



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Pacific Standard Time

Office of the State Fire Marshal

715 P Street, Room 2-310, Sacramento, CA 95814

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair

*Yvonne De La Peña, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Chris Anthony, Chief Deputy Director, CAL FIRE

Ed Foster, California State Firefighters Association

*Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association

Brain Marshall, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

*Pete Muñoz, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881

*David Rocha, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs

*Frank Lima, California Labor Federation

*Michael Smith, California Fire Chiefs Association

*Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighter

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Jerry Davies, California Fire Safe Council, and Insurance Industry, Vice Chair

Robert Magee, City Government

Moke Simon County Government

David Gillotte International Association of Fire Fighters

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director, Fire & Life Safety, State Fire Training, Code Development & Analysis

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal

*Greg Andersen, Division Chief, Fire Engineering & Investigations

*Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation and Fire Engineering & Investigations

*Ben Ho, CAL FIRE OSFM Retired Annuitant

Kevin Chan, Operations Manager Pipeline Safety Division

Daniel Bluford, Support Services Division, Support Analyst.

(* attended meeting remotely)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daniel Berlant called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1340 hours.

A. Welcome and meeting logistics

B. Roll Call

Roll call was held, and quorum was declared at 1341 hours.

C. Announcements

There were no announcements.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Daniel Berlant asked Assistant Deputy Director overseeing State Fire Training (SFT) Andrew Henning to go through the five consent items.

Andrew Henning gave the SFT consent item report. He stated up for reaccreditation were San Bernardino County Fire, Chabot College, and Shasta College.

Andrew Henning gave the SFT consent item report. He stated the following program updates were State-Certified Prescribed-Fire Burn Boss updating its instructor-to-student ratios from 1 to 24 to increasing it to 1 to 30 instructor-to-student ratios. The last update was the Fire Marshal Task Book Update SFT has added another Public Information Officer (PIO) course to meet demands, and SFT recommends moving the PIO course from a task book prerequisite to a task book completion to close the task book allowing students to work on completing the task book.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked if any members would like to remove an item for discussion.

Member Ed Foster asked a question on consent item #5 Fire Marshal Task Book.

Chair Daniel Berlant removed Item # 5 for discussion.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve consent items 1 through 4.

It was moved by Member Ed Foster to approve consent items 1 through 4; the motion was seconded by Member Michael Williams. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1346 hours.

Chair Daniel Berlant opened it up for discussion.

Members asked Andrew Henning on the attachment why it shows the certification task book with the date of 2016, also on the tasking document, a recent revision of 2022.

Andrew Henning answered 2016 on the Task Book is based on NFPA Professional qualification standards that the task book is based on. When SFT updated the task book it was indicated on page two and also on the footer

Chair Daniel Berlant asked if any members had any other questions or comments for consent item #5 Fire Marshal Task Book Updates.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve consent item #5.

It was moved by Member Brain Marshall to approve consent item #5; the motion was seconded by Member Michael Williams. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1348 hours.

3. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. State Fire Training Division

1) Marine Firefighter for the Land-Based Firefighter Curriculum.

Andrew Henning stated this is a new course and certification . Originally this came to SBFS for a first read in November and no public comments were provided. This course is based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1005 which is shipboard firefighting for the land-based firefighter. SFT also coordinated this with the United States Coast Guard for best practices.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve Marine Firefighter for Land-Based Firefighter Curriculum.

It was moved by Member Brian Marshall to approve; the motion was seconded by Member Brian Rice. Chair Daniel Berlant called any discussion. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1350 hours.

2) Incident Safety for The Agricultural Land and Livestock Producers' Curriculum

Andrew Henning stated this course was required to be developed per Assembly Bill 1103 and it's a course that will most likely not be delivered within the SFT system. This course will be delivered primarily through the agriculture or the county agriculture commissioners. Once this course is taken, participants are eligible for a county pass in the event their community is impacted by wildfire, allowing workers of the agriculture and livestock producers to go to their ranches, go to their farms to be able to take care of their livestock or crops. The county agricultural department can determine who they think is suitable to be an instructor for the course.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked if any members had any other questions or comments for

Member Pete Munoa asked what the basis of what is being identified for the development of this curriculum. Is SBFS not going to have eyes on what's being delivered by the local ag commissioner?

Andrew Henning answered SFT was required to develop the course. The course is not required to be delivered within the SFT system, SFT oversight is limited to what is within a registered SFT course. SFT has set the baseline requirements for what needs to be delivered in the course and it's up to the County to deliver the course in accordance with the course outline.

Board Member Pete Munoa stated that based on what has been identified within the legislation and what the OSFM obligation is to make sure that these things are identified, his concern is each independent county will choose how the course can be delivered, and that there's not going to be checks and balances.

Andrew Henning answered it will allow those producers to have documentation that they've had this class. Producers can't go out to their properties without the approval of the incident commander (IC).

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve.

It was moved by Member Mike Williams to approve; a motion seconded by Member Ed Foster. Chair Daniel Berlant called any discussion. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote, Member Pete Munoa abstained, and the motion was passed with abstention at 1358 hours.

3) Fire-Fighter Survival

Andrew Henning stated this is an update to the existing Fire-Fighter Survival course that was last updated in 2010. SFT has correlated the curriculum with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fire Fighter's Ground Survival Awareness course. The curriculum allows students to recognize and engage in skills necessary to minimize errors on the fire ground and reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities using timely and relevant information techniques. This course remains at 16 hours in duration with minimal updates to the course content.

4) Fire-Fighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Operations

Andrew Henning stated this curriculum allows students to recognize and engage in skills necessary to minimize errors on the fire grounds and reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities using timely and relevant information. SFT also utilizes NFPA standards and looked at Firescope and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reference documents in the development of this course. This course does have an 8-hour increase. The previous workup course was 24 hours.

5) Machinery Rescue Technician

Andrew Henning stated this was one of the new courses that were identified that needed to be added for the federal USAR teams.

6) Fire-Fighter 1 Cognitive Exam

Andrew Henning stated that there was an increase in testing time for Fire Fighter 1 exams. When SFT originally rolled out firefighter HAZ MAT exams, it was a combined exam for Awareness and Operations. When SFT transitioned from the legacy testing platform to Acadis, the legacy test platform was able to grade the awareness questions and the operations questions individually. Based on recommendations from the subject matter experts who independently review the exams, they recommended that SFT should increase the number of questions to 25 for both exams and change the testing time from a 1/2 hour to one hour. In the pilot program for the 25-question exam, they have seen better student performance on the exams because it gives the students more opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of those task items.

Member, Chris Anthony asked Andrew Henning Have you seen an overall increase in the number of students that are passing the exam or is there not enough data to be able to evaluate?

Andrew Henning answered and stated he recently talked to an accredited academy, and they said that they were seeing roughly a 70% average test score go up to 90% for their with the additional test questions. SFT has seen improvements in the exam with the consultation that we've been doing for about the past three years with California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

7) SFT UPDATES

Andrew Henning gave the SFT update report. He stated a work group is meeting at CSUS to work on the development of SFT's strategic plan which the working title of Blueprint 2030. The last strategic plan that SFT came up with was back in 2008 and that was Blueprint 2020. When the report's final draft is completed, OSFM leadership, STEAC and SBFS will review and approval the report

SFT's last fee adjustment was back in 2020. SFT evaluated at the revenue and it is adequate, so no need for any type of fee adjustment for next year. SFT had a budget change proposal that went into effect in July and SFT added several new positions, SFT reports still has two vacant positions left that we are in the final hiring stages.

SFT is in the process of accepting credit card payments for our courses. Acadis is currently doing a feature enhancement for us that will allow instructors to pay for courses. SFT has spent a lot of staff time hunting down delinquent invoices. So under the new business model, when this feature is fully developed, course diplomas will not be released to students until SFT receives full payment.

B. Fire Engineering & Investigations Division

Greg Andersen stated most of FE&I's fee packages for different programs are done. FE&I has two that are pending. The fireworks program fee packages are with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), there are some comments that FE&I are addressing. FE&I has the Automatic Extinguishing System (AES) fee package, which had a lot of comments that FE&I is addressing. The comments were based on changes that we have already corrected.

Ben Ho added FE&I has a proposal package for a section 206 and 208 of Title 19 for the Building Materials Listing (BML) program and that is going through the approval process right now.

C. Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation Division

Frank Bigelow stated the division is working on the rollout of the new online burn permit process to help citizens more effectively and quickly receive their online burn permits for all the suite of our burn permits. CWPM is also working on drafting the language for the new 0 to 5-foot Ember-resistant zone with the Board of Forestry. CWPM created a portal for defensible space inspections by which somebody can request a defensible space inspection to meet the intent of the new Civil Code 1102.19. That is, for home sales transactions and CWPM is also working on developing a comprehensive home hardening program with a joint powers authority (JPA) between CAL FIRE and CAL OES.

Frank Bigelow shared a PowerPoint presentation for CWPM (PowerPoint attached)

The Fire Hazard Severity Zones PowerPoint address, Remap Objectives, Maps Hazard not "RISK", and Identify levels of fire hazard, and 3 levels (Moderate, High, & Very High).

CWPM started the public comment period on new regulations for State Responsibility Areas (SRA), on December 16, 2022. CWPM conducted a public hearing in each county with the SRA on February 3, 2023. The public comments period ends on April 4, 2023. Anyone can make comments on the map by visiting the OSFM website or using a search engine and typing Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ). There will be a 60-day notice prior to the start of the review process. The City and County have 30 days to set a public comment and 120 days to adopt through an ordinance.

The CWPM PowerPoint covers the California Climate Initiative (CCI) Wildfire Prevention Grants and Grant projects overview. What CWPM funds is hazardous fuels reduction prevention planning, community protection plans, other planning documents, local hazard mitigation plans, and fund public education dollars. Those eligible include State, Federal, Native American, and Local governments, JPA, and Nonprofits that are 501C3 designations.

Member Ed Foster asked Frank Bigelow under the State Responsibility Area (SRA) map do you have a timeframe for when that will be completed?

Frank Bigelow responded with because of public comments no definitive time. CWPM has not finalized how that will be distributed. Legislation has changed in the last several years and added time frames requiring the local jurisdiction to adopt it within a certain time frame.

D. Code Development & Analysis Division

Greg Andersen stated that CDA is reviewing numerous Title 19 packages. Several are coming from FE&I, Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), and SFT. CDA is updating the 2022 building Standards code. It is in the process of the code advisory committees, the building, fire, and other Advisory Committees which will be presenting the bulk of our proposals to the advisory committee. In the California existing building code, there was an appeal through the Building Standards Commission to look at the other chapters that currently did not publish. CDA had an active workgroup to modify the regulations in Chapters 6 through 11, which are the work area method that will help the designers define the area that they're working in.

CDA will also be publishing Chapter 13, but not adopting the performance-based chapter. It is a tool for designers to use for alternate memes, to understand some of the principles behind them, and for some justification.

CDA is working with the Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation program to put in the Model Ordinance for Communities, for the doctrine of fire severity zones.

CDA is meeting in March with the Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical, and Energy Advisory Committee (PEME). CDA is bringing in the A2L allowances for The A2L refrigerants, which have a much lower global warm potential, they did cross the line to where they are now, flammable gas though they are not very flammable.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Daniel Berlant called for old business and asked for the status of the SBFS and California Highway Patrol (CHP) incident training video.

Andrew Henning stated that the CAL FIRE Communications group will produce the video and is finalizing the script. OSFM is in the process of restarting communication with CHP. The revised script CAL FIRE will finalize before going into production, and make sure it's approved by CHP. We will have a better understanding at the next SBFS meeting of when we should see a finalized video. The video will go through the approval process of CHP as well as CAL FIRE and SBFS for review and approval prior to the video being released.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

Member Ed Forster gave an update that the Fire Service magazine is published an article about SBFSSs.

Member Yvonne De La Pena gave an update that CAL JAC conferences coming up in April 2023

Member Frank Lima gave an update that Fire Fighters PPE/turnouts are starting to become a factor for cancer. Also, the Firefighter Fatality investigation team is still underfunded.

Member Brian Marshall gave an update that CAL OES has a new Director Nancy Ward that started on January 1, 2023.

Member David Roche gave an update that Assembly Budget Subcommittee will meet and then on Tuesday, they meet with the Senate. There is a reduction in some of the one-time funding in the wildfire-enforced resilience package.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments.

8. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

May 18, August 17, and November 16.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 1454 hours.