



STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:00 to 11:00 am Pacific Standard Time

Office of the State Fire Marshal

715 P Street, Room 2-201, Sacramento, CA 95814

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, State Fire Marshal, Chair
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE, Chief Deputy Director
David Rocha, Fire Chief, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
Nancy Ward, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters
Ed Foster, California State Firefighters' Association
Brian Marshall, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Pete Muñoa, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881
Robert Magee, City Government *
Moke Simon, County Supervisor, County Government
Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association *
Brian Rice, California Professional Firefighters

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Frank Lima, California Labor Federation
Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association
Len Nielson, Cultural Burning Liaison

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation
Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation
Chris Fowler, Division Chief, State Fire Training
Brandon Erickson, Staff Services Manager I, State Fire Training
Jose Sanabria, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist, Code Development & Analysis
Crystal Sujeski, Division Chief, Code Development & Analysis
Shane Wilson, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist, Fire Engineering & Investigations
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Support Services
Daniel Blueford, Staff Services Analyst, Support Services

* Attended meeting remotely

A) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daniel Berlant called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 1330 hours.

1. Welcome and meeting logistics.
Daniel Berlant explained that the State Board of Fire Services is now required to have an in-person quorum.

Chief Berlant remembered Member Jerry Davies who passed away on January 18, 2024.

Chief Berlant also announced that there was an incident in Los Angeles County where two firefighters were critically injured battling a fire from a truck with a pressurized tank.

2. Roll Call was held, and a quorum was declared at 0912 hours
3. An election was held for the Vice Chair of the SBFS Committee. Seeing no nominations from Members of the Committee, Donald Butz volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. This was **motioned** by **Member Dave Gilotte** and **seconded** by **Mike Williams**.
Subsequently, it was discovered that we do not have an appointment letter from the Governor for Donald Butz which makes the election invalid. This item will be brought to the May 14, 2024 meeting for further discussion.

4. Jamie Sammut presented an update on the Bagley-Keene Act.

5. Approval of the draft meeting minutes

- a) November 16, 2023, meeting
[Attachment – [meeting-minutes-11-16-23.pdf](#)]
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

This item was **motioned** by **Member Peter Munoa** and **seconded** by **Member Moke Simon**. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote. The motion to approve the May 18, 2023, Draft Meeting Minutes was **carried** unanimously at 0935 hours.

6. Announcements
There were no announcements.

B) CONSENT ITEMS

1. State Fire Training Division
 - a) Recognized Fire Agency
[Attachment – [recognized-fire-agency.pdf](#)]
Proposing to modify the recognized fire agency and authorized signers interim procedure that is currently posted to the SFT website. This would remove the proof of authority requirement for all existing agencies and departments unless the agency does not appear to meet the requirements further down in the interim procedure. This means that SFT can request proof of authority if an agency does not appear to meet the requirements of section 4.1.4 B. Looking at recognizing agencies for having the ability to be an authorized signer within the system (approving certification task books and the letter of verification required for instruction registration).

- b) Company Officer 2E Experience Update
[Attachment – [company-officer-2e.pdf](#)]
Proposing to modify the Company Officer 2E Experience requirements for registered instructors to include the rank of company officer or higher within a recognized fire agency for a minimum of three years. We want the company officer to have that rank with their employer which marries the 2E Experience with all the other experience required for company officer. This aligns all of the series with the same experience requirements.
- c) Alameda County Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation
[Attachment – [alameda-county-fire-reaccreditation.pdf](#)]
Recommending reaccreditation for a period of 5 years.
- d) Columbia College ARTP Reaccreditation
[Attachment - [columbia-college-artp-reaccreditation.pdf](#)]
Recommending reaccreditation for a period of 5 years.
- e) Pasadena Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation
[Attachment – [pasadena-fire-department-reaccreditation.pdf](#)]
Recommending reaccreditation for a period of 5 years.

The consent items were heard and voted on in one blanket motion which was **moved** by **Member Dave Gillotte** and **seconded** by **Member Brian Rice**. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was **carried** unanimously at 0941 hours.

C)PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. State Fire Training Division

- a) Modesto Junior College ARPT Initial Accreditation
[Attachment – [modesto-junior-college-accreditation.pdf](#)]
Modesto Junior College has applied to become an accredited regional training program within the state fire training System. We conducted the site evaluation on Oct. 26, 2023 and the assessment team was unanimous in their recommendation that the college be approved for an initial accreditation of three years.

The Modesto Junior College ARTP Initial Accreditation was **moved** by **Member David Rocha** and **seconded** by **Member Moke Simon**. Chair Daniel Berlant called for a vote and the motion was **carried** unanimously at 0943 hours.
- b) Tower Rescue Technician
[Attachment – [tower-rescue-technician.pdf](#)]
In alignment with NFK 1006, this is the second reading of the Tower Rescue Technician curriculum. There were no stakeholder comments or requests for edits following the October 2023 state meeting. The cadre is in the process of coordinating with State Fire Training for the delivery of the roll out classes. There have been some delays as we update our instructor cadre so we'll be changing the implementation plan to the end of June.

The Tower Rescue Technician was **moved** by **Member Michael S. Williams** and **seconded** by **Member Nancy Ward**. Chair Daniel Berlant called a vote, and the motion was **carried** unanimously at 0945 hours.

c) Rope Rescue Technician

[Attachment – [rope-rescue-2021-curriculum.pdf](#)]

The Rope Rescue Technician has been updated in alignment with NFK 1006. This is the second reading of this item with no stakeholder comments or requests for edits following the October 2023 state meeting and the November 2023 State Board of Fire Services.

The Rope Rescue Technician was **moved** by **Member Ed Foster** and **seconded** by **Member Mike Williams**. Chair Daniel Berlant called a vote, and the motion was **carried** unanimously at 0946 hours.

d) National Accredited Certification Expansion – Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1 and 2

[Attachment – [fesi-1-and-2-national-accreditation.pdf](#)]

This is a proposed process and schedule for State Fire Training to obtain national accreditation through IFSAC and ProBoard which will allow the fire and emergency services instructor student to participate in certification exam process. This will be similar to Firefighter 1 and 2. The proposed cognitive and skills exams and related procedures are available in the attachment. Looking to this Board and STEAC for feedback on where we are at this point. Then we combine all comments and information received and make all edits and adjustments necessary. The items returns to STEAC in April. You'll see a proposed schedule so you can see January and February are permission only and we'll be seeking a motion in April and May to move forward. In June 2024 we will be submitting the application for extension of our accreditation to IFSAC and ProBoard. So then we can move into the final review and approval process for national accreditation in the Fall and formerly implement in January 2025. In the attachment on pages 2 and 3 there's a detailed analysis that compares the current CA certification and the proposed national certification. It gives options for the student, it will always be optional. For firefighter it is a requirement, it's the minimum standard. For instructors we're going to allow both processes to exist parallel. The national certification cognitive exam will be validated from the test bank both IFSTA and Jones & Bartlett just like we do for Firefighter 1 and 2. This will allow the testing sites to match their exams to the textbook publisher of their choice. Both exams will be comprised of 50 questions. The national certification skills exam will be comprised of five required skills and one randomly selected skill. The Fire and Emergency services instructor 2 series will comprised of six required skills and one random. All skills attempts will be pass or fail. A candidate who does not pass a skills exam will be allowed a retake up to one time within the year, again mirroring current processes. Current course plans will be modified to include the optional course time so instructors can offer the certification exam if they choose. We've added an additional 8 hours of time which allows for the testing and the retake.

The slides mentioned by Chris Fowler during this presentation can be found [here](#).

e) Program Update
(Informational Only)

There are open positions within State Fire Training that are being advertised in the next week including a Deputy and Supervisor position so there's some growth and potential within the program. The Annual Report will be posted on eNews and is already posted on the website and is a great summary of the work through July 2023. There are a lot of really good steps in there but there's also really good narrative information about the program and the accomplishments. It's a representation of all stakeholders which is the foundation of the program.

The Annual Report can be found [here](#).

Question from **Member Dave Gillotte**: how is STEAC comprised and how are members appointed?

STEAC is an advisory board of 16 members that reports out to the Fire Marshal on instructor requirements, curriculum, site training requirements, accreditation, etc. Members are appointed by the State Fire Marshal for a 2-year term. Action items begin with STEAC and then go to SBFS for final approval. It is chaired by retired State Fire Marshal and State Fire Training Division Chief, Mike Richwine. STEAC is made up of fire service labor, training officers, and chief officers. There are currently vacancies for the CALJAC alternate, Metro Chiefs alternate, the Fire Districts Association Member and alternate positions, and the Cal Chiefs alternate.

The STEAC roster can be found [here](#).

2. Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

a) Fire Hazard Severity Zones
(Informational Only)

After years long process of updating the fire hazard severity zone maps for the state responsibility area, the Office of Administrative Law approved our regulatory adoption process package on Jan. 31, going into effect on April 1. Next steps are looking forward toward the LRA process and the team is diligently building out the plan for the rollout process. As timelines and milestones become more clear we will pass them on to the Board. The focus now, as part of the statutory requirements to conduct the State Responsibility Review (SRA), is to define the line between the state responsibility area and the local responsibility area. This is a year long process that will begin in the next couple months and will go through all the approvals and iterations. It ultimately goes to the Board of Forestry for approval. This new state responsibility area will be defined by July 1, 2025.

b) Program Update
(Informational Only)

The Wildfire Prevention Grants program continues to be wildly successful program with a tremendous amount of interest. We have roughly \$115M to give out during this solicitation. We received just over 250 applications for just over \$250M. The team is now going through and establishing eligibility and making sure those grants are complete. Then they will be sent to local CAL FIRE units for their review. The thing we look for the most is that they have the closes connection to the stakeholders and know their

capabilities. We will have those grant agreements ready to go this summer. We are trying to expedite and streamline the process to get the grants turned around quickly.

The National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) is coming in out. The US Fire Administration will be revamping the whole system. Our team is heavily involved in that process and we are sending people out to Texas in March to participate in the Summit that the US Fire Administration is having to help represent California's interest and complexities that CA presents.

3. Code Development & Analysis

a) Lithium-Ion Battery Workgroup Charter (Informational Only)

Daniel Berlant: We brought a proposed concept at the beginning of 2023 to develop a workgroup to bring information to California. Since then, the International Code Council (ICC) put together an international committee and Chief Crystal Sujeski is one of the members from CA. Due to this, we propose forgoing the formal workgroup, should you agree, and use Chief Sujeski's representation on this council to bring us the latest findings and distribute information. The council is working on having some tangible items within the year – best practices, code changes, new technologies, and fire service training and education related to those newer technologies. Let us know if there are any other forums or meetings that you'd like Chief Sujeski to attend to speak on this topic.

Crystal Sujeski: The ICC kickoff meeting was Jan. 25 to discuss:

- The scope of what the project
- Issues and topics
- Current and future state of the technology
- Training and education
- Licensing and certification
- Plan review and permitting
- Public and private partnerships
- Code development

Although this is not a code development committee, there will be recommendations that come out of the work.

They discuss developing sub-committees to work on subsets of the larger issue including:

- Manufacturing, storage and recycling
- Micromobility and electric vehicles
- Residential energy storage
- Commercial energy storage

They would like to have a final deliverable within a year. We are also engaging with other organizations for speaker presentations or code interpretation, advice on permitting processes. Our first webinar was on Energy Storage Systems and can be found [here](#).

b) Program Update
(Informational Only)

Per Title 24, the Building Standards Code, the Building Standards Commission oversees the rule making process. Our proposals are heard by their advisory committees. We have submitted electrical, mechanical, and plumbing code proposals.

The electrical proposal is for energy storage for hospitals. We partnered with OSHPD in highlighting what this means. This was more of a cleanup of the electrical code.

The mechanical code was brought in early 2024 with uniform mechanical code provisions for the use of A2L which is low flammable refrigerant for home use with the intent of meeting climate change goals for California. There was no regulatory change, it was just a repeal and replace.

The plumbing code is just a new edition of the code.

The fire alarm advisory committee has some proposals for enhancing what we have for fire alarms and clarifying language from NFP 72. There is a proposal to bring in the latest edition of the standards.

There is an I3 committee that's looking at enhancing and clarifying the code language for detention facilities.

We have a recommendation to introduce a part 7 in the Building Standards Code which would be all the wildland provisions in one place taking what we currently have in Chapter 7A of the building code, chapter 49 of the fire code, and chapter 3 of the residential code and putting them in one place. There is precedent to do this. Working with the Board of Forestry to get their support.

Work with ICC Group A proposals. Working on international WUI code to introduce and propose what we're doing in California at the international level. We have 13 proposals to modify the international WUI code to be in alignment with what we have currently.

D) OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

E) NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

F) MEMBER UPDATES

Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE – A lot of our resources have been very busy with CALOES doing mission tasking work for a lot of the storm response for the last week. Will start staffing seasonal engines in April, and hand crews will be back in March. We have 7 C130 aircraft officially transferred to the State of California in January and are in the process of installing the retardant delivery systems onto the planes. We should have the first plane available by summer. Jan. 10 budget included the 66-hour workweek for CAL FIRE firefighters. We will be going through budget hearings this spring to support that budget adjustment going through.

Nancy Ward, CALOES – Had 21 operational area and 6 OEH positions covering 19 counties. Starting to get preposition requests.

Brian Rice, CA Firefighters Foundation – The California Firefighters foundation, which is CPF’s charity, this week approved the memorial expansion that’s taking place in Capital Park. Doing aggressive fundraising to cover the \$11M cost. The additions will include bronze relief story panels that tell the story of the California fire service. Changes will be within the same footprint but will moved around with a new statue called “Fire’s Out” centering on three firefighters with helmet gazing towards the memorial signifying a missing company member. Engaged artist, Don Romo, the son of Sacramento Battalion Chief and fallen brother Jesus Romo. The original memorial was built 25 years ago. The restoration will take approximately 3 years and challenge coins specific to the memorial will be available for purchase and will incorporated in the base of the memorial. Brian Rice will provide an update at the next meeting.

Ed Foster, California State Firefighters’ Association – CTEX, CSFA Training and Education Expo, will be occurring at the end of Feb. in Riverside at the Riverside Convention Center.

Moke Simon, Lakeside County Supervisor – Clearlake, one of the largest natural lakes in CA is filling up quickly. They’ll know in the next 10 days where they’re at with water infiltration. One of the 3 pilot programs for home hardening and vegetation abatement. The program is moving along with the help of NCO.

G)PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

H)UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The next State Board of Fire Services will be on May 14, 2024, 1:00-3:00pm, Natomas Training Center.

I) ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting in memory of former Vice Chair, Jerry Davies, at 1100 hours.