



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Donald Butz, Fire Districts Association of California, Vice Chair
Matthew Sully, CAL FIRE
Yvonne de la Peña, California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, 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
Michael Williams, California State Firefighters Association *
Cindy Gustafson, County Supervisor
Len Nielsen, Cultural Burning Liaison

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter Munoa, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881
David Gillotte, International Association of Firefighters
Frank Lima, California Labor Federation
Janet Ruiz, Insurance Industry
Robert Magee, City Government

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

Vickie Sakamoto, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Chris Fowler, Division Chief
Brice Bennett, Division Chief
Wendy Collins, Division Chief
Carrie Lewis, Analyst II
Danh Dao, Analyst I

* Attended meeting virtually

A) CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Vickie Sakamoto called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 10:06 am.

1. Welcome and meeting logistics.
2. Roll Call was held; there was a quorum with 11 members present in person and one member attending via Zoom.

3. Approval of the February 11, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

Motion: Member Yvonne de la Peña moved to approve the February 11, 2026, meeting minutes. Member David Rocha seconded the motion.

Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Approval of the May 13, 2026, Meeting Agenda
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

Motion: Member Donald Butz moved to approve the May 13, 2026, meeting agenda; Member Zoraida Diaz seconded the motion.

Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

5. Announcements
There were no announcements.

B) CONSENT ITEMS

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

- a) [Glendale Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
- b) [San Jose Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
- c) [Vallejo Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
- d) [Solano College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- e) [Victor Valley College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)
- f) [State Certified Burn Boss – Administrative Updates](#)

Motion: Member Donald Butz moved to approve the Consent Items; Member Zoraida Diaz seconded the motion.

Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

C) INFORMATION ITEMS

Overall, universal changes in the NFPA, so content was moved from NFPA 1002 to the NFPA 1010 standard. There were apparatus terminology changes, but trainees can still use the following terms – fire apparatus, aerial apparatus, pumping, tiller and water tender, and wildland fire apparatus. As decided by the cadre and supported by the state, the NFPA changes will not be used. Added an OSFM standard to chapter 7, pumping to fill an apparatus, because that was excluded. The course plans have universal changes that apply to all, including instructor levels. The recommendation was to reduce the student ratio from 1 to 10 to 1 to 6. There were a lot of conversations about cost impact of the additional registered instructor delivering these courses, so the compromise was 1 to 8.

1. [Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

Added Fire Apparatus/Driver Operator 1B as the first prerequisite, so trainees need pumping apparatus training before they can operate aerial. Increasingly, they now carry water, so operators need to come with that knowledge. There is now a 4-hour minimum

drive time experience on aerial apparatus recommended which does not exist for any other apparatus single series. Under facilities, equipment, and personnel assistive instructors were removed.

2. [Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

For course plan 1B, tillered apparatus operations, we've added Fire Apparatus/Driver Operator 1B because they now carry water and 1C was removed as a requirement. There were changes to skills coaches and those that support the applications and activities have also been updated.

3. [Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Wildland \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

For Wildland Fire Apparatus Operations, added Driver Operator 1A was added for the 2017 course and 1B pumping. These details were already required but they were missing a course plan. The course changed from 24 to 27 hours. This is not an actual change in hours; the timetable was incorrect so that was fixed.

4. [Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Water Tender \(2024\) Curriculum](#)

New content was added on filling pumping apparatus. This is not covered by NFPA, but students need that organizational-level training. Hours were changed to accommodate the new content from 27 to 32.

D) OSFM DIVISION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. State Fire Training Division

a) [FY 2026/27 Curriculum Development and Related Projects](#)

Scheduled Fire Emergency Services Instructor 1, 2, and 3 in June. This is slightly ahead of the fiscal year because there's an opportunity to partner with Sacramento State in the early summer. There will be 3 FSTEP classes required for Instructor 3 - Group Dynamics, Employing Audiovisual Aids, and Techniques of Evaluation. These courses will be combined and added into the FESI series. The content from 2017 is very outdated so we'll be removing any duplicate content and embedding that into the courses.

We are updating two of the EPSIT courses – Incident Safety Awareness Hired Vendor and Fire Service Labor/Management Relations. The OSFM administered Statutes and Regulations is also scheduled for an update this year.

New curriculum is proposed and one class is a Professional Standards and Mediation course. Still carrying funds from the previous fiscal year to adopt a current course as an FSTEP and also Dive Rescue. That's the last course in the series which would become state certification similar to the marine groups that developed until 2023.

b) Title 19 Update

The updated Title 19 State Fire Training Procedures Manual was adopted and successful through the OAL process and published on the State Fire Training website on April 1.

c) Accredited Academy Steering Committee

We brought to this group the proposal that we update in the next iteration of the procedures manual the requirements for accredited academies. We're working

on pre-2000 criteria, which no longer applies. It's about 30 years old and no longer applies to the current academy environment. We've created a steering committee that is working on updating that content.

d) **Accredited Academy Boot Camp**

The Boot Camp was hosted online and there were approximately 70 attendees statewide. This was an opportunity for our stakeholders to meet our staff in a virtual format and learn what they do and how we serve them. There was an open forum for questions about anything from course scheduling to registration to certification to how to apply to be a cadre.

2. Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

a) **Subdivision Review**

Matt Damon, Staff Chief, Office of the State Fire Marshal, presented an overview of the Subdivision Review Program, an element of the Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Program (CWMAP), focusing on data collection and recommendations.

b) **National Emergency Response Information Systems (NERIS)**

Emily Smith, Staff Chief, Office of the State Fire Marshal, presented an overview of NERIS, the National Emergency Response Information Systems that officially replaced NIMFIRS on January 1, providing incident reporting analytics.

3. Fire Engineering & Investigations

- a) [The Public Safety Fireworks Enforcement Task Force report](#) has been published and is on the Fireworks Program webpage and available for distribution. There are recommendations within the report that can be utilized within your own jurisdictions. The industry has requested an opportunity to give their perspective to the fireworks problem in California which is included in Appendix A of the report. With American 250 happening, we are expecting an uptick in fireworks usage in California. The Arson & Bomb Unit maintains a fireworks seizure form available on the [Fireworks Program website](#) for local governments to submit requests for fireworks pick-up. Fireworks should not be transported in bags but instead should be in boxes.
- b) A requirement for fireworks storage was sent to licensees that in order to renew their license they must produce a letter or permit from the authority having jurisdiction that shows they are aware of the explosive storage facility within their jurisdiction.

Code Development & Analysis

a) [Single Exit Stair Report](#)

Driven by AB 835 it was mandated that CAL FIRE produce a report of facts and findings on single exit stairs or single stairway buildings. There was a code comparison looking at considerations for fire protection, egress, operational needs, firefighter concerns, and costs. There was an appendix created with mitigations and considerations for those jurisdictions that may want to consider alternate means. Currently the max allowed for a single stair building is 3 stories. The bill proposal wanted to increase to above 3 stories. CAL FIRE brought together partners such as the Building Standards Commission, Housing & Community Development, the California Professional Firefighters, and other state agencies, housing advocates, and legislative lobbyists. The report can be found on the [Code Development website](#).

b) **Intervening Code Cycle Proposal**

California is currently in an intervening code cycle for current codes. One of the movements relates to hazardous materials and transitioning to the Global Harmonized System (GHS) which classifies hazardous materials. Carbon monoxide has expanded from homes to all occupancies, so clarification is needed for what the needs are when installed in very large spaces (i.e., Costco). There's a proposal to expand the use of GWP (low global warming potential) refrigerants for HVAC systems. The housing community and Builders Association strongly encourage the use of these refrigerants in construction. Part 7, the California Wildland Urban Interface had emergency regulations that were adopted and approved in October 2025. The legislation expanded the construction requirement in the WUI area from not only the very high designated zone for LRA but into the high.

5. Pipeline Safety & CUPA

a) CO2

SB 614 revises the definition of a pipeline for the purposes of the existing Elder California Pipeline Safety Act of 1981, to include not just hazardous liquid pipelines but also to include intrastate pipelines used for the transportation of carbon dioxide. We were directed to adopt regulations governing the safe transportation of CO2 pipelines that were to be as protective as the draft regulations that were issued and rescinded by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on January 10, 2025. We have an adoption deadline of July 1, 2026, to get a regulations package out.

6. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Work Group Update

- a) The BESS workgroup continues to meet monthly but can't seem to get a quorum. The PPE subgroup has had their first meeting and completed a rough draft of how to address PPE for the fire service on battery energy storage systems.

F) PRESENTATIONS

- 1. FireWERX, Accelerating Innovation & Technology for the Fire Service - Chris Anthony, FireWERX
- 2. Review of the California Training Officers Symposium and The Alignment of Command/Control Theme – Brian Price, Fremont Fire Department

G) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. SBFS Member On-Boarding Documents
Board members should provide feedback/comments on the onboarding document by June 30, 2026.

H) MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

There were no member updates.

I) PUBLIC COMMENT

It was commented that Brian Rice, former President of California Professional Firefighter, has retired and will be replaced by Darrel Roberts.

J) UPCOMING MEETING DATES - 2026

August 12, 2026

10:00am-12:00pm

715 P Street, Room 2-302 A/B

Sacramento, CA 95814

K) ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm hours.