



# STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

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

### **Sacramento**

CNRA Building  
715 P Street, CNRA 2-302 (A/B)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair  
Matthew Sully, CAL FIRE  
Yvonne de la Pena, California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program  
Brian Marshall, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Donald Butz, Fire Districts Association of California, Vice Chair  
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 \*  
Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters \*  
Michael Williams, California State Firefighters Association \*  
Robert Magee, City Government \*  
Janet Ruiz, Insurance Industry  
Raymond Gutierrez, Cultural Burning Liaison

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Cindy Gustafson, County Supervisor

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

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director \*  
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director \*  
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director  
Tim Spears, Assistant Deputy Director  
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Council \*  
Chris Fowler, Division Chief  
Crystal Sujeski, Division Chief, Code Development & Analysis  
Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III \*  
Katie Luetke Porter, Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager 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.
4. Approval of the November 5, 2024, Draft Meeting Minutes  
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

**Motion:** Member Michael Williams moved to approve the November 5, 2024, meeting minutes. Member David Rocha seconded the motion.

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

5. Approval of the May 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes  
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

**Motion:** Member David Gillotte moved to approve the May 9, 2025, meeting minutes; Member Zoraida Diaz seconded the motion. Member Robert Magee abstained.

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

6. Approval of the August 6, 2025, Meeting Agenda  
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

**Motion:** Member Zoraida Diaz moved to approve the August 6, 2025, meeting agenda; Member Janet Ruiz seconded the motion.

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

7. Announcements  
There were no announcements.

## B) CONSENT ITEMS

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

- a) [City College of San Francisco ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- b) [College of Sequoias ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- c) [College of Siskiyous ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- d) [Crafton Hills College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- e) [Monterey Peninsula College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- f) [Moreno Valley College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- g) [Porterville College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- h) [Yuba College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- i) [Clovis Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
- j) [Santa Clara County Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
- k) [Update to Non-Motorized Watercraft Rescue Technician](#)
- l) [Low Angle Rope Rescue \(2015\) Retirement](#)
- m) [Orange County Fire Authority Reaccreditation](#)
- n) [Non-Motorized Watercraft Rescue Technician \(2021\) Course Rollout – Delivery Format Change](#)
- o) [Bakersfield College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)

- p) [Mount San Antonio College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- q) [Oxnard College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- r) [Santa Rosa Junior College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- s) [Sacramento Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
- t) [California Incident Command Certification System \(CICCS\) Guide – Update 2025](#)
- u) [Battery Energy Storage Systems Workgroup Charter](#)

**Motion:** Member David Rocha moved to approve the Consent Items; Member Ed Foster seconded the motion.

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

## C) INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) [Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A and 2A \(2025\)](#)  
 The Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness curriculum was updated last year. Now the new curriculum will be published on January 1, 2026. With the approval of this Board, the current curriculum will be retired. Formerly, there was not a prerequisite for this class, now the students will need to complete the self-assessment before the class. Due to the personal nature of the self-assessment, it will now be done in advance and brought to the course. One topic was added regarding describing indicators of behavioral health distress which teaches students to communicate with those in distress or struggling with mental health. Also combined 2A and 3A and shortened them. The prerequisites are completion of 1A and the new Peer Day Suicide Awareness class. Combined hours have been reduced to 32.

## D) PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. State Fire Training Division

#### a) **Title 19 – 2025 Procedures Manual - Update**

The Title 19 package was returned by the Office of Administrative Law with some requested edits and greater clarification. It was resubmitted on July 31, 2025. This will require an additional 15 day comment period prior to implementation.

#### a) **Blueprint 2030**

Blueprint 2030 was approved by CAL FIRE Executives as of July 10, 2025. Currently working on a final document for publication and an interactive dashboard on the State Fire Training website that will provide a visual accountability to stakeholders As goals are accomplished and objectives are achieved the updates will be on the dashboard.

#### b) **California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Guide 2025**

Seven pages of administrative and editorial updates are now complete and the final document is before the Board.

### 2. Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

#### a) **Home Hardening Program**

The Home Hardening Program is a joint powers agreement between CalOES and CAL FIRE to provide direct financial assistance to homeowners, some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. We're piloting this in six communities across the State of California and to date, we've retrofitted 50 homes with another 24 in progress.

b) **CAL FIRE Prevention Efforts**

In terms of fuel reduction, the goal is to get 100,000 acres of fuels reduction done on the landscape and this year, before finalizing the totals, we're at 156,254 acres. Another goal is to have 50,000 acres of prescribed fire and this year we have eclipsed that goal with over 61,000 acres of prescribed fire.

c) **SRA Review**

July 1, 2025, concluded the 5-year SRA Review requiring us to evaluate the public resource code and provide a recommendation to the Board of Forestry & Fire Protection. This delineates the financial responsibility for CAL FIRE versus the local responsibility area and the federal responsibility area.

d) **NERIS**

The team has been creating webinars for the fire service in the state of California to let them know what's coming, when it's coming and the features of the new system. The fire services is going to now have access to a lot of analytics, statistics, and dashboards that we haven't had visualization into for a lot of the fire departments, especially the smaller ones. Check the CAL FIRE website [here](#) for a list of webinars.

e) **NFPA Firewise**

CAL FIRE is the liaison for NFPA's Firewise Community. The Land Use Planning team heads up this effort and California leads the nation in the number of Firewise communities eclipsing the 1300 mark with 1314 communities in good standing and another 12 in the review process. That equates to about 45% of the nation's total right here in California.

f) **[Statewide Clearinghouse](#)**

This is a collection of all things wildfire – a CWPP, a local hazard mitigation plan, technical notes, research documents, etc. all in one place where the fire service can access them easily. We also rolled out a new [CWPP toolkit](#) on the website earlier this year that includes templates, videos, etc.

g) **Fire Hazard Severity Zones**

While the Fire Hazard Severity Zones work has concluded this item is being discussed because some Members were not able to join the last meeting where this item was discussed. The SRA Review of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones was implemented in 2024 and again in 2025, with the ordinances required by government code and sent to the Board of Forestry. The process is still working through the ordinance adoption process, but some folks have reached out with concern with the maps and the areas that they live in. It's an unfortunate reality that with the government code and the way it's written, it does not allow for CAL FIRE to make adjustments to the maps once they're produced. We've developed the maps using the best available data that we have at the time. The model was peer reviewed, and we checked and double checked the model everywhere it was possible along the map and gave that to the jurisdiction. In a couple years the state will be remapped. Because these are supposed to be long term maps with long term forecasting, it's not something that can be done on a yearly basis but can be done with the next SRA Review in five years.

- Robert Magee – Since the last meeting I've met with Senator Seyarto twice, former firefighter with Riverside County Fire, Chief Wiser, Chiefs Olson and Chief Reid and well as Jim McDougald from CAL FIRE. It's been made clear to me that these maps will not and cannot be amended. The League of California Cities will be holding a roundtable meeting to discuss the impacts of these maps on various members that will be held on August 21, 2025, and in the meantime, tens of thousands of homeowners are going to be losing their insurance or facing steep increases. We've been seeing this occur since March when the maps were first rolled out. I appreciate the work of the State Fire Marshal's Office and their goal to keep us safe. You've heard Frank talk about the home hardening program, the Firewise communities, and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, all of those I will encourage my members to embrace. And I know that in my city we are doing just

that right now. But there will be unintended victims as a result of these maps. As a representative of city government our constituents are going to be feeling the pain of this.

**h) Grants**

The grant application period ends today at 3:00pm. Will be awarding \$135 million dollars during this grant application period, funded through the GRF through California Climate Investments and Climate Bond funds. There will be a detailed review process, and we'll have an announcement later this year.

**3. Fire Engineering & Investigations**

**a) Fireworks Discussion and Update**

Just since March there has been quite a bit of devastation related to fireworks in the State. In March, in the LA area, there was a house explosion with illegal fireworks being stored. In May the Office of the State Fire Marshal seized over 100,000 lbs. of commerce, and in July there was a devastating explosion in Esparto which claimed seven lives at a licensed fireworks facility. On July 3, in both Northern and Southern California there were three separate house explosions with fireworks inside. Two of those had fatalities and one had an injury and on the fourth of July there were several injuries across the state. There was a fatality of juvenile in Southern California as well. It's been a bad year in the state in terms of fireworks. Since the beginning of the year the State Fire Marshal's office has seized 600,000 lbs. of fireworks and we are now at our storage capacity. Because of that, we are not able to pick up all the fireworks seized and are looking at expanding storage capacity as well as looking at several federal partners to help dispose of the fireworks currently in possession. The Arson & Bomb Unit has been committed to the Esparto investigation. While it's too early to estimate when the investigation will be concluded, we are making good progress at piecing together what was happening at the site of the explosion. The pyrotechnic licenses of those involved have been suspended and we are close to knowing what will happen to those licenses in the future. The Fire Marshal's office is currently in the planning stages of forming a Public Safety Fireworks Enforcement Task Force including a cross section of the California Fire Service and well as representatives from law enforcement with the goal of conducting a review of the current state regulations and statutes related to fireworks. They will be asked to propose changes to regulations and make recommendations on statutes that need to be updated and formulate an enforcement plan that includes strategies for improving coordination among local, state and federal agencies to increase public awareness and education on both legal and illegal fireworks.

**D) NEW BUSINESS**

**1. State Board of Fire Services Presentations**

In many of our other Boards and Committees part of the format of the meeting is a highlighted presentation on a topic that connect to whichever Board or Committee. I want to make sure we use the meeting time wisely. The proposal is to bring in guest speakers, whether it be member organizations or topics like insurance or wildfire risk, the goal is to keep the Board informed of what's happening on any fire-related topic.

**E) MEMBER UPDATES**

**Janet Ruiz** – IBHS has been doing a fantastic job doing burn demonstrations around the state. You can get certificates for wildfire prepared homes and wildfire prepared neighborhoods. The first neighborhoods were in San Diego County and Escondido. Gave away the first certificate for a wildfire prepared neighborhood which really counts toward getting insurance. There was a great burn demonstration at the Building Industry Association Conference. The building industry is an important part of the community, but they haven't been engaged until the last couple of years. Builders are using different materials now that are more fire-safe and this is making a difference on insurance. Folks like Consumer Watchdog are doing a lot of lawsuits after the LA fires and going

after the industry. Mitigation and lawsuit abuse are a couple areas where we could lower rates. The insurance industry is pushing to get people educated that these types of lawsuits are frivolous. There needs to be others on board like the realtors, builders, and associations.

**Brian Rice** – The symposium held on battery storage systems was successful and have received a lot of positive feedback. I appreciate the draft charter and have a couple things I'd like to make sure we are on the forefront of. I was thinking about lithium-ion battery storage both on a large, small, and business scale. Think about nuclear energy – we had nuclear power plants and generation plants - how much did the industry fund for the California fire service to be able to effectively respond to those types of incidents. As we move forward with the charter, we need to make sure that the industry provides an annual training fund allotment. The best place to put it, for uniformity and reimbursement back to local agencies, would be to go through JAC. I would like JAC to see about ongoing training programs, not only in suppression and mitigation but also in inspection and standards. We've had a number of not only serious injuries but career ending injuries just from the exposure to smoke, runoff, and other byproducts of fire. Moving forward we need to make sure that any kind of release or fire in these facilities is an automatic hazardous materials response. We also need to figure out how the owners of these businesses are responsible for the cost. We don't talk about the cost of training, the cost to be proficient in protecting the public from these emerging technologies.

**Donald Butz** – I agree with President Rice and the once thing I'd like you to consider, because you're in a great position to advocate for this, is the cost of operational units as well. This is the new hazmat. This is the new trend, and industry should be responsible for staffing up. If you go back and look at the evolution of hazmat you're right about local and state government found funding in the budgets. Why are we paying to expand the hazardous materials JPA? Shouldn't they be contributing to the initial unit with maintenance costs.

**Daniel Berlant** – Cal Chiefs provided a speaker not from our own department, but Fresno County Fire Protection District. The whole presentation was focused on efforts he had done in Fresno County in relation to negotiating, mitigating, mitigation impact, and additional resources and stations that are being built as a result of some very large, battery energy and photovoltaic solar systems. There have been conversations that have raised concern with the Governor's office related to ensuring that firefighters are safe and being trained. There are approximately seven bills related to battery energy storage currently going through the legislature that we are actively watching. Most of them are focused on formulating a committee, which is done. It also provides an avenue to have some deeper conversations about training curriculum and how it's paid for.

**Dave Gillotte** – Wanted to remind everyone that there was a windfall donation provision for social security problems – for all benefits payable from January 2024, you'll now have full social security. The theme for Frank Lima at the IFF and federal level is federal instability. Grant funding is gone now. FEMA remains intact but we need to figure out, with the federal government, how to get funding and logistically be able to get people deployed. Hoping to keep the same budget which is important for staffing. Also working to get a federal resumption for cancer. Workers who were getting \$14/hr were being exposed to smoke, especially in the US Forest Service. We're not getting any protection from cancer. Working to expand NIOSH firefighter fatality and post call investigations. They're the team we use to investigate line-of-duty deaths and suicide. Trying to expand the team that does these investigations. Moving to eliminate PFOS from turnout gear. A couple departments nationally have done it and Canada. Now there's the argument that turnout companies that have PFAS lobbying PFAS companies and get billions in contracts. This is just harmful for firefighters. In terms of cancer researcher, Derek Irwin from LA County Fire, is researching cancer for the fire service and just received \$10 million in funding for the California Firefighter Cancer Research Project that includes wildfire respiratory protection.

**Ed Foster** – CSFA has been working with the Pathways Committee, which has the mission of supporting and educating the next generation firefighters. They've been conducting workshops and seminar and sponsoring muskers in Northern and Southern California. CSFA is supporting the California Cancer Support Network which is having a Health and Welfare seminar in San Bernardino on September 27-28. The issue of cancer remains a top priority for firefighters and their exposures. Marty Creo vacated the position of Executive Director, so the Administration and Board of Directors are going through some manipulations. The Board of Directors has now been joined by Kevin Nida,



who was president of CSFA some years back. They are looking at revising the bylaws to keep the administrative portions up to date.

**Donald Butz** – The Fire Districts Association put out a Triple F fighting fire with funding white paper to identify shortfalls in local funding. The white papers will turn into an education program to educate legislators, Board members, and communities.

**Brian Marshall** – It's been busy in the State of California. I'm sure everyone is tracking wildfires, but we had a tsunami event that went on to test the system, especially in Northern California. We prepositioned resources in San Luis Obispo and Crescent City. We deployed resources to FEMA and the EMAC System to Texas and New Mexico. There was quite a challenge with that in a lot of different aspects, and we'll see how that plays out in the response. The California fire service definitely stepped up to respond to that. We have a lot of black on the ground in California and all we need is a couple of thunderstorms sitting over the black and we could be faced with the same situation as Texas. We're tracking resources as fires continue to burn and we're really getting in to peak fire season. It will be interesting to see how we go further into the year with resources. The Oregon fires are impacting our resources as well. President Rice mentioned nuclear power. We've been monitoring the Gifford fire with Diablo Canyon and then back to the state infrastructure grid. It's not just the fire itself but all of the cascading effects.

**Yvonne de la Pena** – This last fiscal year we funded over 30 million hours of training throughout the State of California. Also continuing the pre-apprenticeship program. We just had a site visit from Coamps for our accreditation, the final phase of our accreditation of paramedic school. We are now an accredited paramedic school and also provide the EMT training for pre-apprenticeship. We just started an EMT academy in San Diego this week. The LA Paramedic Academy just ended. Those coming out are all in internships and graduation is on August 30. We are starting a hybrid academy upgrade training. We are taking individuals who are in the fire service as an EMT or a firefighter who wants to upgrade to paramedic. The academy is starting in the bay area next month and includes individuals from San Mateo County Fire Department, Alameda County, Moran County, Livermore and Pleasanton. The cadre will be a makeup of all incumbent personnel in their departments. CalJAC is paying for education and the instruction. We secured an additional \$10 million to continue the pre-apprenticeship EMT and Paramedic training through 2028 which gives an additional 13 classes. The JAC conference is coming up November 12-14.

**Matthew Sully** – We are above our 5-year average in both incidents and acreage. We continue to compliment each other on the aggressive initial attack between the local, state and federal partners. We still have quite a few incidents going on. Most of the fires this year have been on federal land but we've all been supporting them. Last week we celebrated our 16<sup>th</sup> and final S70 Firehawk with a press conference. We're working through the last 2 helo bases in Northern California that will transition this year from the Huey platform to the S70. We're going to maintain a smaller fleet of Hueys for specialized operations but will not be seeing the Hueys out and about like we have over the past years. We've opened our fourth training center in Atwater and there will be continued training on the firefighter series as well as some of the company officer series. Part of the goal is to graduate roughly 600 firefighter students a year through our firefighter academy and another 600 through our company officer academy.

**Daniel Berlant** – Going back to the question regarding behavioral health and cancer awareness courses – there have been 117 registered Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness classes delivered since 2020. This does not include the elements that were part of the firefighter course. Held a very successful Battery Energy Storage Symposium. Almost every entity on this Board provided speakers or recommendations. The Symposium is available on our [YouTube page](#). There were over 200 participants in Sacramento, 1000 attendees virtually, and over 1100 hits on the YouTube page. There were four panels – Emergency Response/Firefighter Safety, Codes and Standards, Research and Emerging Technology, and a number of state agencies like the Energy, the Public Commission, and Gobiz who've been working on a local ordinance to help with streamlining permitting. The governor signed the 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Order, streamlining the LA recovery efforts. One of those efforts holds the current building code, which is supposed to switch over in January to the new updated building code. The Governor signed the Executive Order that ensures that future building that happens in the LA recovery areas is help to the existing 2021 code with the exception of the State Fire Marshal amendments to the building and fire code. While all the other

elements will be held, the wildfire provisions that were just brought to the building commission will still be required. Lastly, Katie Holmes will be providing an update on the new neighborhood that they just built in Escondido and San Diego County and how it's not just built out of the wildfire components, but the entire neighborhood is a designated wildfire prepared neighborhood by IBHS. If you're interested you can join the WMAC meeting on August 19 by clicking [here](#).

## F) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## G) UPCOMING MEETING DATES - 2025

November 5, 2025  
10:00am-12:00pm  
715 P Street, Room 2-301  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## H) ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 1158 hours.