculum; Member David Rocha seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### e) [NWCG and California Specific Curriculum Alignment](#) – Information Only

The State Fire Training Catalog currently includes 29 NWCG courses. They cover topics from leadership development to incident management to specialized operations. Deputy Katie Lutke has identified several courses in the State Fire Training catalog that have not been updated to reflect the NWCG revisions. Some of the courses are outdated by almost 20 years with outdated materials and

references, and instructor-to-student ratio. The administrative changes to updating the materials and content have been detailed in the report. With STEAC support the delivery requirements and resources will be updated to align with the NWCG versions. The body of work will return to STEAC in July. The course content belongs to NWCG so that will not be edited. This is the first read of proposed changes to curriculum, but administrative changes only. NWCG courses were incorporated in State Fire Training at the request of stakeholders at least 20 years ago. State Fire Training sets the logistics for all instructors who are registered with State Fire Training it's known that there is a certain academic rigor that occurs and allows them to be delivered in California regularly.

f) [Fire Officer Series Curriculum Review](#) – Information Only

There was a curriculum updated over the last year and a half that was a philosophical shift in how State Fire Training delivers education. We are now using the new model, which was approved by STEAC and State Board, to follow the NFPA, which is a cohort or hybrid delivery of these classes, which aligns with the national delivery of the Company Officer, Chief Officer, and Executive Chief Officer series. As it was implemented it was realized that there were some gaps, so it was identified that distance education is a specific challenge for some instructors. The proposed solution is to amend the current distance education application to include a hybrid cohort option specific to the Fire Officer courses because those courses begin with lecture, then a project is done at your department (similar to a master's thesis) then you come back to the cohort and complete the exam. Registration for these courses has been paused until the implementation plan can be re-released. The existing Fire Officer series documents are being revised to develop an instructional delivery information bulletin for each curriculum track so it's clear to each registered instructor what the specific requirements are and are giving them recommended teaching order, so they know what happens in the classroom and what the student is responsible for in each cohort. We have also committed to exploring options like online platforms for submitting portfolios but at this time it's not available.

## D) INFORMATION ITEMS

1. [Blueprint 2030](#)

Blueprint 2030 is posted to the State Fire Training webpage under Reports and Bulletins. An updated webpage will be released that will be somewhat of a dashboard where State Fire Training is accountable to all the stakeholders on progress.

2. [Annual Report 2025](#)

The State Fire Training Annual Report is a summary of all the goals accomplished in 2025 and fiscal year business accomplishments based on data and statistics. It highlights the California fire academy system and higher education with articles about balancing readiness and realism. If you are interested in participating in the New Perspectives section, which talks about improvements, growth, and successes with the program, please let [Chris Fowler](#) know.

3. [Accredited Academies Steering Committee](#)

State Fire Training has identified a gap in the procedures manual regarding Section 3, which is how we approve academies for the state of California. Currently, the language predates the year 2000 so it's in need of a refresh. It was built for the previous State Fire Training System prior to testing and alignment with IFSAC and ProBoard so, a steering

committee has been established that will provide guidance and partnership and will report back to STEAC. There are 3 ALAs, 3 ARTPs, 3 fire departments, 3 colleges, and 1 subject matter expert on the committee that will do an analysis of what the roles and responsibilities of the academy are.

- **Dave Gillotte** – More bridging has been done between various organization to centralize, coordinate, give credit across the board, and even grandfather between systems, and giving a more consistent standard of training. I've seen it more and more with behavioral health curriculum, BarScope, NWCG, IFF, training, etc. For the first time in a long time, we've arrived at a place where there are standards that are the same in a lot of locations and agencies.
- **Donald Butz** – The job isn't done yet. For example, emergency managers a Cal Chief section that is being created, we're noticing a lot of disconnect between the various institutions and governmental entities that are issuing accreditation or training.

#### 4. [Training Officers Symposium 2026](#)

The Training Officers Symposium is March 16-20, 2026. Please share with your stakeholder groups. Registration is open, but the hotel block at the Doubletree Hotel is full but there are sister hotels in that neighborhood that still have accommodations available. If you're interested in attending or have personnel that may want to attend, please let them know that registration is open.

## E) OSFM DIVISION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. **State Fire Training Division**

The State Fire Training update was covered in the items above.

### 2. **Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation**

The Wildfire Preparedness Division has been hard at work putting together the National Association of State Fire Marshals and Wildland Urban Interface Conference. For defensible space statewide this fiscal year, CAL FIRE resources have completed over 189,000 inspections and are well on track to meet CAL FIRE's goals internally. Some of our cooperators have had great success with other inspection platforms so we are also trying out a new inspection platform that is going well with over 1000 inspections. This is a pilot or trial but something unique about it is that the homeowners have an opportunity to log into their own profile and see that data that's collected and there's a report that comes with it. It really helps them interact with what they can do down the road to mitigate defensible space and home hardening issues around their properties. Since June of 2024 we've seen at least 116 positive impacts with our fuel treatment projects that have been affected by fire or the spread of fire. This is a huge accomplishment when we often don't get to quantify how prevention is doing. Infers was officially decommissioned on February 1. California's final 2025 incident total was over 3 million, with 3,591,600 incidents. As we roll into the next phase with NERIS we'll be able to get more metrics. NFPA Firewise staff has reviewed all the renewals, there are over 1000 renewal applications that have gone through and we're evaluating for the 1500<sup>th</sup> community coming up. It's exciting to realize that California has almost 50% of all the Firewise communities in the nation. The Land Use Planning Division is putting on [classes](#) for wildfire in California - these are all-day, in-person trainings for local jurisdictions, fire marshals, fire chiefs, specialists, and building officials. There are classes coming up in February, March, and May. There will be one in Thousand Oaks, Lake Forest, Concord, Ukiah, Tahoe City, and Chico. Awards were announced on December 12, with over 400 applicants requesting over \$282M. CAL FIRE awarded more than \$62.6 million in funding for 84 local wildfire prevention projects across

California. For additional grant solicitations keep an eye on the [website](#) and sign up for notifications.

- Daniel Berlant – In this fiscal year an appropriation out of the climate bond for somewhere between \$50-80M and the team is shooting for this for later in the spring. A lot of what the team does is local assistance in helping cities and counties, whether it be getting grants, or updating their safety elements or other legislative requirements.

### 3. Fire Engineering & Investigations

#### a. Fire Sprinkler Certification Update

About 7 years ago there was litigation against the licensure program for sprinkler fitter installation. In December 2025 that was finally adjudicated. The judge found that the constitutionality of the licensure was affirmed and believed it needed to be in place for installation of life safety systems. However, the judge did find a few procedural errors by the APA standards by us, so he removed a few items out of the regulation. Those would be supervision ratios so trainees typically would have had to, by prior licensure, been supervised by a licensed sprinkler fitter, and that sprinkler fitter could only supervise two trainees. They could also supervise one apprentice at the same time. The judge deemed that to be removed. Trainees are not required after a year to become an apprentice or enter an apprenticeship program. As the regulation stands at the moment, they can be a trainee in perpetuity. With our efforts with the Chapter 5.5 Sprinkler Fitter Chapter update from the advisory committee that had already approved and given the recommendation back to the office, we were adding in the items recommended by the judge to be reinserted into the regulation. We are going to recodify those items with the judge's recommendation of correction. We are hoping to have this in place by July.

#### b. Fireworks Public Safety Task Force

In November a task force was formed due to the unfortunate events in Esparto. That group was formed by recommendations brought forth by different associations, made up of fire chiefs, police chiefs, sheriffs, and other members of the fire services. They met in November and had a 4-day intensive meeting where they went through the regulation and provided their experience with fireworks enforcement and the challenges they see from local levels. They provided many recommendations on our regulations for updates. The report was then drafted based on their recommendations and provided back to them for comment as well as the General Fireworks Advisory Committee in January for comments which will be included in an appendix section of the report. The committee discussed the comments and saw no major changes needed but did add a stricter penalties for those using and selling illegal fireworks.

#### c. AB 30 and E15 fuels approval in CA has come to the forefront. This relates to the certification of fuels dispensing equipment throughout the state. One of the big factors is the underwriter laboratory's testing that has to occur on all equipment before it's certified for use. CAL FIRE is one element of CARB's certification for this type of device. Testing with UL is not quick, it's a weathering test and takes some time to perform. The E10 fuel that is already at our pumps and runs in our vehicles every day is based on a UL87 test. The E15 and above fuel is based on a UL87A test. So, manufacturers that want to use E15 fuel need to have their equipment retested. We found ourselves helping CARB understand and remember these requirements for which they have recently produced a fresh document of FAQs for manufacturers of the different certifications needed and the timeliness of those.

- Daniel Berlant – our office essentially makes sure gas pumps don't blow up. Every nozzle package used in California goes through Chief Bennett's team to make sure that it meets our requirements. E85 gas has been on the market for a while, this

new grade E15 is what is now allowed to be sold in California, but the pump still needs to be certified to the new standard of E15

#### 4. Battery Energy Storage Systems Workgroup Update

The workgroup was established to address issues surrounding lithium-ion battery energy storage systems. The focus of the workgroup is on safety standards, training, PPE, and regulations. The charter was approved at the August 2025 meeting of the State Board of Fire Services. At the first meeting, there were recommendations to add representatives from the International Longshoremen Workers Union, the US EPA, law enforcement, CalOES Recovery to address battery handling, emergency response, and post-incident recovery. The legislation that the workgroup is reviewing and discussing includes AB 1285, which directs the State Fire Marshal to develop fire prevention, response, and recovery measures for utility-scale battery facilities. SB 283 requires us to review standards to restrict large energy storage systems to dedicated use or outdoor sites. And AB 841 calls for a subgroup to recommend PPE and decontamination practices with a report due by September 1, 2026. The workgroup is prioritizing what we have, and this will include developing standard operating procedures and model ordinances as recommended by some of the members. We hope to feature presentations by subject matter experts and workgroup members at future meetings. There have been a number of requests for being updated on upcoming meetings and we've added an option to subscribe to committees and workgroups on our website, and we are happy to share information as widely as we can. We hope to be able to establish a subgroup here very soon to help us address AB 841 and the PPE and decontamination practices for battery energy storage systems with that report being due on September 1, we have very limited time to be able to complete that report. The next meeting is tomorrow, February 12 at 3pm. To add to the comments about the [National Association of State Fire Marshals Conference](#), we will be adding an additional day to the conference for the second [Battery Energy Storage Systems Symposium](#).

- Dave Gillotte – a couple suggestions regarding the Battery Energy Storage Systems, it would be good to bring in IBEW which are the unions that represent the workers that have jobs in the battery energy storage systems sector. ILWU has port workers and are in a similar situation. They handle all the materials and there are storage systems that are near the ports which has become an issue. Their members have been working with the California Professional Firefighters, IAFF, and IBEW with the labor councils, not only on legislation that affects all of this but on where to go with this. We're here to ensure these facilities are built according to standards that we think should be put in place and that they have testing standards that are in place.
- Daniel Berlant – as with other meetings the BESS Workgroup must follow Bagley-Keene and the lack of a quorum at the last meeting slowed things down a bit. It would be great if you could ask the members that represent your groups to attend in person.

#### F) PRESENTATION – From Conflagration to Resilience: Ashes to Action, Steve Hawks, IBHS

- Janet Ruiz – Have you seen any homes completed yet with either the Wildfire Prepared Plus or Chapter 7?
- Steve Hawks – Not yet. Laura Blau from IBHS, former Fire Marshal for Orange County Fire, is deeply involved with the rebuilding process and working with different architects and homeowners. She is reviewing plans to ensure they meet the plus-level standard, but none have crossed the finish line.
- Anale Burlew – Have you seen houses built to the Plus Standard and how is that getting them insurance?

- Janet Ruiz – If they were in the wildfire (even if their home wasn't burned, they just need to be in the zip code), they keep their insurance for at least a year. Wildfire Prepared Plus is helpful for people obtaining insurance. We're seeing with the strategic insurance strategy that the California Department of Insurance has now implemented, 2-3 companies get their rate requests approved and 4-5 companies offering more insurance in California. If you have that designation, you are much more likely to get insurance than if you don't. Some insurance companies have a little looser standard, so if you have the basic with a few additional things they're looking at insuring people, but it's all based around the science – if your home is less likely to burn, they're definitely looking at it.
- Steve Hawks – There's an article published by a non-profit called "Insurance for Good" that compares the discounts from 15 top insurers in California and the discounts they offer through CEIs Safer from Wildfires initiative and then discounts that are offered for either IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home Base or Plus.

## G) NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

## H) MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

**Len Nielsen** – Cultural burning has been increasing across the state. There are more cultural fire practitioners utilizing the claims fund within CAL FIRE and identifying their projects as cultural burning. We've worked with the burn permit program to establish a cultural burn check box that has a different pathway for approving burn permits and identifying cultural burning. There are several cultural burners that are putting on how-to classes across the state which is increasing the capacity of cultural burning.

**Janet Ruiz** – There is a bill that the California Department of Insurance and Assemblymember Lisa Calderon are not in favor of. It improves or gives more coverage from the California Fair Plan (fire insurance only) and then you buy a wrap around policy from an insurance company for other things that can go wrong such as water damage, etc. We don't want the California Fair Plan to continue to grow, we want it as insurance of last resort as it's more expensive and it only for homes in wildfire risk areas. We're working towards amendments that'll make it more favorable.

**David Rocha** – Chief Broschard from Contra Costa County announced his retirement.

**Yvonne de la Pena** – There is now a credit for prior learning initiative that been going on in the state of California which, for apprenticeship, is great. And it's great for State Fire Training because it gives individuals pre-college credits for their certifications, journey-level certifications or their company officer, fire inspector, or any of the State Fire Training certs they get so they can get free college credits up to 60 units from various community colleges around the state. We've been sitting on a committee with other community college folks to help do the articulation on this.

**Ian Bostek** – Director Nancy Ward retired at the end of 2025. The Chief Deputy Director for Operations, Tina Curry, is currently the acting Director and I am now the acting Chief Deputy Director for Operations. The Superbowl just wrapped up, and we had some significant planning efforts special events going into that. CalOES had 22 personnel deployed to Santa Clara, San Francisco, and the general Bay Area. We've approved some pre-positions for local government dispatchers and overhead for civil unrest in the event some other activities might happen in the background. Nothing significant occurred and that leads to the FIFA World Cup, Superbowl 61 at the SoFi Stadium, the Olympics in 2028, and other sporting

events like America 250 this summer. There are a lot of special events that CalOES is monitoring.

**Zoraida Diaz** – Cal Chiefs is offering two webinars regarding California’s transition to incident qualification systems; one is today at 1:30pm and one on Feb. 18.

**Anale Burlew** – A lot of work done in the DSI inspections space. We are doing some prescribed fires in Tuolumne-Calaveras unit earlier this week. The 1000-hr fuels were fully consuming in some of the timber prescribed fires. We’ve been watching a lot of the changes in the federal government in terms of the US Forest Services reorganization, as well as the new US Wildfire Service for the DOI agency’s consolidation that took place last week as those employees are moving out of the independent departments over to the new wildfire service. There have been a lot of conversations with them, and it’s believed that this will not affect us operationally this summer. We are getting ready to hire for the 2026 fire year. With the staffing changes that happened 2 years ago and the 66-hour workweek implementation, we’re now 9 months funded for seasonal positions. We’ll start hiring in March and peak fire season staffing in April and will be able to use those resources to continue the fuel mitigation and fuel treatment and prescribed fire efforts until fire conditions dictate otherwise. We are transitioning a lot of the workforce to permanent workforce with firefighter 1 employees becoming firefighter 2s which will allow for more year-round engine capacity. The budget hearing session is upon us, and CAL FIRE has been fortunate with the governor’s proposed budget for our department this year. We have a few things that will be in hearings with the legislature this spring. We just got approval from OAL for our forest health grants, so we’ll be seeing a solicitation for applications for that.

**Donald Butz** – The Fire Districts Association will be hosting 3 events the week of April 20 including a [Leadership Symposium, Annual Conference](#), and mandated training that’s required for local directors. The Leadership Symposium is open across the fire service and is intended for upcoming chief officers and company officers and will discuss current events as well leadership issues – everything from firefighter health to budgets and everything between. Districts have a different perspective and sometimes those in the cities don’t merge often but it’s an opportunity to share thought processes.

**Dave Gillotte** – IAFF is doing a [Strive for Excellence Summit](#) March 29-April 2 in Las Vegas.

## I) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## J) UPCOMING MEETING DATES - 2026

May 13, 2026  
10:00am-12:00pm  
715 P Street, Room 2-221  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## K) ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 1150 hours.