



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 6, 2024

1:00 - 3:00 pm Pacific Standard Time

Office of the State Fire Marshal

715 P Street, Room 2-302 A/B, Sacramento, CA 95814

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, State Fire Marshal, Chair
Anale Burlaw, CAL FIRE, Chief Deputy Director
David Rocha, Fire Chief, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
Brian Marshal, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters *
Ed Foster, California State Firefighters' Association
Len Nielson, Cultural Burning Liaison

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Pete Muñoa, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881
Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association
Moke Simon, County Supervisor, County Government
Frank Lima, California Labor Federation
Robert Magee, City Government
Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation
Chris Fowler, Division Chief, State Fire Training
Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III, Specialist, State Fire Training
Crystal Sujeski, Division Chief, Code Development & Analysis
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Support Services
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst, Support Services
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation
Vickie Sakamoto, Assistant Deputy Director, Fire & Life Safety and State Fire Training
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I, Support Services
Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst, Support Services
Kevin Ford, Staff Services Analyst, Support Services

* Attended meeting virtually

A) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daniel Berlant called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1310 hours.

1. Welcome and meeting logistics.
Roll Call was held, there was not a quorum.
2. Approval of the February 15, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)
The November draft Meeting Minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum.
3. Approval of the July 25, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)
The July 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum.
4. Approval of the
5. Announcements

B) CONSENT ITEMS

1. State Fire Training Division
 - a) [Stockton Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
 - b) [Fresno Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
 - c) [San Francisco Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
 - d) [Los Angeles Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation](#)
 - e) [Sierra College ARTP Reaccreditation](#)

All five of the academies have applied for reaccreditation. All have met the rigor and requirements in the procedures manual and have received their Safe Assessments Evaluation in the last 2-3 months. It is recommended that they be renewed for 5 years for all academies.

The consent items were heard and administratively approved, however there was not a quorum so these items will be moved to the September 6, 2024 meeting for an official vote.

The following items were heard in April but were not voted on. They will be brought back to a future meeting for an official vote:

- Berkeley Fire Department Reaccreditation
- Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Reaccreditation
- Southwestern College Reaccreditation
- Merrimack College Reaccreditation

C) ACTION ITEMS

1. State Fire Training, Curriculum Development and Delivery
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

- a) [National Accredited Certification Expansion – Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1 and 2](#)

This was the second reading of the proposed fire and emergency services 1 and 2 expansion. There were no stakeholder requests to change the process or the schedule. Will be implemented in early 2025.

This action item was heard and administratively approved, however there was not a quorum so this item will be moved to the September 6, 2024 meeting for an official vote.

D) PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. State Fire Training Division

- a) [Peer Based Suicide Awareness](#) (2023)

Assembly Bill 662 directed the State Fire Marshal to develop peer to peer suicide prevention training, and curriculum with JAC, EMSA and numerous other stakeholders and culturally competent clinicians. It is now called Peer-Based Suicide Awareness 2023 and is intended to function as a standalone, 4-hour course. There were two calls for edits after the April STEAC meeting which have been included.

- b) [Fire Investigator](#) (2022)

This review follows the first and second reading of the curriculum. There were no stakeholder requests for edits following the April STEAC meeting. The curriculum has been updated in alignment with NFPA 1033 2022 version. Pending approval, the 2022 curriculum would be released in September and the 2017 curriculum would retire in December of this year. Now to become an instructor as an investigator you would have to be certified.

- c) [Water Rescue Awareness/Operations and Technician](#)

The Water Rescue Technician curriculum was developed in alignment with NFPA 1006. It was developed to ensure effective and coordinated response to rescuing individuals trapped or stranded by surface water, swift water, and flood water. This is the second reading. One stakeholder request for edits was received during the April STEAC meeting to consider more content regarding dynamic water rescue for awareness content. The cadre members determined that the curriculum meets the NFPA 1006 requirements so no changes were made. It was also determined that the fire departments and agencies should determine the level of training that the personnel require in order to manage any liability of water rescue operations within their region. It was requested that language be added “this training or equivalent that meets the rigor of NFPA 1006”.

- d) [Watercraft Rescue Technician](#) (2021)

In alignment with NFPA 1006, this was developed to ensure a safe and effective response to rescuing individuals trapped or stranded by surface waters with water and flood water. This is using motorized, non-motorized, or personal rescue watercraft. The personal watercraft class has been incorporated into the curriculum so it will no longer be standalone. This is the second reading of this item. There were no stakeholder requests for edits.

- e) [Proposed Changes to Fire Officer Certification](#)

Executive Fire Officer is the first update that has been revised in this certification track because it was easier with the NFPA to work from the top down. Based on the NFPA requirements, the higher level management, training and education is going to have a different feel now based on the NFPA requirements. It draws more on experiential requirements and knowledge with on-the-job training to prepare students to move into executive leadership roles. The updated curriculum provides course delivery over a longer period of time. There are in-person and hybrid models built into the curriculum and there's focused face-to-face instruction with independent reading and research, so more like pursuing a higher education degree. This change applies to all three Fire Officer certifications. Curriculum is in last revisions and will come back to STEAC in October.

f) ACADIS Payment Update

Transitioning the former process of sending paper resources, then moving to an excel file, to an interactive, online submission process where the instructor logs in to their portal to directly enroll students in real time. This cuts down on processing time and allows invoices to be generated digitally and instantaneously rather than waiting for them to be mailed. The pilot was run in June and was largely successful. The site course delivery webpage has been updated and contains resources and instructions around this. Students now obtain their SFT ID before taking their first class. Diplomas are being held until payment is received and there is no outstanding balance. For any CAL FIRE agencies that are hosting classes with SFT, they can now enroll students digitally but they need to complete the new supplemental web form to complete payments.

g) [Blueprint 2030 - Briefing](#)

There was a closed-session workshop during the April STEAC following the most recent Blueprint 2040 Update. Edits were made to the current Blueprint 2030 proposal and that was submitted to OSFM Leadership the following month. Next steps are what there's funding for, what can be implemented. There are relationships with the CSUs for the higher education pathway. We're already expanding on the digital platforms and modernization with some improvements to Acadis and now the invoicing. Focusing on what improvements within Blueprint 2030 can be made with the current budget. Number one goal is expanding on technology – integrating more opportunities for online learning, not necessarily for SFT classes but online learning that can prepare someone for their career in the fire service. Goal 2 is finding a platform to deliver the classes. Goal 3 is developing a clear pathway for current personnel to pursue higher education or alternative education. Goal 4 is continuous quality improvement of the program itself. Goal 5 is ongoing sustainable funding. Goal 6 is considering a post-like model for SFT which is not necessarily part of Blueprint 2030 but would be an internal review of the system to examine funding sources and options, and legislative changes required.

h) Program Update

There is a change to propose to the Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters regarding reciprocity instructor requirements. The cadre identified that the rigor established during curriculum development was too restrictive. A rollout course has been proposed that will allow us to capture the potential reciprocity instructors that meet or exceed the minimum training requirements identified in the training plan. The course will be developed in the next couple months. The change removes the requirement to complete the task book.

The All-Hazard Incident Management course that is housed within SFT will be retired at the end of August. This has historically been an agency delivered class and the department is working on an update that will be delivered to CAL FIRE specific personnel. So outside

agency candidates seeking complex incident management classes could still take the FEMA All-Hazards, type 3 course.

2. Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

a) Program Update (Informational Only)

Firewise communities - over a third of all NFPA Firewise communities are in California. After celebrating the 800th community not long ago we are very close to announcing the 900th community in CA. More information will be provided around that event. A Land Use Planning for Wildfires in development tailored towards Fire Marshals, building officials, Planners, and those with responsibility or interest in developing in the WUI. The core function of the training is to increase the functional understanding of the state requirements in CA around land use planning and fire hazard areas, including general plan, safety, elements, fire safe regulations, subdivision review, and applicable chapters of the CA Building Code.

CAL STATS – The current system, INFERS, will be officially shut down by December 31, 2025. We will be moving to NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) which is currently being developed and tested by select fire departments. Some additional testing will continue throughout the summer as they move toward implementation. There is a CAL FIRE employee on the technical committee while it's being developed (Mike Morlan).

Pre-Fire Planning – In the process of conducting the statewide SRA review which will be presented to the Board of Forestry and adopted by July 2025. We've been piloting a tool known as Land Tinder in our Amador/El Dorado unit which is just about up and running. This is a science-based common operating platform for cross-boundary prioritization and collaboration for planning and implementing wildfire resilience projects and mitigations.

We've developed a fuels treatment effectiveness reporting application that evaluates the impacts of vegetation management projects during a wildland fire. The system is up and running. We've had 5-7 reports in the pipeline with all the fires we've had in CA but look forward to getting those up on the website with a dashboard soon to come.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Program – The home hardening program has now completed 3 homes in Lake County, in the Kelsey Riviera area and in San Diego and the communities of Camp and del Zura. They are implementing defensible space and we'll start their first home retrofit project in August. There are additional projects in Amador, Cisco, Shasta and Tuolumne counties that are underway.

3. Code Development & Analysis (Informational Only)

a) ESS ICC Ad-hoc Update

The goal of the UCC Battery And Energy Storage Ad Hoc committee is to look at gaps in codes, training documents, etc. The committee working groups are divided into subgroups – manufacturing storage and recycling, micro mobility, electric vehicles, and residential energy storage systems. The OSFM website also includes an energy storage clearinghouse that has hot links and resources for additional information.

b) ICC Participation and Proposals at the National Level

Several proposals were heard in Orlando at the committee action hearings, first round. The deadline for public comment for the second round was due on June 8. With coordinated efforts with CA fire prevention office we submitted public comments for a few of the proposals that were not approved or were misunderstood by the committee.

c) **New T-19 Part 7 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code**

One of the proposals mentioned above was to change or modify the International Wildland Urban Interface code to mirror what we have learned by studies and reports. The codes for construction should be a minimum standard whether you are in a high, moderate, or very high extreme, as what the model code or international wildlife urban interface code identifies. The first proposal is to delete a table that gives waivers on the construction type based on defensible space or water supply. Another was vegetation management – we did not delete the model code version of defensible space because CA has public resource code.

D) OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

E) NEW BUSINESS

The group viewed the Capital Park Memorial Video and received an updated on the project.

There's a lot of heritage and symbolism built into the memorial and almost every hand that's been involved in the project has been involved in the fire service in some way. For tours, please contact Rick Martinez or Gail Turner. Please let CAL FIRE know about fundraising activities.

F) MEMBER UPDATES

Brian Rice - Working on p phos legislation. There's a lot involved in it but working with Dr. Jared Irwin, professor at UCLA. Not sure if they are going to hold the legislation for now because things have developed – one of the manufacturers came through with a p phos alternative that is p phos-free but has a brominated high type of carbons, another cancer-causing agent, so it may be attacked from the regulatory side. CPF is going to hit really hard this year on cancer research with leads to proposition 4. We need to collectively watch these things – the things that have happened in the last two election cycles. The last issue was the electric car field and hydro cells, building them up and down CA. They include firefighters because of the approval ratings. What's happening this year with prop 4, clean water and climate change - we were able to insert a \$15M cash and \$15M ask for California Fire Foundation to do 2 types of things. We need to collectively watch this. There are other people that are using our profession to attain their goals. And we need to be there for training dollars. We need to be there to augment whatever educational and other services. We need to identify these things early instead of being used. If they aren't putting something in there that pushes our ball forward we won't touch it. If you hear of something let's talk early.

Brian Marshal – In their budget they received an Assistant Chief and Research Data Specialist to help with that program.

Brian Rice – For those that don't know, it's a funded \$7M grant research project to the UC system to research cancer and the effect on firefighters. Our goal is to double that money.

G) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

H) UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The next State Board of Fire Services meeting will be on September 6, 2024, 1:00-3:00pm

I) ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 1520 hours.