



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 18, 2023

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Pacific Standard Time

Office of the State Fire Marshal

715 P Street, Room 2-221(B-C), Sacramento, CA 95814

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Berlant, Acting State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair

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

*Ed Foster, California State Firefighters Association

*Brain Marshall, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

*Pete Muñoz, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881

*David Rocha, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs

*Frank Lima, California Labor Federation

*Robert Magee, City Government

*Moke Simon County Government

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

David Gillotte International Association of Fire Fighters

Yvonne De La Peña, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Chris Anthony, Chief Deputy Director, CAL FIRE

Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association

Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighter

Michael Smith, California Fire Chiefs Association

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director, Fire & Life Safety, State Fire Training, Code Development & Analysis

*Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal

Chris Fowler, Deputy State Fire Marshal III, Supervisor State Fire Training

Daniel Bluford, Support Services Division, Support Analyst.

(* attended meeting remotely)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daniel Berlant called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1346 hours.

A. Welcome and meeting logistics.

B. Roll Call

Roll call was held, and quorum was declared at 1348 hours.

C. Approval of draft meeting minutes.

1) November 1, 2022, meeting

[\[Attachment – Draft Meeting Minutes 11-18-2022.pdf\]](#)

(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

It was moved by Member Frank Lima to approve November 1, 2022, draft meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Member David Rocha. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1349 hours.

2) February 28, 2023, meeting

[\[Attachment – Draft Meeting Minutes 02-28-2023.pdf\]](#)

(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

It was moved by Member Pete Munoa to approve February 28, 2023, draft meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Member Ed Foster. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1350 hours.

D. D. Announcements

There were no announcements.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

A. State Fire Training Division

Andrew Henning

Program Updates

(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

1) L-180 for FF1 Reciprocity

[\[Attachment - L-180-staff-report.pdf\]](#)

Andrew Henning – SFT recommends approving the use of the online version L-180 course to meet the reciprocity training requirement. This is a four-hour basic wildland course for entry-level personnel and no component of this course requires an in-person demonstration. SFT will continue to require in-person completion of S-130 and S-190. Allowing the use of an L-180 online course will expand training opportunities for those seeking reciprocity which includes Department of Defense (DoD) applicants. Applicants are required to still demonstrate knowledge and skill through the SFT certification examination for Wildland Fire Fighter 1C.

2) Existing Course Approval for California Code of Regulations

[\[Attachment - staff-report-legacy-course-approval.pdf\]](#)

Andrew Henning - The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall establish course plans and adopt national courses for delivery within the Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) based on the development of Course Training Standards (CTS) guides for fire service professional continuing education and topic-specific training courses that do not lead to job function certification. The CTS Guides are incorporated by reference as amended by the OSFM and list the requisite knowledge.

3) Fire Fighter Curriculum Update

[\[Attachment - fire-fighter-curriculum-update.pdf\]](#)

Andrew Henning - Effective June 30, 2023, SFT will retire FF1B: Hazardous Materials/WMD (2017) and FF1C: Wildland (2020). On July 1, 2023, SFT will remove the curriculum from the SFT course catalog, and it will no longer be available. Candidates who have not completed FF1B (2017) or FF1C (2020) must complete the module(s) before or on June 30, 2024, or they will be required to complete the new (2022) course modules. The February 2023 changes reflect updates to align with the following standards: • NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standards for Responders (2022) • NFPA 1140: Standard for Wildland Fire Protection (2022) Neither NFPA standard added or removed job performance requirements. All changes were linguistic.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve Fire Fighter Curriculum Update.

It was moved by Member Jerry Davies to approve consent items 1 through 4; the motion was seconded by Member David Rocha. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1353 hours.

3. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. State Fire Training Division

1) Antelope Valley Accreditation.

[\[Attachment - staff-report-antelope-valley-college-initial-accreditation.pdf\]](#)

Chris Fowler- Recommend Antelope Valley College be provided Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Initial Accreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of three (3) years.

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. Antelope Valley College will utilize the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve Antelope Valley Accreditation.

It was moved by Member Pete Munoa to approve; the motion was seconded by Member Moke Simon. Chair Daniel Berlant called any discussion. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously at 1356 hours.

2) Fire Fighter 1 Cognitive Exam

[\[Attachment - fire-fighter-1b-cognitive-exam.pdf\]](#)

Andrew Henning - SFT has consulted test development and validation specialists from California State University Sacramento (CSUS). These consultants have evaluated the Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 (2019) Certification Exams and provided recommendations on how to improve the performance and reliability. The primary recommendation for the Fire Fighter 1B cognitive exams was to improve the reliability of these exams by increasing the number of questions to 25 questions each to allow candidates to sufficiently demonstrate knowledge of the subject.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve Fire Fighter 1 Cognitive Exam.

It was moved by Member David Rocha to approve; a motion seconded by Member Ed Foster. Chair Daniel Berlant called any discussion. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote, and the motion was carried unanimously at 1357 hours.

3) Fire-Fighter Survival (2023) Curriculum Update

[\[Attachment - fire-fighter-survival-2023-curriculum-2nd-read.pdf\]](#)

Chris Fowler - This is the second reading of the curriculum, with no stakeholder requests for edits following the January 2023 STEAC meeting. Update to State Fire Training's Fire Fighter Survival (2010) curriculum and correlation with the International Association of Fire Fighters' Fire Ground Survival program. This curriculum allows students to recognize and engage in skills necessary to minimize errors on the fire ground and reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities using timely and relevant information and techniques.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve Fire-Fighter Survival (2023) Curriculum update.

It was moved by Member Jerry Davies to approve; a motion seconded by Member Moke Simon. Chair Daniel Berlant called any discussion. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote, and the motion was carried unanimously at 1359 hours.

4) Fire-Fighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Operations

[\[Attachment - fire-fighter-rescue-and-ric-operations-2023-curriculum-2nd-read.pdf\]](#)

Chris Fowler - This is the second reading of the curriculum, with no stakeholder requests for edits following the January 2023 STEAC meeting. Update to State Fire Training's RIC Operations (2010) curriculum and intention to correlate with the International Association of Fire Fighters' Fire Ground Survival program (currently under development). This curriculum allows students to recognize and engage in skills necessary to minimize errors on the fire ground and reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities using timely and relevant information and techniques.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve Fire-Fighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Operations update.

It was moved by Member Frank Lima to approve; a motion seconded by Member Pete Munoa. Chair Daniel Berlant called any discussion. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote, and the motion was carried unanimously at 1401 hours.

5) Machinery Rescue Technician

[\[Attachment - machinery-rescue-technician-2021-curriculum-2nd-read.pdf\]](#)

Chris Fowler - This is the second reading of the curriculum, with no stakeholder requests for edits following the January 2023 STEAC meeting. SFT developed the Machinery Rescue Technician curriculum in alignment with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, 2021 edition. This curriculum was developed to ensure an effective and coordinated response to rescuing victims from simple and complex machinery.

Chair Daniel Berlant asked for a motion to approve Machinery Rescue Technician update.

It was moved by Member Jerry Davies to approve; a motion seconded by Member David Rocha. Chair Daniel Berlant called any discussion. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote, and the motion was carried unanimously at 1403 hours.

6) Animal Technical Rescue Awareness & Technician (Informational Only)

[\[Attachment - animal-technical-rescue-2021-curriculum.pdf\]](#)

Chris Fowler - First read of the updated Animal Technical Rescue curriculum SFT developed the Animal Technical Rescue curriculum in alignment with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications, 2021 edition. This curriculum was developed to ensure an effective and coordinated response to rescuing trapped, stranded, and entangled animals.

Retirement of Animal Technical Rescue (2017) Curriculum Effective December 31, 2023, SFT will retire FSTEP Animal Technical Rescue Awareness (2017) and Animal Technical Rescue Technician (2017). On January 1, 2024, SFT will remove the curriculum from the SFT course catalog, and it will no longer be available.

SFT developed a CTS guide for Animal Technical Rescue to document how training standards align with NFPA 1006 (2021).

7) FY 2023-24 Curriculum and Related Projects (Informational Only)

[\[Attachment - FY23-curriculum-projects.pdf\]](#)

Andrew Henning - State Fire Training annually develops a curriculum development plan for courses to be updated or added to the California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) and Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP). SFT curriculum is developed using the State Fire Training Curriculum Development Model. State Fire Training prioritizes projects based on the following order:

- Courses and Certifications required per state statute.

- Certification/Course Updates (maintaining existing certifications and courses)
- National Accredited Certification Expansion (IFSAC/Pro Board)
- New Curriculum Development (projects evaluated based on the needs of the California Fire Service)

8) SFT UPDATES (Informational Only)

Andrew Henning gave the SFT update report. Staffing expansion added 3 new Deputies to assist with the Statewide workload. Currently 4 out of 5 uniform positions hired. Hired two more admin staff, as of today just two vacancies within the division.

Staff are still working on the strategic plan for Blueprint 2030, Blueprint 2030 is in the final review and then will present to the State Fire Marshal for reviewing concurrently before it goes through the State Board of Fire Service review and approval process.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Daniel Berlant-Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has re-engaged with California Highway Patrol (CHP) to use a joint video with the SBFS, OSFM, and CHP on highway accidents between fire departments to get a training video out there. CAL FIRE director is scheduled to meet with CHP Commissioner. This video remains a priority for the two departments. By the next Board meeting will have some updates on the progress.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Battery Energy Storage System Working Group Proposal.

Daniel Berlant - There is a focus on state energy alternatives and specifically the focus on the usage of battery energy, and solar systems as part of the state energy reliability strategy. OSFM asking the Board to consider putting together a work group that would focus on lithium-Ion batteries but really focused on battery energy storage systems both the systems and immobility devices.

There will be a draft work group charter sent out, but what is being asked is the Board establish a work group within itself along with relevant departments, research groups, and academia to join and start to come up with something tangible solutions via education or by regulatory changes.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

Member Moke Simon gave an update on Preparing for vegetation rebatement, fire season, Lake County risk reduction authority. Addressing tree mortality issues

Member Frank Lima gave an update that Fire Fighters PPE/turnouts are starting to become a factor for cancer. The lawsuit against NFPA regarding the turnout lining,

Member Brian Marshall gave an update that CAL OES Working with all State partners on the flooding situation down in the Tulare Basin, and Highway 395 corridor. Getting ready for Fire Season. CAL OES has an Updated CFAA that will benefit the local Government Fire Departments.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments.

8. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

August 17, and November 16.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 1446 hours.