



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal

2251 Harvard Street, Rm 441, Sacramento, CA 95815

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- *Mike Richwine, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair
- *Jerry Davies, California Fire Safe Council and Insurance Industry, Vice Chair
- *Craig Tolmie, Chief Deputy Director, CAL FIRE
- *Ed Foster, California State Firefighters Association
- *Moke Simon, County Government
- *Pete Muñoa, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881
- *David Rocha, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
- *David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters
- *Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association
- *Michael Smith, California Fire Chiefs Association
- *Robert Magee, City Government

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Mark Ghilarducci, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Brian K. Rice, California Professional Firefighters
Frank Lima, California Labor Federation

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

- *Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal
- *Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director, Fire & Life Safety, State Fire Training, Code Development & Analysis
- *Greg Andersen, Division Chief, Code Development & Analysis
- *Kevin Chan, Special Assistant to the State Fire Marshal
- *Mark Bisbee, Fire Training Specialist, State Fire Training
- *Ben Ho, Retired Annuitant, Fire Engineering & Investigations

GUESTS:

- *Kim Zagaris, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- *Yvonne De La Peña, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
- *Kelly Abreu, Public Guest, Mission Peak Conservancy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Richwine called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1331 hours.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was held, and quorum declared at 1336 hours.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions of staff and guests were conducted.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Mike Richwine asked for approval of the Minutes of the August 19th, 2021, meeting.

It was moved by Member Mike Williams to approve the meeting minutes; motion seconded by Member Moke Simon. Chair Mike Richwine called for public comment.

Guest Kelly Abreu commented on the agenda item in the old business related to the SBFS/CHP (State Board of Fire Services/California Highway Patrol) Highway Incident Training Video. He noted that the situations were not isolated incidents and mentioned that he was in San Diego in 2014 when a Chula Vista Fire Engineer was handcuffed and put into a police car. He noted that it happened again in Montecito, California, in 2010. He mentioned that he appreciated that the problem was being addressed so that fire professional could do their jobs.

Chair Mike Richwine thanked him and stated on record that CHP is working collaboratively with SBFS on the training program. Chair Mike Richwine then asked for a vote to approve the minutes.

A vote was taken, and the motion was carried by majority at 1341 hours. Member Mike Smith abstained because he was absent at the August 19th meeting.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Mike Richwine asked if anyone wanted to pull any items off the consent items for discussion. Member Mike Smith requested to pull item number five, "Recognized Fire Departments," to be discussed separately. Chair Mike Richwine asked for a motion to approve items one, two, three, four, and six.

It was moved by Member Dave Gillotte to approve the consent items; motion seconded by Member Pete Muñoa. Chair Mike Richwine called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1343 hours.

Chair Mike Richwine turned the floor to Member Mike Smith for discussion of item five.

Member Mike Smith had one question. He noted that it did not appear that the tribal fire departments of federally recognized tribes or state recognized tribes were included in those recognized fire agencies under any definition and asked how tribal fire departments in California would be dealt with.

Chair Mike Richwine responded that they have to have a legal jurisdiction and governance, and that governance has to be recognized. As it relates to State Fire Training (SFT), they have to have the resources to become an accredited academy and the resources to support the training activities. He then turned it over to Andrew Henning to weigh in.

Andrew Henning stated that they currently have a lot of agencies in their system that have had no updates to the fire chiefs or authorized signatories. They also have fire brigades in the system. Per the direction from the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC), they looked into that and came forward with a policy. The staff report limits who can participate in the SFT system in regard to tribal fire departments. They will amend the staff report to include the tribal departments that are responsible for their jurisdiction.

Member Mike Smith suggest amending it similar to where the staff report says “United States Military Fire Department stationed within California” so that California tribal fire departments, or tribal fire departments operated by a recognized tribal government and the State of California, would be recognized.

Member Mike Williams made a couple of comments. Regarding the classification of agencies, he asked if “fire brigades” is a catch all term or if it is that specific. He also asked if that included fire companies because there was no reference to fire companies in the staff report. He felt it would probably be wise to specify what fire brigade means. He didn’t have any issue with the policy but felt it should clarify some of those areas.

Andrew Henning thanked him for the feedback.

Chair Mike Richwine asked for a motion to approve.

It was moved by Member Mike Smith to approve the consent items; motion seconded by Member Mike Williams. Chair Mike Richwine called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1348 hours.

7. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Andrew Henning gave the State Fire Training report. He stated that they are accepting cadre member applications and that the deadline to apply is November 28th. He said that there will be several different curriculum cadres: a firefighter survival cadre, a cadre to update their rapid intervention crew operations (RIC), and a cadre to update their trench rescue curriculum. They will also be transitioning from their vehicle extrication course to a common passenger vehicle, which is the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) definition. He also mentioned that if that cadre has time, it will also be adding a larger vehicle that is designed for buses and heavy equipment, which is also an NFPA standard. For SBFS Members, he mentioned that there were issues to the prior update to firefighter survival, so he wanted to make sure that they were staying in alignment with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) course. He said they are seeking a recommendation for a current IAFF instructor to participate in the cadre.

Member Dave Gillotte offered to check with IAFF District 10 to look for instructors to participate. He will be working directly with Andrew Henning on this.

Andrew Henning reported that the Structural Collapse cadre met in the fall and that they hope to bring it to the SBFS in the February meeting for a first reading. They are also working on updates on the Confined Space Rescue courses.

Mark Bisbee gave a subcommittee update on the California Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE). The report he gave had gone to STEAC the month prior. SFT has a pathway to higher education program. Phase one was completed in 2019 and that was the articulation of the Chief Fire Officer programs. Phase two is underway. That is to get American Council on Education accreditation for the Executive Chief Fire Officer and the Fire Marshal series, to get higher education credits for those courses. Phase three will center on a potential Center of Excellence, either in person or virtually in conjunction with the community colleges and the California State University (CSU) system. STEAC's subcommittee for FESHE convened in June and July and went through a Vision 2030 process. He is leading the California FESHE consortium, which consists of five to eight CSU campuses and the fire tech directors from the community college system. The CSU system wanted to know what the fire service wants, so that question was taken to STEAC, and a committee was formed. The expansion of FESHE will include administrative staff, current and future non-agency workforces, and fire researchers and scientists. They evaluated the needs of the future fire and emergency service professionals and determined what skills were needed to keep up with the evolving landscape that we're in. There is a national model, but it doesn't necessarily suit the needs of California, as there is little mention of wildland. Because it needs to be modified, they are coming up with a California FESHE career development model that is based off the national model.

Member Jerry Davies asked if there was a timeline when some of the new courses would be offered.

Mark Bisbee responded that many of the courses have been offered since 2019 and that many of the courses are available right now. But the rest still need work and will be available a couple years down the road.

Member Jerry Davies followed up with a question and asked if high school students from another state could move to California and participate in these programs in the future.

Mark Bisbee responded that they could do that right now at the community college level. It is called a two-plus-two where they spend two years in community college taking their general education that is transferrable to a CSU.

Greg Andersen gave a Code Development & Analysis update. He stated that they were wrapping up the 2022 Building Standards Code for California. The Commission hearings for the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and energy codes will be in December and then the remainder, which will include the building, fire, and other codes, will be in January. They will go out to the publisher by July 1st of 2022 and will be effective on January first of 2023. One of the big items for State Fire Marshal is the fire code in chapter 49, which includes the wildland urban interface and will include excerpts and pointers to the Public Resources Code and Title 14, and will include defensible spaces, community planning, and vegetation management. They wanted to put it all in one spot for the fire service to get more compliance and equal enforcement throughout the state. They also worked on other things that were driven by statute, such as specified state occupied buildings from Senate Bill 85, large family daycares from Senate Bill 234, and vehicle protection for energy storage systems. At the International Code cycle, they have completed Group A codes which will be their 2024 codes and will be California's 2025 codes. That was completed this fall in Pittsburgh and includes the fire code and most of our building code sections that affect the fire service. Next year will be moving into Group B for the residential code.

Chair Mike Richwine mentioned that the International Code Council (ICC) has developed a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code and that we are looking to adopt it in California. He asked Greg Andersen to talk about the progress of that workgroup process.

Greg Andersen stated that the WUI workgroup has been meeting for over a decade to address the building standards. They have codes at the ICC level and the workgroup is examining if it is possible to use that as a model code. It will require modifications that will not be a part of the intervening cycle, so it will be a part of the next triennial cycle. They are including the Board of Forestry in the discussions.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Andrew Henning gave a report on the collaborative SBFS/CHP Highway Incident Training Video. The working group met at the end of October to brainstorm ideas and content, and the CHP has taken the information back to their public information office develop a storyboard for the videos. The workgroup will be meeting again in early December to review the concepts and figure out how to move forward. The goal is to have a short video with Gordon Graham and a fire representative narrating back and forth. The brainstorm found that many of fire service priorities were the same as the CHP's priorities, with very few priorities specific only to either entity.

Member Mike Williams added that there was also interest in developing additional short videos for line supervision and administrative staff.

Member Pete Muñoa added that the workgroup went well, and he sees a lot of opportunities to improve the relationship between fire and the CHP.

Chair Mike Richwine mentioned that the fire representative for the video, Joe Castro, was retired and that he heard they were working with IAFF to find a replacement. Andrew Henning stated that there was a recommendation during the workgroup meeting to recruit Michael Goldfeder, a fire representative from out of state, to take Joe Castro's place. The group discussed the matter, and it was agreed that the fire representative should also be from California. One of the names that was recommended was Paul Stein.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10. ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Member Craig Tolmie gave a CAL FIRE report. He stated that CAL FIRE was fully staffed statewide and would be monitoring staffing needs into December, dependent on weather conditions. He also announced that CAL FIRE Director Thom Porter, as well as himself, would be retiring in December and that the Department would be going through a period of transition.

Member Ed Foster reported that Jeff Meston has moved over to work with Cal Chiefs Association and that the California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) has appointed Marty Creel, from the Downieville Fire Department, as interim executive director.

Yvonne De La Peña gave the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CalJAC) report. They are working on their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Academy in Los Angeles and currently have 51 candidates. They are also working on some curriculum

projects such as the Behavioral Health project for the Fire Fighter 1 curriculum and their Wildfire curriculum.

Member Moke Simon reported that they are working on some home hardening programs in Lake County and updating their community wildfire protection plans.

Member Pete Muñoa had no report for CAL FIRE Local 2881 but wanted to extend his congratulations to Craig Tolmie on his retirement at the end of the year.

Kevin Chan reported on the State Board of Fire Services. He reported that there were still two vacancies within the Board that needed to be filled. One for a representative for the Fire Districts Association of California and the other for a member representative of the Fire Districts. He also reported on Senate Bill 817 which made a change to the California Health and Safety Code and permitted the ex-officio members of the Board to assign a designee to attend on their behalf. The designee would count towards quorum and would be able to vote on behalf of the ex-officio. He informed the Board that ex-officios would need to submit wet signature letters on department letterhead in order to assign designees.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Kelly Abreu commented on a discrepancy between existing laws and the enforcement at local levels. He stated that the Health and Safety Code needed to be enforced at the local level.

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Upcoming meeting dates in 2022 are February 17, May 19, August 18, November 17.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mike Richwine adjourned the meeting at 1442 hours.