



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 Munoa, 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.

- a) 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 September 6, 2024 Meeting Agenda
The September 6, 2024 Meeting Agenda was not approved as there was not a quorum.
5. Announcements
There were no 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](#)
 - a) [National Accredited Certification Expansion – Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1 and 2](#)

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 consent items were not approved as there was not a quorum. These items will be moved to the November 2024 meeting for an official vote.

C) PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. State Fire Training Division

- a) 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 50 potential reciprocity instructors that meet or exceed the minimum training requirements identified in the training implementation plan. The course will be developed in the next couple months. The change removes the requirement to complete the task book. These are folks that already meet the rigor of the Coast Guard and are involved in the Southern CA departments that have a robust marine firefighting program. They are registered instructors that meet all the requirements.

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, the 0305 or the ICS 420 to meet those needs as an alternative to the AIM program.

2. Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

a) Program Update (Informational Only)

We now have over a third of all NFPA Firewise communities in California. Just after celebrating the 800th community we are close to announcing the 900th community in California. More information will be provided around that event.

The team has been developing a Land Use Planning for Wildfires training. This class is tailored towards fire marshals, building officials, planners, and those with responsibility or interest in development in the WUI. Its core function is to increase the functional understanding of the state requirements in California around land use planning and fire hazard areas, including general plan safety elements, fire safe regulations, subdivision review, and applicable chapters of the California Building Code.

For CalStats, our current system, Infers, is going away and will be completely shut down by December 2025. The new system is NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System). This is being developed and tested by select fire departments. Additional testing will continue through the summer as they move toward national implementation.

We are in the process of conducting the statewide SRA Review for prefire planning which will be presented to the Board of Forestry and adopted by July 2025.

We've been piloting a tool called Land Tinder in our Amador/EI 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. We have 5-7 reports in the pipeline with all the fires we've had in California. These will be put on the CAL FIRE website and a dashboard coming soon.

The home hardening program has now completed 3 homes in Lake County, Kelsey Riviera area and in San Diego in the communities of Campo and Del Zura. They're implementing defensible space and we'll start the first home retrofit project in

August. There are additional projects in Amador, Siskiyou, Shasta, and Tuolumne counties that are underway.

The model defensible space program has provided 6 classes so far this year to 36 qualified entities totaling 145 individuals that now have the training to go out and conduct defensible space assessments.

3. Code Development & Analysis

- a) Crystal Sujeski is a member of the ICC battery and energy storage ad hoc committee. She shared a [public facing website](#) containing the committee's charter and goals, which are to look at the gaps in codes, training, guidance documents, etc. around ESS. The committee workgroups are divided into subgroups – manufacturing storage and recycling, micro mobility, electric vehicles, and residential energy storage systems. On the OSFM website there is an [energy storage clearinghouse](#) where we have resources to find additional information. The ad hoc committee link can be found here as well.
- b) ESS Incident Report, Robert Rezende – On May 15, 2024, San Diego County Fire Protection District dispatched resources to a general fire alarm at the Gateway Energy Storage Facility in the community of Old Time Mesa in San Diego County. The building's inner gas fire suppression system activated due to a battery failure and subsequent fire in one of the battery racks inside the building. The system was unable to extinguish or contain the fire which led to a thermal runaway event inside one of the battery modules and a cascading propagation within the battery racks, resulting in a large-scale commercial fire that took 5 days to stabilize. The fire remained contained in the building of origin and is now in the remediation phase that will take the owner months to complete. To clarify, "5 days to contain" means the fire threat to the neighboring units was stabilized in 5 days. The fire was actually active for 9 days.
- c) There were several proposals heard at the committee action hearing, first round, in Orlando. The deadline for public comment for the second round was June 8. We submitted public comments for a couple proposals that were originally disapproved or misunderstood by the committee. One was to change or modify the International Wildland Urban Interface code to mirror what we have learned from the IBHS headwater study. The codes for construction should be minimum standard, whether you are in a high, moderate or extreme. The first proposal is to delete a table that gives waivers on the construction type based on defensible space or water supply. Another proposal that went through was vegetation management. We did not delete the model code version of defensible space because in California we have public resource codes. They have laws that define what that is. There were 14 fire safe regs that will not be moved forward.

D) OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

E) NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

F) MEMBER UPDATES

Due to time, there were no member updates.

G) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

H) UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The November meeting is being rescheduled. Please contact Carrie Lewis with your availability, we will really need a quorum for this meeting as we have not had one for the last three meetings.

I) ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 1520 hours.