



# STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

## MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 29, 2020

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
- \*Craig Tolmie, Chief Deputy Director, CAL FIRE
- \*Ed Foster, California State Firefighters Association
- \*Moke Simon, County Government
- \*Pete Muñoz, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881
- \*Jerry Davies, California Fire Safe Council and Insurance Industry, Vice Chair
- \*Brian K. Rice, California Professional Firefighters
- \*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 Zoom Virtual Meeting)

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee  
Mark Ghilarducci, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Frank Lima, California Labor Federation

### STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

- \*Kevin Chan, Special Assistant to the State Fire Marshal
- \*Chris Fowler, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training
- \*Kevin Conant, Fire Training Specialist III, State Fire Training
- (\* attended via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

### GUESTS:

- \*Yvonne de la Peña, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CalJAC)
- \*Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CalJAC)
- \*Brian Marshall, Fire Chief, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- (\* attended via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Richwine called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1333 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 December 9, 2019 meeting. Member Mike Smith clarified that he was listed as present and absent from the meeting but should only be listed as present.

**It was moved by Member Michael Smith to approve the minutes with the amendment; motion seconded by Member David Gillotte. Motion was carried unanimously at 1339 hours.**

### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Mike Richwine announced that he was sworn in as the State Fire Marshal on May 20th.

### 6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chris Fowler requested the reaccreditation of Mount San Antonio College, Oxnard College, and the Sacramento Fire Department. The Mount San Antonio College site evaluation was conducted on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Oxnard College site evaluation was conducted on February 11<sup>th</sup>. A new apparatus bay is being constructed at the college to accommodate the new training apparatus they now have. The Sacramento Fire Department site evaluation was conducted on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They have identified property that will accommodate additional classrooms to extend their program and host additional training. State Fire Training (SFT) recommends all three to be reaccredited for 5 years.

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

**Motion was carried unanimously at 1343 hours.**

### 7. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chris Fowler presented the State Certified Prescribed Burn Boss Curriculum. The course was developed in response to Senate Bill 1260 from 2018 and State Fire Training (SFT) to develop curriculum and continuing education requirements to support a statewide burn boss training and certification program. The curriculum aligns with the minimum federal standards for NWCG prescribed fire burn boss, as well as CALFIRE Prescribed Fire Incident Commander and CA-219 Wildland Ignition Operations-Firing Boss.

This curriculum has been reviewed by agency and recommended changes have been incorporated. There were editorial changes and comments from both legislation and executive staff, including content revisions to the task book and the requirement of the S290 course to be in person.

Member Dave Gillotte asked if there would be any changes to in-person classes due to Corona Virus Disease (COVID) for the remainder of the year. Fowler responded that these would still be in-person courses and that implementation wouldn't be until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Member Ed Foster wanted clarification on the implementation plan regarding pre-requisites and historical recognition. Historical registration is available for 1 year from the date of implementation and retires on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. If the program starts on January 2021, there seems to be a discrepancy. Chris Fowler responded that it may be a typo as the course was

anticipated to be released sooner. She made an editorial note to change it to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**It was moved by Member Jerry Davies to approve the curriculum; motion seconded by Member Mike Williams. Motion was carried unanimously at 1348 hours.**

Kevin Conant presented an informational update on the Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness Curriculum. These are a standalone three courses. There are no NFPA standards, but at the direction of stakeholders throughout California, it was recognized that specific information needed to be provided at all levels.

Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A is an 8-hour course intended for the front-line responder such as a fire fighter or crew member, Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 2A is a 24-hour course intended for the first-level supervisor such as a company officer of fire service leader, and Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 3A is a 24-hour course for an organizational leader or program manager responsible for designing a budget and advocating the implementation and accountability for behavioral health and cancer awareness.

Member Brian Rice reiterated that CalJAC is prepared to carry out the delivery of the behavioral health awareness component.

Member Dave Gillotte wanted to know when it would be available for use. Kevin Conant responded that this was the first reading and, if approved at the next State Board of Fire Services meeting, it could be implemented by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chris Fowler presented an update on the State Fire Training fee adjustment regulations package. The public comment period closed on May 26<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing was requested, which was then scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Comments provided during the public hearing will be treated the same as written public comments and will be addressed in the final statement of reasons (FSOR). No responses will be provided during the public hearing.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Mike Richwine presented the ongoing California Highway Patrol (CHP) cooperation topic. He is delegating to Andrew Henning to coordinate the project between SBFS, the CHP, Gordon Graham, and Joe Castro.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

## 10. ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Chair Mike Richwine stated that the transition to virtual meetings has been successful and created a "new norm." The current SBFS meeting has the highest attendance in a long time.

Member Craig Tolmie gave high level updates. He expressed his appreciation to be a Board member and for the opportunity to work with the board. CAL FIRE is going through a lot of internal transitions regarding rapid advancement of technology and internal changes policies and procedures. There have been minimal impacts to instant response and fuel management efforts. There will be modifications to CAL FIRE and the federal agencies response to wildland fires this summer, with greatest impacts to the support side, such as camp settings and logistics, than direct operations. The emphasis is on a rapid initial attack and doing everything possible to minimize fire growth. We are under normal staffing at current time.

Member Jerry Davies announced that the California Fire Safe Council 2020 grant applications are open. The information is available on their webpage, [cafiresafecouncil.org](http://cafiresafecouncil.org). Approximately \$2.4 million in grants was received from the US Forest Service. The insurance industry is going through challenges with the pandemic.

Member Brian Rice announced the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program (PSOB) has been modified to include COVID-19 related deaths as line of duty deaths. Several pieces of legislation in the works, such as the community paramedicine and SARS/COVID presumptive benefit. There is no timeline on the legislation as of now. The California Fire Foundation entered into an agreement with Stanford University Medical to do a study of all Santa Clara County firefighters.

Member Dave Gillotte announced that International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) came up with a COVID best practices toolkit and resources list. Reminds everyone to stay vigilant as additional waves may come. Regarding legislation, the IAFF, in conjunction with the International Fire Code (IFC), have amended Ryan White Act to require hospitals to mandatorily report exposures. They have also been working on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 3.5 and 4.0. The IAFF has also been offering behavioral health meetings online. With the pandemic, in-person meetings were not possible and caused challenges, but services are being offered again online and have been a great benefit.

Member Dave Rocha reported that Todd Harms will be the new chair for Metro Chiefs.

Member Ed Foster reported that California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) sponsored a webinar addressing COVID response criteria.

Member Mike Smith reported that the Cal Chiefs conference is still scheduled to be held in September in Santa Clara. Cal Chiefs is supporting the 70 tribal fire chiefs in navigating the provision of the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA). The public comment period has been extended for Chapter 13 of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) regulations.

Member Moke Simon announced that counties are working with first responders to keep the communities safe. Going virtual has been a challenge, but it has been accomplished.

Member Pete Muñoa reported that COVID has had impacts to Local 2881 operations. The biggest concern is related to the ten percent salary cut impacts to CAL FIRE workforce. Also announced a cancer related death of a battalion chief in the CAL FIRE Riverside Unit.

Member Robert Magee reported that city governments are assessing their budgets and expect anywhere from two percent to twenty percent reduction in revenue. This could have huge impacts to public safety and they could use help with the latest CARES Act to help keep the staffing levels up.

Brian Marshall reported that California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) continues to receive personal protective equipment (PPE) to make available as a priority to the California fire service. Any fire organization that needs PPE can submit their request to OES.

Yvonne de la Peña reported that the California Professional Firefighters (CPF) is working diligently to help maintain the JAC funding for apprenticeship. In addition to that, they are working with specific departments regarding their firefighter candidate testing centers.

## 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance.

## 12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Dates for upcoming meetings are August 20<sup>th</sup> and the fourth quarter meeting date is to be determined.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

**Chair Mike Richwine adjourned the meeting at 1432 hours.**