



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 20, 2020

CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal

2251 Harvard Street, Rm 441, Sacramento, CA 95815

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Richwine, State Fire Marshal, Acting, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair
Ed Foster, California State Firefighters Association

Moke Simon, County Government

Pete Muñoa, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881

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

*Brian K. Rice, California Professional Firefighters

*Frank Lima, California Labor Federation

*David Rocha, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs

*David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters

*Michael Smith, California Fire Chiefs Association

*Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association

*Robert Magee, City Government

(* attended via conference call)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Craig Tolmie, Chief Deputy Director, CAL FIRE

Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Mark Ghilarducci, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

Andrew Henning, Division Chief, State Fire Training

Greg Andersen, Division Chief, Code Development and Analysis

Steve Hawks, Deputy Chief of Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

Kevin Chan, Special Assistant to the State Fire Marshal

Julie Marvich, Office Technician, Office of the State Fire Marshal

*Kevin Conant, Fire Training Specialist III, State Fire Training

GUESTS:

Yvonne de la Peña, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CaJJAC)

Brian Marshall, Fire Chief, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Mike Massone, Captain, San Diego Federal Firefighters

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Richwine called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1304 hours, at CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) headquarters at 2251 Harvard Street, Suite 441, Sacramento, CA 95815. Chair Richwine provided a logistics and safety briefing.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was held and quorum declared at 1308 hours.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions of staff and guests were conducted.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Richwine asked for approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting.

It was moved by Member Pete Muñoa to approve the consent items; motion seconded by Member Moke Simon. Motion was carried unanimously at 1309 hours.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Brian Rice reported on the Porterville Library Fire and the loss of fire captain Ray Figueroa and firefighter Patrick Jones. Service planning to take place within the next day. Chair Richwine asked if their families were getting the peer support they needed and Member Rice confirmed that they were.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chief Andrew Henning requested the reaccreditation of the Santa Monica Fire Department. Site evaluation was conducted on June 17th. They have demonstrated a steadfast devotion to fire training, safety and standardizations. They are currently seeking a 4.5 year accreditation. Accreditations are typically for 5 years, but they are seeking a 6-month delay.

Chief Henning requested approval of the Fire Fighter II (FFII) tenured path, which formed out of the steering committee and essentially allows members who have been on the floor or who have been working for at least 4 years to apply for FFII certification even if they don't have their Fire Fighter I (FFI) certification. State Fire Training's system has always been set up where you must have your FFI certification before you can apply for your FFII certification. With the retirement of the 2001 FFI curriculum, the process for a fire chief to sign off the red scantron as a proof of training was no longer an option. The next option was to use the 2013 FFI curriculum, which required a task book certification and had a requirement for certification testing. The goal of this tenured path is to allow members who have been on the job for 4 or more years, and have had the training for the FFI, but never obtained their certification to obtain a FFII certification.

They would have to complete a FFII tenured path taskbook which has all the job performance requirements from both the FFI taskbook and the FFII taskbook. This taskbook would also list all their experience. The cost for this process would be \$80. JAC FF1 would meet the requirements. The evaluator could use the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) training record to sign off task book items. Those who have less than four years of experience would have to go through certification test to obtain their FFI and then FFII. This program expires on Dec 31, 2021, and will retire when FFII 2013 curriculum and certification retires in December 2021. This was approved by the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) at the last meeting.

Chief Henning requests retiring the 1996 River and Flood Water Rescue Curriculum as of July 6th, 2020. The 2019 curriculum meets current industry standards and succeeds the 1996 curriculum.

It was moved by Member Mike Williams to approve the consent items; motion seconded by Member Rice.

Member Frank Lima arrived via teleconference at 1319 hours and was recognized by Chair Richwine.

Motion was carried unanimously at 1319 hours.

7. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chief Henning requested and recommended the initial three year accreditation of the San Bernardino County Fire District. The site evaluation was conducted on October 29, 2019.

It was moved by Member Williams to approve the curriculum; motion seconded by Member Foster. Motion was carried unanimously at 1322 hours.

Chief Henning advised the Members that the FSTEP Fire Control 3 was tabled by STEAC based on feedback from stakeholders. This will be brought back to STEAC in April and then to State Board of Fire Services in May. State Fire Training staff is working with their curriculum cadre to address the feedback received at the STEAC meeting. They conducted three pilot courses at the end of 2019 and are finishing a survey to the students who attended the course. There were also concerns over a nozzle requirement, which required a 30 to 60 gallons per minute (gpm) nozzle that most departments in California and the United States don't carry. This nozzle came out of a European study. No action was taken on this item.

Chief Henning requested the approval imbedding the Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness into the Fire Fighter 1A 2019 course plan. This is also being developed as a standalone course. This is only to move forward the embedded portion into the FFI curriculum. The biggest thing is the recommendation that the delivery of this course only requires meeting the requirements of a firefighter instructor. Utilizing the guest lecturer requirements, SFT is encouraging all departments or colleges delivering this curriculum to use an appropriate subject matter expert. Using guest lecturers pre-empts the requirement to be a registered instructor with SFT.

It was moved by Member Muñoa to approve the curriculum; motion seconded by Member Simon.

Member Ed Foster asked who evaluates the guest speaker and wanted to know if it was the primary instructor. Chief Henning confirmed that it was.

Chief Richwine recognized Captain Mike Massone for his contributions to the program. Captain Massone encouraged unanimous approval and support of this important piece of the FFI curriculum and emphasized how this was newly created by a cadre of subject matter experts. This could change the face of fire service and save lives.

Chief Henning went on to thank Captain Massone and Chief Rob Wheatley for the time they spent working on this.

Brian Rice also thanked Captain Massone on behalf of California Professional Firefighters (CPF).

Kevin Conant, the cadre lead, emphasized the how the members of the FFI cadre were intentionally included in this cadre. He also recognized the significant involvement of CalJAC and the CPF, especially to ensure alignment with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and currently chaptered legislation.

Chief Henning thanks Kevin Conant and Caryn Petty for their work on this. He mentioned that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is developing a professional standard for behavioral health and the work the group did will be in alignment with the national level.

Chair Richwine thanked everyone for their participation in this. He was very impressed with the level of knowledge, experience, and professionalism that was represented in the cadre.

Motion was carried unanimously at 1333 hours.

Chief Henning requested approval of the Chief Fire Officer 3D curriculum update and turned the floor to Kevin Conant to give the briefing.

Since the NFPA compliant Chief Fire Officer certification track was published in 2014, we've received significant feedback from stakeholders. There is a gap in Incident Command at the Chief Officer level. There are 80 hours of instruction for all-risk incidents and 40 hours for wildland fires, but only 24 hours for the Chief Officer Incident Management. Even though this was NFPA compliant, it was not in alignment with any of the other organizational bodies that we try to co-certify with. We came up with a 40-hour class that will co-certify someone in the S-300 Extended Attack Incident Commander and fills in that gap.

It was moved by Member Simon to approve the curriculum; motion seconded by Member Williams. Motion was carried unanimously at 1337 hours.

Chief Henning provided information on the State Certified Prescribed Burn Boss curriculum. This was developed in response to Senate Bill 1260. SFT was directed to develop a curriculum of continuing education requirements to support a statewide burn boss training and certification program. This training is not developed for fire fighters, but rather for private citizens. The 40-hour course is designed for prescribed fire practitioners, private prescribed fire contractors, non-profit prescribed fire organizations, and landowners with special interest in fire ecology and range improvement. STEAC unanimously supported disallowing online only training (requiring in-person training), and adding S-290 based activities as job performance requirements in the task books to be evaluated and signed off. SFT is moving this through the regulations process and the expected implementation date is on, or before, January 1, 2020.

Member Rice commented that he was glad to hear that online training would not be allowed, especially in the private sector. There is enough pressure to perform this task as a sworn public safety officer.

Chief Henning provided information on the State Fire Training Psychomotor Skills Evaluator. When SFT implemented the new January 2019 Procedures Manual, there was a requirement for all registered skills evaluator to be certified at the level which they are testing. When SFT originally rolled out the FFI certification testing, they did not require the FFI skills evaluators to be FFI certified. They've decided to delay this implementation until July 1, 2020. This would allow anyone who is seeking to become a registered skills evaluator to apply to become one before July 1st. As of early January, there are nearly 1300 FFI registered skills evaluators and 640 registered lead skills evaluators who were always required to be verified FFI. SFT also recently conducted an administrative review of records and automatically issued FFII skills evaluators and FFII lead skills evaluators for all persons who have a FFII certification showing in the SFT user portal. We have almost 1100 registered FFII skills evaluators and 538 registered FFII lead skills evaluators. If anyone did not receive their automatic issued skills evaluators or lead skills evaluators for FFII, they should contact SFT.

Chief Henning provided a regulations update. SFT has recently finalized the rulemaking package for the SFT small fees package. This is a cleanup package for the new 2019 FFI fees. The FFI testing fee was merged into the FFI certification fee for a total of \$150. This has been moved forward into the rulemaking process as well as a few other small fees. This wasn't the

big fee package that was approved by SBFS in the fee report. This small fees was implemented in January 2020. This also included cleanup language to the disciplinary appeals process and added alternate persons who can hear appeals. The overall fee package which was approved by STEAC and SBFS is in the final internal review process and will go through CAL FIRE Executive Team as well as the Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Finance for approval before being moved forward to the Office of Administrative Law.

Chief Steve Hawks gave an update on Low Cost Retrofit List. Assembly Bill 2911 required the Department to create a list of low cost retrofits and to post the document on the website by January 1, 2020. The list is completed and posted on the Department's "Ready for Wildfire" website.

Chief Hawks provided an update on Assembly Bill 38. This creates a financial assistance program for retrofitting and a fund to help deal with the financial assistance. The fund has been approved, but money has not been issued to the fund. The proposal is for \$100 million, \$25 million from the State and \$75 million from the Federal government. It also required CAL FIRE to engage in a joint powers authority (JPA) with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to develop a statewide program for home hardening. We had already been working on a similar project prior to AB 38, which integrates into the legislation. We are working with CalOES, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the California Firesafe Council, and the town of Paradise to develop this statewide program. This is a work in progress over the next year.

Chair Richwine added that the home hardening program will be similar to the Earthquake Brace Bolt Program in the way it's administered to the locals and the individual home owners.

Chief Greg Andersen gave a code update. The 2019 codes should have been out in January, but the publisher is late on the errata. The next meeting for the 2019 intervening code cycle is tentatively on March 17th and 18th. We've started the 2022 code workgroups.

Chair Richwine added that one of the workgroups includes the A2L refrigerant issue. The proposal is to eliminate current refrigerants used in residential air conditioning systems in favor of environmentally friendly products that happen to be flammable.

8. OLD BUSINESS

The Board is continuing to work with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) on a training video to educate both sides on the priorities for highway incidents. Member Lima was able to recruit Chief Joe Castro to participate in the collaborative video. This is to balance out the video to include representation from fire service as well as law enforcement. We scheduled a conference call with Chief Castro to bring him up to date on the proposed project and will be reaching out to the CHP to let them know that we have identified a fire representative. The project was delegated to SFT.

Member Rice offered to help if we needed to expedite the studio space for the project.

Member Jerry Davies complimented the Board for continuing to push forward with this project. Chair Richwine gave a brief history of the project and credited Member Williams for his idea of creating a collaborative training video.

9. NEW BUSINESS

It was too early to bring the proposed Bagley-Keene legislation to discuss with the Board as the bill was still under development. This was tabled until there more information was available.

10. ROUNDTABLE

Chair Richwine opened the floor for round table.

Member Davies commented that the California Firesafe Council is working with insurance companies to address non-renewal issues in the various fire risk areas throughout the state.

Member Muñoa mentioned that as a part of the CPF Membership Activism Committee, there was a discussion about bringing in curriculum related to the role of the unions and labor within the fire service.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance.

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Dates for upcoming meetings are May 21st, August 20th, and the fourth quarter meeting date is to be determined.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Richwine asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

It was moved by Member Williams to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Member Gillotte. Motion was carried unanimously at 1405 hours and the meeting was adjourned.