



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 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, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair
- *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
- *Frank Lima, California Labor Federation
- *David Rocha, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
- *David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters
- *Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association
- *Robert Magee, City Government
- (* attended via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

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
Michael Smith, California Fire Chiefs Association

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

- *Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal
- *Andrew Henning, Division Chief, State Fire Training
- *Greg Andersen, Division Chief, Code Development and Analysis
- *Kevin Chan, Special Assistant to the State Fire Marshal
- *Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III, State Fire Training
- *Kevin Conant, Fire Training Specialist III, State Fire Training
- *Joseph Bunn, Fire Training Specialist III, State Fire Training
- *Jim Eastman, Fire Training Specialist III, State Fire Training
- (* attended via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

GUESTS:

Yvonne de la Peña, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CaJAC)
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CaJAC)
(* attended via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

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 1335 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 February 20, 2020 meeting.

It was moved by Member Brian Rice to approve the meeting minutes; motion seconded by Member Mike Williams. Motion was carried unanimously at 1339 hours.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Mike Richwine announced that Wendy Collins was appointed as the Assistant State Fire Marshal.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Mike Richwine requested to approve the reaccreditation of the College of the Sequoias, College of Siskiyous, Crafton Hills Community College, Monterey-Peninsula College, Moreno Valley College, Porterville Community College, Southwestern College, Yuba College, Victor Valley College, Clovis Fire Department, and Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

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

Motion was carried unanimously at 1341 hours.

Andrew Henning presented the program consent items.

Fire Inspector 2C implementation plan. Back in December of 2019 there was no implementation plan to effectively retire out the old Fire Inspector 2C curriculum that was based off the 2010 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard. All this implementation plan is doing is formalizing that we are retiring out the legacy curriculum on December 31st and that all courses delivered on or after January 1 must be the new revised Fire Inspector 2C curriculum. The major difference between the legacy curriculum and new curriculum is that the instructors felt that an additional eight hours was required to adequately covered the course.

There are two things going on with the Fire Marshal Certification & Instructor Registration. It's the Public Information Officer (PIO) course that was adopted originally by the cadre which was a limited release and very expensive course. The cadre recommended to evaluate other PIO courses that would meet the intent of the NFPA standards as well as what the cadre did when they originally adopted the course. So we determine that the S-203 course that's more widely available would meet the intent of State Fire Training (SFT) and be in the best interest of end users, trying with Chief Fire Marshal certification, to have that basic PIO training. For the instructor we have specific requirements for each of our courses. The 2A, 2B, and 2C course require that you must be a subject matter expert and qualified as a subject matter expert in order to teach that field. We did not put any of the qualifications and for Fire Marshal, other than experience. We have essentially matched and mirrored what we did with our Company Officer and Chief Fire Officer that you have to have specific subject matter expertise for each one of the fire marshal courses in order to be able to author writer to instruct it and this is to

ensure that students have acknowledged instructor who can adequately deliver the course material.

Regarding the Fire Fighter (FF) 1C Wildland Update, the NFPA 1051 standard came out right after we finalize our firefighter one curriculum. SFT staff did an administrative review of the changes to the new 2019 edition of that NFPA standard. During that, there was no identified changes in course delivery times or cost of delivering the course. So this was considered an editorial change, essentially adding one job performance requirement (JPR). Our curriculum had already addressed that topic, so we moved the topics around to adequately address that JPR. Jones and Bartlett just released a new wildland firefighter textbook that we are actively reviewing to see if it meets the needs California. Currently, we only recognize one wildland textbook that's published by a fire protection publication. Once approved this would be an alternate source that a fire department or community college can utilize to deliver our wildland FF1 training.

SFT has recently been preparing for our International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) reaccreditation and through that, similar to what we do for our Accredited Local Academies (ALA) and Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), we are required to do a self-assessment report. When we were reviewing our self-assessment report, we found out that when we originally set up our IFSAC program, reciprocity was easier for our out of state reciprocity candidates than people who had already been certified by SFT. The rule was that if a FF1 or FF2 certification was more than 10 years old, you were not eligible to upgrade it to an IFSAC or Pro Board certification. This update makes a modification so that anyone who has a legacy SFT FF1 certification, they will be eligible to apply for an IFSAC or Pro Board certification. They will still be required to take the certification exams, both the skills and the written, to achieve the certification. This just eliminates the 10-year requirement. This also makes a modification that anyone who was certified within the past 10 years is not required to do the California testing and is eligible for reciprocity if you already meet the requirements. If your certification issued by another state or Department of Defense (DOD) was more than 10 years old, to be taken as a reciprocity and to be issued a California SFT FF1 and FF2 certification, you would be required to demonstrate the skills that you have that competence for that certification level. Also, if a candidate is certified out of state and their certification has lapsed, they will be required to go through our certification test.

Psychomotor skills exam changes are more significant. So for the random skills notification, we used to notify the ALA or ARTP exactly three weeks before the skills testing. Under this new proposal, we would notify them of their random skills at the date of approval of that skill test. This gives them more lead time to prepare and plan for the test. Also, to improve exam security, the lead evaluator cannot notify other staff of the random skills until the 3-week period. This ensures that students go into the exams without prior knowledge of the skills. This update also ensures that students complete not just the fire responder awareness (FRA) skills test, but that the first responder operations (FRO) skills for the hazardous materials (HazMat) test is tested as one of the two randomly selected skills. The alternate psycho motor skill evaluation is the one item that the staff report that we are recommending a modification on. We are proposing to remove the references to Fire Control 3 and FF1 certification.

Member Ed Foster requested an editorial change to correct "C2" to "2C" for the Fire Inspector Implementation Plan.

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

Motion was carried unanimously at 1400 hours.

7. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Andrew Henning requested the accreditation of the Cosumnes River College. The site visit occurred on May 26th. It's unique pre employment programs are created to serve the Greater Sacramento region. They have a flexible course schedules physically and academically robust and they have great pride in the effort in the development of their exemplary training program. State Fire Training and the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) recommend consumers River College for an initial accreditation for a period of three years. We look forward to seeing the growth and the development of their program over the one-year period, and hopefully to see them come back next year for three years, initial accreditation.

It was moved by Member Brian Rice to approve the accreditation; motion seconded by Member Mike Williams.

Motion was carried unanimously at 1403 hours.

Andrew Henning requested the accreditation of the Merritt College. The site visit was conducted on June 9th. It was observed that there is a diverse student population reflective of the surrounding communities and their bolstering community relationships. State Fire Training is recommending a conditional accreditation for American college for a period of one year.

It was moved by Member David Rocha to approve the accreditation; motion seconded by Member Pete Muñoa.

Chair Mike Richwine asked if the one-year conditional accreditation is standard. Andrew Henning responded that some are and some aren't, based on an evaluation of where the program is at. Chair Mike Richwine asked if they are offering a full selection of courses. Merritt College will have relatively limited courses with FF1 as their primary focus.

Motion was carried unanimously at 1408 hours.

Caryn Petty presented the Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness Curriculum series. The course plan consists of three levels: the first being 1A for the front-line responder, 2A for the company officer level or first line supervisors, and 3A for the the chief executive officer or the organizational leader. The 1A course mirrors what was developed for the FF1 academy. The difference is that this is an Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) course which requires instructor registration qualifications for the instructional delivery while the firefighter academy requires only the fire academy instructor qualifications partnered with advisements used by guest lecturers and subject matter experts. The 2A course built on that and is also an FSTEP course which is for the company officer level who is responsible for themselves and their crews. And then the 3A course is for the chief executive officer who will be developing programs for their entire agency and crews.

Kevin Conant stated that they wanted to be in alignment with what the California Professional Firefighters (CPF) was doing with CalJAC and wanted to be in alignment with the labor management efforts of the California Fire Service Behavior Task Force. They also wanted to be in alignment with what Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIRESCOPE) was doing in regards to behavioral health and employee support services in terms of certain calls and typing those resources and also to address the functions that are going on with cancer awareness.

It was moved by Member Jerry Davies to approve the curriculum; motion seconded by Member Mike Williams.

Chair Mike Richwine asked if they are going to ensure, or have they discussed with the NFPA, the criticality of having members of this task force or this cadre on their technical committee as they're moving forward. Kevin Conant responded that their district representative from NFPA

attend their meeting. Andrew Henning stated that Ray Bizal, the western representative of the NFPA, attended their meeting.

Motion was carried unanimously at 1420 hours.

Kevin Conant presented the FSTEP Fire Control 3 curriculum. Two student bodies are addressed with this suite of courses. The first is for the incoming firefighter to learn the skills necessary to be able to demonstrate proficiency in the ability to do an interior attack on a working structure fire. The next two courses, Instructor Live Fire Training - Fixed Facility and Instructor Live Fire Training - Acquired Structure, address the NFPA requirement that is both in 1041 instructor and 1021 officer, and then the 1001 for the firefighter, but also 1403 of live fire. This is in complete alignment with the NFPA standard and, in order to address the concerns of increasing safety, we have made requisites to be able to instruct. He did recommend changing one exercise, which was skills exercise 4.

It was moved by Member David Gillotte to approve the curriculum with recommended amendments; motion seconded by Member Mike Williams.

Motion was carried unanimously at 1426 hours.

Andrew Henning presented the Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations and Technician Curriculum. STEAC recommended to keep the Low-Angle Rope Rescue Operation (LARRO) as a SFT course with the understanding that the LARRO of course is not NFPA compliant, it will not be updated in the future by SFT, and it will turn into a legacy course.

Joe Bunn stated that they came up with a process of separating the heavy rescue operations from the rope rescue operations. They came up with two courses, the Rope Rescue Awareness Operations class and the Rope Rescue Technician's course, which consists of low angle rescues.

It was moved by Member Mike Williams to approve the curriculum with recommended amendments; motion seconded by Member Jerry Davies.

Motion was carried unanimously at 1437 hours.

Jim Eastman presented the Emergency Vehicle Technician 1, 2, & 3 – Curriculum and Certification Update for a first reading. The new curriculum for Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) Level 1 will now have three courses, Level 2 will have a single course, and Level 3 will have a single course as well. The big change is that NFPA now requires 100 hours of approved recertification every five years. The retirement of fire mechanics program is being delayed to December 31, 2021 to make accommodations for those that are currently getting certified.

Andrew Henning gave a Title 19 Update. The package is still moving through the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) process for the adoption of our fee adjustment that was approved by the State Board of Fire Service several months ago. We're anticipating the new fees will be implemented on January 1st of 2021. And so essentially any course which has its last day on, or after, January 1st, will be under this new fee schedule, as well as any certifications or any application submitted to SFT that's postmarked on, or after, January 1, 2021. Once the regulation package has been finalized by the OAL and submitted to the Secretary of State, to be included into the California Code of Regulations, is when we'll notify stakeholders, as well as the SBFS and STEAC, to let them know that the package has been approved and that we have an official implementation date.

Greg Andersen gave a report on the 2019 Intervening Code Cycle Update. All the State Fire Marshal's proposals were approved by the Building Standards Commission (BSC) last week

unanimously. Some of the packages include the Tall Wood proposals from the International Code Council (ICC), escape room requirements, and mechanical parking structures. Through our workgroup, we made more changes to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area, which included a new requirement for WUI vents.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Mike Richwine stated that he needs to touch base with California Highway Patrol (CHP) Assistant Commissioner Scott Silsbee to find out who their training chief is in order to move the project forward.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

10. ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Chair Richwine recognized Member Dave Rocha's recent retirement.

Member Dave Rocha reported that Todd Harms is the new Metro Chiefs' Chair, and Brian Fennessey will remain as the Vice Chair. Todd Harms will finish off the year with the plan for Brian Fennessey to step in as the new Chair in January.

Member Ed Foster reported that the California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) is trying to stay in concert with the bylaws of the organization which dictate that they have a conference every year and will be attempting to meet in the month of December. It will be official business meeting to compensate and stay within the regulations of the organization terms of business management.

Member Dave Gillotte reported that the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has tentatively pushed their convention forward to January.

Member Frank Lima reported that IAFF has a disaster response team to assist members who are on deployments. They are working closely with the CARES package, the Stafford Act, and the HEROES Act to obtain funds to help local jurisdictions. IAFF has also written legislation to get COVID as part of a Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB).

Member Moke Simon expressed appreciation to CAL FIRE for their efforts suppressing the wildfires.

Member Jerry Davies reported that the insurance industry is going to be very much involved in a number of homes, structures, and cars, affected by the fires. Also, the California Fire Safe Council is on hold. Everything has been postponed until beginning of January 2021 at earliest, so there is very little to report. They will be giving out our actual grants later this year. They have about \$2 million that they are reviewing right now for different fire safe councils.

Member Pete Muñoa acknowledged CAL FIRE's firefighters working on the line and that Local 2881 will be doing whatever they can to support the firefighters.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance.

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Date for final 2020 meeting is to be determined. Expected early November.

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 1510 hours and the meeting was adjourned.