



## STEAC Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2026 – Teleconference Meeting

### I. Introductions and Welcome

#### Members Present:

Christopher Bonn, Metro Chiefs  
Steve Boughey, Metro Chiefs (alternate)  
Todd Braverman, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee  
Tierney Harrison, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (alternate)  
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South), STEAC Vice Chair  
Shawn Tukua, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South) (alternate)  
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
Peter Cacossa, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
Kyle Heggstrom, FDAC  
Geoff Belyea, FDAC (alternate)  
Justin Chaplin, CAL FIRE Training Center  
Nicole Gissell, CAL FIRE Training Center (alternate)  
Andrew Kibby, CAL FIRE  
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North)  
Keith Alexander, California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs)  
Devin Flannery, California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs)  
Brian Marshall, CAL OES  
Javier Lara, CAL OES (alternate)  
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association  
Dwight Stewart, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)  
Patrick D’Arcy, FIRESCOPE  
Nic Turner, FIRESCOPE (alternate)

#### Members Absent:

Mike Richwine, Chair  
John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters  
Glen Pavlovsky, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)  
Ray Mosack, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Greg Greenlee, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities  
Christopher Nigg, League of California Cities (alternate)  
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE (alternate)  
Lawrence French, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (North)

**State Fire Training Staff:**

Jill Bennetts, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Madison Cannon, SFT, Office Technician  
Natasha Cocks, SFT, Office Technician  
Brandon Erickson, SFT, Staff Services Manager I  
Kirsten Fonseca, SFT, Staff Services Analyst  
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Dustin Franks, SFT, Staff Services Analyst  
Selena Garcia-Villicana, SFT, Staff Services Analyst  
Katy Luetke-Porter, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)  
Diane Radford, SFT, Office Technician  
Kris Rose, SFT, Staff Services Manager I  
Frank Vue, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Public Attendees:**

Leonard Champion, Allan Hancock College  
Linda Vaughn, Bay Area Community College Consortium  
Chris Delcour, College of the Siskiyous  
Everett Buell, Crescent City Fire Protection District  
Jack Fry, CSTI - Fire and Rescue Training Unit  
Barbara Livanos, CSTI - Fire and Rescue Training Unit  
Aaron Lacy, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department  
Mike Harrison, Long Beach Fire  
Derrick Chapman, Los Angeles County Fire  
Jamie Gabriel, Los Angeles County Fire  
Calogero Monachino, Mission College  
Candice Koshman, Oakland Fire Department  
Dave Miller, Palomar College  
Jason Hemler, Sierra College  
Robert Lipp, Sterling Fire Training

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 09:04 AM by Chief Davidson, STEAC Vice Chair.

**Roll Call/Quorum Established**

A quorum was established during introductions.

## Member Appointments and Reappointments

1. Kyle Heggstrom – FDAC – Member Reappointment
2. Geoff Belyea – FDAC – Alternate Reappointment
3. Devin Flannery – Cal Chiefs – Member Reappointment
4. Keith Alexander – Cal Chiefs – Member Reappointment
5. Jason Hosea – CSFA – Alternate Reappointment
6. Nicole Gisselle – CAL FIRE Training Center – Alternate Reappointment
7. Donovan Lacy – Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (North) – Member Reappointment
8. Lawrence French – Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (North) – Alternate Appointment

## Past Member Recognition

1. None

## II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief Davidson

## III. Approval of October 10, 2025 Minutes

Presenter: Chief Davidson

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Nic Turner moved to accept the minutes from October 10, 2025. Donovan Lacy seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

## IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler stated that the State Board of Fire Services met in November 2025 and that all topics presented were successful. State Fire Training shared the first readings of the new Fire Marshal, First Responder Inspector, Fire Inspector, and Plans Examiner curriculums without any questions from the committee. All reaccreditations were approved. The State Board of Fire Services also approved the modified interim procedures for authorized signers of recognized fire agencies. These procedures were approved at the October 2025 STEAC meeting.

## **V. Consent Items**

### **A. STEAC Charter**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler introduced a drafted document which defines STEAC's purpose, scope, authority, and responsibilities. This charter clarifies what the committee is empowered to do, how it will operate, and how success will be measured. Chief Fowler added that adopting this document will provide a shared understanding of committee expectations and serve as a reference point for decision making and accountability moving forward. The STEAC charter also specifies the responsibilities and roles of STEAC leadership, STEAC committee members, State Fire Training staff, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

### **B. California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Guide 2026**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that the 2026 CICCS Guide was revised to address feedback on previous versions. The updated version of the guide was shared with STEAC to confirm that the content, structure and guidance accurately reflect what this committee is looking for. If STEAC approves the changes, the CICCS Guide will be finalized and posted on the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) website.

### **C. Allan Hancock College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that Allan Hancock College's site evaluation occurred on November 19, 2025. The program has served the central coast since 1972 and was among the first ARTPs to initiate State Fire Training's certification exam process. Allan Hancock College is an excellent partner to its region and collaborates closely with surrounding agencies. The college also offers an array of SFT courses.

Chief Petty then introduced Allan Hancock College's Fire Academy Coordinator, Leonard Champion, to the committee. L. Champion shared that this is his second time participating in Allan Hancock College's reaccreditation cycle and that he is continuing to learn the process. He thanked Chief Petty for her support. L. Champion is excited about the growth of the fire program, adding that it has strong support from Allan Hancock College's administration, the college's advisory group, and local agencies. He concluded by saying that the program has a lot of interest and that he is excited to continue helping students join the fire service.

The site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Allan Hancock College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for an accreditation period of five (5) years.

#### **D. Mission College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty told the committee about Mission College's site evaluation, which was conducted on November 26, 2025. She described Mission College as a progressive institution, which recently implemented virtual reality training tools. The college also plans to launch a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Services Degree program in fall 2026. Since its initial accreditation, the college has continued to invest in program infrastructure by expanding the drill grounds on campus. This has enabled them to conduct more specialized training courses and SFT courses.

Calogero Monachino, Mission College's Academy Coordinator, thanked Chief Fowler, Selena Villicana-Garcia, and Jill Bennetts for their support. C. Monachino shared that this is the college's first reaccreditation and that its fire academy is still a developing program. The college recently moved its burn cell from Sunnyvale Fire Prevention Services to the Mission College campus. Santa Clara Fire Department recently used the college's burn cell to host a Fire Control 3 course. Mission College staff members are working to build relationships with other agencies in Santa Clara County. The college is also striving to meet the needs of its community. Its spring and fall semester training classes have consistently reached their capacity of twenty-five students and added waitlists of five to ten additional students. To meet growing community interest, the college increased its EMT training from three to five sections in the past year.

The site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Mission College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for a reaccreditation period of four (4) years.

#### **E. Palomar College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty explained that Palomar College had its site evaluation on November 5, 2025. She told the committee that Palomar College is a statewide leader in the training and development of fire service professionals. The college recruits from local high schools and uses strong diversification outreach programs to generate interest in young adults. The college also provides numerous continuing education opportunities for its region in career advancement and specialty development.

Dave Miller, the Fire Technology Chairperson at Palomar College, thanked Chief Petty for her help and said that the process is much smoother than previous cycles. He shared that Palomar College has a robust academy, receiving 150 applicants for one 40-person cohort. Most of the college's fire technology courses have waitlists. Academy leaders are currently looking for ways to expand within the college, but D. Miller admitted that financial limitations have made this process difficult. The college maintains a strong relationship with Cal Fire San Diego. Cal Fire San Diego teaches the college's academy wildland component and many of Palomar College's academy graduates become recruits for this unit.

Chief Petty concluded this presentation by stating that the site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Palomar College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for a reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

#### **F. Los Angeles County Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that the department had its site evaluation on November 17, 2025. She described the department as a distinguished and historic organization serving a vast area in Southern California. The agency is an active participant in the State Fire Training system, collaborating in several workgroups and cadres. LA County has delivered 18 academies and produced nearly 700 new firefighters since its last reaccreditation. The organization also maintains several outreach programs, including its Women's Fire Prep Academy, youth camps, and various weekend events.

Chief Petty then yielded the floor to Jamie Gabriel and Derrick Chapman, from Los Angeles County Fire Department. J Gabriel told the committee that this is her second time going through reaccreditation. She shared that the department is expanding its academy by adding more training captains and incorporating several changes to its program. Because of these changes, J. Gabriel said that it was a great time to reflect on the department's previous accreditation, discuss how they met their goals, and add new goals for training. The department received great feedback from Chief Petty, which J. Gabriel said will help them move forward with their plans to expand training.

D. Chapman added that he is grateful for LA County's relationship with State Fire Training and its training catalog. Each year, the department offers 52 SFT courses, which give people in their region opportunities for growth. He also wanted to expand on the upcoming changes to LA County's fire academy. The department's next recruitment class will start with 120 students. The department's goal is to ramp up to 240 recruits in each class. LA County will be one of first departments in California to expand their academy to this degree. D. Chapman added that the department now has the necessary training facilities and staff to make this happen. He hopes that this expanded fire academy will help resolve staffing shortages in Los Angeles County.

Chief Petty concluded by sharing that LA County's site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Los Angeles County Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy for a reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Chief Davidson congratulated LA County for taking on an academy of 120 students with all the rigorous, physical skills requirements. He stated that he is eager to see the outcome of this new program model. D. Chapman said that it will be a big undertaking but that with new staffing the academy will maintain a 1:5 instructor-student ratio. The department is confident that they have a strong plan to support students and are eager to see what their capabilities are after this first class.

## **G. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty told the committee about the reaccreditation process for Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. The department's site evaluation took place on November 25, 2025. Chief Petty shared that LPFD offers a comprehensive and well-rounded training program, led by experienced personnel. The department provides routine professional development and in-service training for all members. This training includes a growing list of State Fire Training courses.

Aaron Lacey, who is the new fire chief of the department, thanked STEAC for LPFD's third reaccreditation. He also thanked Chief Fowler and Chief Petty for their support over the past ten years. A. Lacey shared that he started working in the department's training division in 2016. Participating in the reaccreditation process has given his department the opportunity to look back at its initial accreditation from 2017 and capture its progress and growth in the fire service industry. He added that because everything is fast paced in fire service, it is great to have the opportunity to reflect on the department's growth. A. Lacey concluded by saying that it is an honor and pleasure for their department to partner with SFT.

The site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of four and a half years.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Kyle Heggstrom moved to accept the motion for all consent items. Justin Chaplin seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

## **VI. New Accredited Academies**

None

## **VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery**

### **A. First Responder Inspector (2024) Curriculum**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that there were no stakeholder requests for edits following the first reading of this curriculum at the October 2025 STEAC meeting. This curriculum will replace the Fire Inspector 1 (2014) curriculum. State Fire Training updated this curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030, the standard for professional qualifications.

Chief Davidson asked if the committee had any questions regarding this curriculum. There were no questions. He added that this is a much-needed curriculum and that professional inspectors are greatly needed in the field for safety measures.

**Motion:** *Keith Alexander moved to accept the motion for this item. Devin Flannery seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted to approve the motion. The motion carries.*

## **B. Fire Inspector (2024) Curriculum**

Presenters: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler stated that there were no stakeholder requests for edits following the first reading of this curriculum at the October 2025 STEAC meeting. This curriculum will replace Fire Inspector 2 (2014), with its title subsequently changed to Fire Inspector (2024) to align with NFPA 1030. State Fire Training updated this curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030, the standard for professional qualifications.

**Motion:** *Keith Alexander moved to accept the motion for this item. Andrew Kibby seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All other members voted to approve the motion. The motion carries.*

## **C. Fire Marshal (2024) Curriculum**

Presenters: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler stated that this is the second reading of the Fire Marshal (2024) curriculum and that there were no stakeholder requests for edits following the first reading at the October 2025 STEAC meeting. State Fire Training updated this curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030, the standard for professional qualifications.

**Motion:** *Keith Alexander moved to accept the motion for this item. Justin Chaplin seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All other members voted to approve the motion. The motion carries.*

## **D. Fire Plans Examiner (2024) Curriculum**

Presenters: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that this is the second reading of the Fire Plans Examiner (2024) curriculum and that there were no stakeholder requests for edits following the October 2025 STEAC meeting. State Fire Training updated this curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1030, the standard for professional qualifications.

**Motion:** *Keith Alexander moved to accept the motion for this item. Justin Chaplin seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted to approve the motion. The motion carries.*

## **E. NWCG and California Specific Curriculum Alignment (Information Only)**

Presenters: Chief Fowler & Katy Luetke-Porter

Chief Fowler told the committee that the State Fire Training catalog contains 29 NWCG courses. Deputy Luetke-Porter conducted an analysis of these courses and found that several classes have not been updated to reflect NWCG revisions. With support from STEAC, SFT will internally update course content requirements and resources to align

with the NWCG curriculum. State Fire Training will bring the updated courses as one package to July STEAC for final approval. Chief Fowler added that since NWCG revisions have already been vetted at the national level, State Fire Training does not need to conduct the extensive curriculum review that is typically required.

Chief Fowler yielded the floor to Deputy Luetke-Porter, who shared her findings with the committee. She told the committee that SFT delivered S-courses over 1500 times in the last five years. SFT's most frequently scheduled courses are S-130, S-190, S-212, S-290, and S231.

Deputy Luetke-Porter conducted a comparative analysis between SFT's NWCG courses and NWCG's current catalog. NWCG is in year three of a five-year training overhaul initiative, called Incident Training Performance Modernization (ITPM). This initiative deemphasizes PowerPoint training and puts greater importance on online pre-course work, on-the-job training, and task book training qualifications. In 2024 NWCG still had over 100 positions and courses to overhaul.

Deputy Luetke-Porter shared some notable NWCG changes with the committee. As of January 2026, three courses in the SFT Catalog are no longer available in NWCG catalog. Notably, S-223, which is a prerequisite for Fireline EMT and Fireline Paramedic, is no longer available. This course is also listed as a requirement for Fireline EMT and Fireline Paramedic in the 2026 CIGGS guide.

A lot of NWCG courses have undergone structural changes, focusing on pre-course assessments and hybrid learning models instead of classroom-based, instructor-led delivery. NWCG also moved all course content and materials to its NWCG learning portal. Because of this change, the Instructor Resources sections in SFT course plans are now inaccurate.

Deputy Luetke-Porter also added that inconsistencies between NWCG S-type and California-registered C-type courses have created some frustration and confusion for stakeholders. This has been shared with State Fire Training by multiple individuals.

Chief Davidson recommended that community colleges review and make comments on SFT's proposed NWCG changes within the next six months. He pointed out that the curriculum delivery and timetable changes to S-290 will be especially impactful to colleges. He asked that all STEAC members bring this report back to their constituents and share feedback with State Fire Training.

Andrew Kibby said that S-290's changes will greatly impact CAL FIRE, since this class is required for academy. The course is transitioning from one day of online instruction and two days of in-person instruction to a five-day course. This course will now consist of three days of online learning and two days of in-person learning. He added that NWCG is shutting down their portal on January 31st which will have a huge agency impact. CAL FIRE had the University of Idaho run a train-the-trainer course so CAL FIRE employees could continue teaching S-290. A. Kibby emphasized that the NWCG changes will have a huge impact on all the agencies that teach these courses. Chief Davidson agreed with A. Kibby's comments, saying that the increased online component will significantly change the impact of S-290.

Nic Turner followed up by asking A. Kibby to clarify the new course structure for S-290. A. Kibby confirmed that S-290 will now consist of three days of online coursework and two days of in-person training. Students will login to the NWCG portal to complete the three days of online learning.

Chief Davidson commented that colleges will need to make unit adjustments because of the S-290 changes. He added that this is why it's important that all colleges are informed of NWCG updates and not caught off guard.

Darren Hall asked what colleges should anticipate for the remote component of NWCG courses. Does State Fire Training imagine that coursework will be done remotely and then students will go to their colleges for the in-person portions of the course? He asked if colleges have discussed these changes as well. Chief Davidson said that he does not believe that colleges have reviewed these changes yet and asked SFT employees for guidance. Chief Petty said that the three days of online coursework would be a prerequisite for the students to participate in their college's in-person training.

#### **F. Fire Officer Series Curriculum Review (Information Only)**

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty stated that this review is an administrative clarification of the curriculum. SFT's Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer, and Executive Chief Fire Officer recently transitioned to the Fire Officer hybrid cohort methodology. This marked a philosophical shift in instructional delivery, with students attending courses while working on their task books simultaneously. The intent of these changes was to allow students to apply what they learn in class to their jobs and gain occupational experience tied to their course work rather than made up scenarios.

In the curriculum roll-out SFT received feedback from stakeholders stating that it was unclear how the instructors were supposed to incorporate this hybrid approach. SFT found that the intent and standardized delivery were not explicit enough. SFT is working with the California Fire Technology Directors Association, which brought many of the curriculum challenges to SFT's attention. Together, the group narrowed down topics in need of attention.

The first topic that needed attention was the online delivery component. State Fire Training defines distance education as synchronous, online delivery which consists of direct student-to-instructor engagement through a device. This delivery model was incorporated during COVID and has remained a way for students across the state to attend courses at colleges and larger agencies. SFT did not have a clear definition for "hybrid cohort." Because of its technology component, the hybrid cohort initially fell under the existing definition of distance education delivery. However, the Fire Officer distance component is not meant to be synchronous delivery. The current SFT definition of distance learning is also limited to ALA and ARTPs, which creates complications for non-ALAs or ARTPs who want to teach the Fire Officer curriculum. State Fire Training is working on providing clear definitions for "distance education" and "hybrid cohort." The hybrid cohort is limited to Fire Officer courses only, which will allow non-accredited agencies to teach these courses. A modified version of the distance education

application has been created for the Fire Officer classes. When submitting course requests, the instructor will need to fill out this application and attach it to their course request form. On the form, they will need to demonstrate how this course will be conducted in compliant fashion.

The second topic of concern was the standardization of the Fire Officer courses. Based on feedback, State Fire Training determined that the course plans need parameters demonstrating what the intended course delivery looks like. Chief Petty and the work group will expand the course timetables to include more specific instructions on what portion of the course is classroom based, what is activity-based, what is task book time, and how these categories contribute to the total 54 hours of each course. The current timetables are currently only divided between classroom time, application (activity) time, and total times. The courses currently have a significant amount of activity time, which is not all intended to be conducted outside of class. Chief Petty clarified that a portion of the activity time is meant for in-person group activities.

Chief Petty added that the work group is also developing recommended teaching orders for these courses. They hope that this will provide new instructors with an exemplary model of how to implement these courses.

In addition to amending timetables, the work group and stakeholder committees will work on providing specific verbiage necessary for colleges and their instructors' pay classifications. Specifically, the group is working with colleges to clarify what the instructor is doing during classroom-based lectures and lab or technology (activities) time.

Chief Petty concluded by stating that there are no changes to the Fire Officer curriculum or its hours. Rather, the work group is clarifying documents to ensure all courses maintain compliance and standardization. SFT recommends placing a tactical pause on scheduling the Fire Officer courses until this work is complete. SFT also recommends pausing new instructor registration until the administrative changes are complete. The Fire Officer updates will return to STEAC as a State Fire Training Update.

Darren Hall shared that he appreciates SFT's efforts to listen to the colleges' concerns. He thinks that Fire Officer will be a great model that is aligned with Chief Bisbee's vision for the curriculum. He also wants to make sure that the work group considers how the curriculum should be delivered to ALAs in addition to ARTPs. D. Hall wants to confirm that all instructors can manage the curriculum hours and award the accurate credits for colleges. D. Hall concluded by sharing that students can receive college units after completing Fire Officer certifications. California community colleges are now offering robust credit for prior learning programs. D. Hall urged agencies to work with local community colleges to help employees earn their degrees.

Robert Lipp asked if State Fire Training anticipates pushing back the retirement date for Chief Fire Officer, considering the Fire Officer revisions. If the deadline is not pushed back, will the new curriculum be approved prior to July deadline? Chief Fowler and Chief Petty confirmed that Fire Officer will be updated prior to July, since there are no changes to the curriculum. State Fire Training is only putting a pause on scheduling and instructor registration. The current implementation and retirement dates will remain.

R. Lipp also asked the committee how task book completion time will fit into the Fire Officer activity schedules. He asked if State Fire Training wants students to complete their task books during the afternoon on in-person class days. He expressed concern that fire departments would not accept his signature on students' task books. Chief Petty clarified that students would take their task books back to their agencies for sign-off. The intent is that students attend class, obtain experience in the real world, and then get their task books signed off by their own agencies and authorized signers. Instructors will not be signing off on task book requirements.

Chief Davidson acknowledged a comment that Linda Vaughn put in the meeting chat. L. Vaughn stated that standardization is critical now that California State Universities are applying fire courses to upper division degrees. Chief Davidson agreed and said that standardization is needed throughout the state to make sure all regions teach the same content. D. Hall also responded to Linda's comment, sharing that Fire Officer 2 coursework will be embedded in several colleges' associate degree programs. This will help students pursue their Fire Officer 3 Certification, since this requires that candidates have an associate degree.

## **VIII. State Fire Training Updates**

### **A. Accredited Academies Steering Committee**

Presenter: Chief Petty

With its growing number of accredited academies, State Fire Training has recognized a need to reevaluate its accreditation regulations. Chief Petty shared that SFT will put together a committee to define what it means to be an accredited academy in the State Fire Training system, and what requirements academies need to satisfy. This committee will review SFT processes, current state law language, regulation documents, and incorporated reference documents. Participants will also discuss how to make the accreditation process relevant to the present day. The committee will meet during Quarter 1 of 2026, and plan future meetings based on need. Committee membership will consist of the Chief of State Fire Training or their designee (likely Chief Petty), two ARTP representatives, two ALA representatives, one CAL FIRE representative, one STEAC representative, one California Fire Technology Directors Association representative, and one California Training Officers Association representative. State Fire Training informed all ALAs and ARTPS of this committee at the end of 2025. Chief Fowler will make her committee selections in the coming weeks. Chief Petty will bring updates from this committee to April STEAC.

Chief Fowler elaborated on the committee structure, saying that it is similar to the Fire Fighter curriculum steering committee. The purpose of this committee is to have an open conversation about improving the accreditation program and identifying accredited academy requirements. State Fire Training does not want to make these decisions without the opinions of stakeholders.

Chief Davidson asked about the time commitment for this committee. Chief Fowler said that SFT has not structured time commitment yet. They currently anticipate at least two meetings: one meeting to review regulation documents and one to review current accredited academy requirements. Chief Fowler added that the meetings can be held

online based on committee availability. The meeting structures are flexible, but State Fire Training will provide agendas and attachments in advance so participants can prepare for meetings.

Richard Beckman had a question about committee membership. Chief Fowler clarified that the committee will consist of two ALA representatives, two ARTP representatives, one California Fire Technology Directors Association representative, one CAL FIRE representative, one California Training Officers Association representative, and one member of STEAC who is not associated with any of those other groups. This is to ensure that all groups are equally represented in the review process.

Darren Hall asked if the ARTPs should have one representative from Northern California colleges and one representative from Southern California colleges. Chief Fowler responded that State Fire Training does not want to make this committee too similar to the structure of STEAC. SFT wants this to be a smaller committee to make the process more interactive and effective.

Chief Davidson asked if anyone from STEAC was interested in volunteering for the committee. Devin Flannery volunteered to serve as a non-ALA/ARTP representative. Chief Davidson also said that he would be happy to join the committee as a representative, if needed. Chief Fowler thanked Chief Davidson and D. Flannery. She added that she will email individuals who are interested in joining the committee.

## **B. Blueprint 2030**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that State Fire Training received feedback on Blueprint 2030, stating that the photos were mostly focused on CAL FIRE. As a result, SFT changed the report to ensure that the images were representative of all stakeholders, not just CAL FIRE. There were no changes to the content of the report. State Fire Training only updated the report's visuals to be more inclusive

## **C. Annual Report 2025**

Presenter: Brandon Erickson

Brandon Erickson shared an update on State Fire Training's 2025 Annual Report. This report shares information from SFT's previous fiscal year, covering July 2024 through June 2025. The report shares statistics on certifications and course scheduling, accomplishments in curriculum, and two fire service perspective stories from Chief Darren Hall and Chief David Sprague. B. Erickson said that SFT hopes to have the report published within the next two weeks.

## **D. Training Officers Symposium**

Presenter: Chief Davidson & Chief Fowler

Chief Davidson and Chief Fowler shared information about the upcoming California Training Officers 2026 Training Symposium, which will occur in Fresno on March 16-20th. Enrollment recently opened and there are many courses for participants to take. Chief Davidson said that this symposium is a great opportunity for people to sign up for courses that are difficult to attend in their region. The symposium also gives groups the opportunity to roll out new courses. Chief Davidson was told that this is the largest conference in Fresno with just over 500 participants signed up.

## **IX. Public Comment**

Chief Davidson opened the meeting to public comments.

Chief Mike Harrison from Long Beach Fire asked about a candidate's ICT4 application. The candidate applied for ICT4 with CICCIS equivalency. This equivalency was for a course that was previously equal to Company Officer 2E but would now be equivalent to Fire Officer 2C. Since the timeline for Fire Officer 2C scheduling is unclear, how should Long Beach Fire proceed with this applicant? Chief Davidson said that there needs to be consistency between counties regarding CICCIS equivalency. STEAC recommended differing this question in writing to Chief Vail, who is the CICCIS/OES coordinator. Brian Marshall said that this question can be sent to his office and he would forward this information to Chief Vail. Chief Fowler provided her email address in the meeting chat to support Chief Harrison in connecting with Chief Vail.

## **X. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence**

Presenter: Chief Davidson

Chief Davidson utilized this time to check in with each of the organizations present for any updates and current projects.

Richard Beckman shared information about upcoming California Fire Technology Directors Association (CFTDA) meetings. The next two meetings will occur on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Fresno Symposium and on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Huntington Beach.

Devin Flannery shared that the California Fire Chiefs Association will collaborate with FIRESCOPE to host the Fire Operations Technology Summit. This will occur on February 3-5<sup>th</sup> at Esri Headquarters in Redlands, CA

Nicole Gissell thanked STEAC for her reappointment to CAL FIRE Training Center. She looks forward to continuing to be part of this committee.

Todd Braverman shared that California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

had a busy end to 2025 with its biennial conference in Rancho Mirage. Next week, the committee will host a graduation for its EMT academy in San Diego. T. Braverman added that they also received a \$10 million grant and will use these funds to start a dozen new academies throughout the state over the next three years.

Brian Marshall shared that CAL OES has a new acting director and a new acting deputy director. It is uncertain at this time whether these changes in leadership will lead to reorganizations within the department. He added that CAL OES looks forward to seeing the governor's state budget and how it will impact the department.

Andrew Kibby shared that CAL FIRE Training kicked off the 2026 training season with both internal CAL FIRE classes and external courses. CAL FIRE is working on rewriting training policies and procedures. They recently completed the first reading of their CAL FIRE Rope Rescue Awareness course. The addition of this class will help Cal Fire members who need to take this course to fulfill training requirements.

Dwight Stewart shared that the California State Fire Fighters Association (CSFA) has no major announcements. The department will host their CSFA NorCal Fire Explorer Muster event with Metro Fire on April 26<sup>th</sup>. This event is geared towards 14–20-year-olds who participate in youth fire service programs.

#### **A. California Training Officers – Request for Reinstatement of SFT's S-420**

Presenter: Chief Davidson

Chief Davidson shared that California Training Officers has requested that State Fire Training reinstate S-420. California Training Officers would also like to teach this course at the upcoming Fresno Symposium. Chief Fowler responded that State Fire Training did not ever schedule this course when it was in the catalog but acknowledged that the CICCIS Guide lists S-420 as a requirement to initiate many task books and obtain several qualifications. SFT will include this course in its NWCG analysis report conducted by Deputy Luetke-Porter.

Chief Fowler said that SFT would need to work directly with the registered instructor to run S-420 as a pilot course at the Fresno Symposium. They would then need to collect student feedback and gather course data to see if it would be a beneficial addition to the SFT catalog. Deputy Luetke-Porter will follow up with the instructor to gather more information.

Andrew Kibby shared that CAL FIRE has its own C-420 course. CAL FIRE worked with NWCG's S-420 curriculum and added additional California-specific content. CAL FIRE supports their C-420 course instruction internally with coaches and cadre members. The cadre recently revised their C-420 curriculum and will host the revamped course in March. A. Kibby shared that NWCG is also updating their S-420 course.

A. Kibby added that he is involved in the Fresno Symposium's pilot S-420 course. He shared that the instructor is a former CAL FIRE instructor who assisted with the C-420 rewrite and is extremely knowledgeable about this curriculum.

Chief Fowler responded to A. Kibby, asking if he could share the registered instructor's contact information. SFT will work with him to create a course request and start the process of scheduling this as a pilot S-420 course. She added that State Fire Training has no issues with carrying this course but must go through SFT processes internally to add it back to catalog.

Javier Lara shared that there is an additional cadre that teaches the S-420 course in the Los Angeles area. CAL OES has been working with NWCG partners to vet the course since it is needed throughout state.

Chief Davidson said that there is clearly a need for S-420 and believes there is a desire to have this course certified through SFT. He added that it sounds like there is support for this development if SFT can find a way to make this happen. Chief Fowler confirmed that State Fire Training will add this course to NWCG list.

To conclude the meeting, Chief Petty and Brett Davidson shared information about Sam DiGiovanna's Celebration of Life. Sam DiGiovanna was a longtime member of CSFA and a lifelong contributor to the fire service. His service occurred in Glendale on January 18, 2026.

## **XI. Future Meeting Dates**

**April 10, 2026; July 10, 2026; October 9, 2026**

Presenter: Chief Davidson

## **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM