



STEAC Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2023 – Teleconference Meeting

I. Introductions and Welcome

Members Present

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association
Greg Belk, CAL FIRE (alternate)
John Binaski, STEAC Committee Chair
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Jarrod Clinkenbeard, CAL FIRE Training
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South)
Stephen Gutierrez, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
Gareth Harris, Fire District Association of California
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)
Andrew Kibby, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section, (South) (alternate)
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North) (alternate)
Brian Marshall, CAL OES
Kirk Noffsinger, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North)
Gaudenz Panholzer, California Fire Chiefs Association
Ken Sebastiani, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Rich Thomas, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)
Gail Warner, California Fire Technology Directors Association
David Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association

Members Absent

Jeff Boyles, League of California Cities (alternate)
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE
Darren Hall, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Javier Lara, CAL OES
Rob Wheatley, CAL FIRE Training (alternate)

State Fire Training Staff

Joe Bunn, SFT, Fire Service Training Specialist
Madison Cannon, SFT, Office Technician

Brandon Erickson, SFT, Staff Services Manager I
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Dustin Franks, SFT, Staff Services Analyst
Selena Garcia-Villicana, SFT, Staff Services Analyst
Andrew Henning, SFT, SFT Division Chief & OSFM Assistant Deputy Director
Derek Lueth, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal I
Kris Rose, SFT, Staff Services Manager I
Frank Vue, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by John Binaski

A. Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

B. Member Appointments and Re-Appointments

John Binaski stated that Jeff Boyles, Newport Beach Fire Chief will be representing as the alternate for the League of California Cities. Greg Belk is now a member as alternate for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). There were many reappointments as well.

II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

John Binaski stated that due to Andrew Henning and Brandon Erickson being on travel at a conference, items VI. F. and VII A. and B. will be moved after item IV.

III. Approval of the October 14, 2022, Minutes

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

Motion: *Richard Beckman moved to accept the minutes from July 8, 2022. Gaudenz Panholzer seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously.*

IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated that the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) met on November 1st, where they approved the College of the Desert initial accreditation and Alameda City re-accreditation. He said they also approved several new technical rescue curriculums and updates, including Trench Rescue Technician, Common Passenger Vehicle

Rescue Technician, Heavy Vehicle Rescue Technician, Fire Control 4 and Home Ignition Zone / Defensible Space as well as the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) updated guide. The next SBFS meeting was scheduled for February 16th.

V. Consent Items

A. San Bernardino County Fire Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the site evaluation took place on November 8, 2022. San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD) is a model fire agency that has proudly demonstrated great interagency cooperation. The SBCFD has demonstrated a strong devotion to training that is indicative of a progressive organization through provision of comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment with a focus on wellness and safety. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. Exceptional efforts are being made through camps and outreach events to diversify the workforce. Eager to meet the needs of the region, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system through focus group, curriculum cadre, and accredited academy engagement.

Nic Turner thanked SFT for their support over the last three years. SFT recommended SBCFD re-accreditation for a period of five years.

B. Chabot College Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the site evaluation was conducted on November 30, 2022. Chabot College is a statewide leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. Program coordinators recognize the underserved student and agency populations in the region and have an expressed desire to bridge the regional fire service training and education gap. This focus on providing education for all students is indicative of the training devotion serving as the foundation of the program. Academy personnel possess an energetic and innovative approach to program development with a strong focus on maintaining diversified student populations while adhering to the standards set forth by State Fire Training. The College is proactively building cooperative relationships founded on producing strong, well-rounded fire service professionals. The students and staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery, advisory committee participation, academy enhancement, and instructor development.

SFT recommended Chabot College re-accreditation for a period of five years.

C. Shasta College Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the site evaluation was conducted on November 26, 2022. Shasta College serves a unique region of the State, providing affordable, robust, and well-rounded training programs to entry-level, volunteer, and career fire service personnel. The College provides an array of State Fire Training courses to an underserved region in Northern California, with various technical rescue and specialized courses being delivered. The students and staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery, advisory committee participation, academy enhancement, and instructor development. Shasta College possesses an unwavering devotion to complete student development.

Don Lacy thanked SFT for their help and Chief Petty and Chief Fowler for their guidance through the process. SFT recommended Shasta College re-accreditation for a period of five years.

D. State-Certified Prescribed-Fire Burn Boss (CARX) course maximum class size and instructor/student ratios

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that the class size and ratio is not currently in alignment with similar class-based courses. Currently there is a maximum of 24 students with a 1:12 instructor to student ratio for lecture and 1:6 for activities. Since this course does not have any live fire or other high-risk activity, SFT is proposing to increase the maximum students to 30 with a matching instructor to student ratio of 1:30 for all portions of the class.

E. Fire Marshal Task Book Update

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated the Fire Marshal Task Book update proposes that students may complete the basic Public Information Officer (PIO) course concurrently with the task book instead of prior to initiation. There has been a limited availability of PIO classes causing delays for participants. If approved, the task book and certification application will be updated to reflect a co-requisite as proposed in the staff report.

Motion:	<i>Gaudenz Panholzer moved to accept the motion for all consent items. Gareth Harris seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VI. Curriculum Development & Delivery

A. Marine Firefighter for the Land Based Fire Fighter Curriculum

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that this is the second reading of this curriculum with no stakeholder requests for edits following the October 2, 2022, STEAC meeting. The course is intended to provide the knowledge and skills that will ensure a safe, effective, and

consistent fire fighter response across the state's waterways in alignment with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1005 and the United States Coast Guard best practices.

Motion: *Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion. John Bagala seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously.*

B. Incident Safety for the Agricultural Land and Livestock Producers Curriculum

Presenter: Chris Fowler

John Binaski asked if there is a plan in place to notify the Agricultural Commissioners when this curriculum is finalized. Chris Fowler responded stating SFT has been in discussion with Chief Henning on creating a way to provide notification.

Chris Fowler stated that this is the second reading of this curriculum with no stakeholder requests for edits following the October 2, 2022, STEAC meeting. Both the instructor and student feedback from the pilot courses was incorporated. The curriculum is developed in compliance with the directives of Assembly Bill 1103 and will provide Incident Safety information to qualifying livestock producers and managerial employees.

John Binaski asked about fee collection and delivery of the course. Chris Fowler clarified that SFT has developed the curriculum and that if an instructor wishes to become registered and register the class with SFT they may, but it will primarily be the responsibility of the commissioners to deliver the course without active involvement from SFT.

Motion: *Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion. Jason Hosea seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously.*

C. Fire Fighter Survival

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that Fire Fighter Survival (FFS) course went through a re-write in early 2022, the new FFS 2023 curriculum is based in the FSTEP system and serves as an update to the existing 2010 curriculum with a direct correlation to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fireground Survival program. SFT wanted to make sure that they were mirroring what that program was offering. The curriculum allows students to recognize and engage the skill necessary to minimize errors on the fireground and reduce fire fighter injuries and fatalities using timely and relevant information and techniques. The course will remain 16 hours in duration with a minimal update to the course content. The curriculum is expected to be implemented June 1, 2023, pending State Board of Fire Services approval.

The noted changes include changes to the prerequisites that now include the free IAFF online Fireground Survival Awareness course within 90 days, a class size increase from 40 to 50 students based on statewide participation in the course. The instructor to

student. ratios will be 1:50 for lecture and 1:10 for activities and skills/proficiency demonstrations. The course retains reciprocity with the IAFF Fireground Survival and instructor and student guides have been eliminated and replaced with a student training record for verifications of the skills, practice, and completion.

Changes to the instructor requirements include recognizing existing FFS instructors in good standing once they submit proof (via ACADIS web form) to SFT of their online IAFF Fireground Survival Awareness course completion. Those existing instructors will have until June 30, 2024 to complete the update. Instructor candidate currently working on FFS 2010 instructor trainee task books have until December 31, 2023 to complete and submit or they will need to meet the new instructor requirements. New instructors will need to complete the FFS course, the online IAFF course, and complete the FFS (2023) task book.

John Bagala asked about the timeframe for the online IAFF course completion. Caryn Petty clarified that students need to complete the course within 90 days of the course. Andrew Ruiz added that the IAFF course has had updates and some new material, so the requirement timeline was implemented to ensure the students accessed up to date information.

D. Fire Fighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Operations **Presenter: Caryn Petty**

Caryn Petty stated that the intent of Fire Fighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Operations (FFR) was to build upon Fire Fighter Survival, which is intended for a large audience including entry level personnel, while FFR builds upon that for more dynamic skills and evolutions. This is an FSTEP course and serves as an update to the 2010 Rapid Intervention Crew Operations (RICOP) course. The intent is to correlate with the IAFF Fireground Survival program that is developing a course of similar nature to not duplicate efforts. The curriculum allows students to recognize and engage in skills necessary to minimize errors on the fireground and reduce fire fighter injuries and fatalities using timely and relevant information and techniques.

C. Petty state that this not an existing course update but a new course based on the existing Rapid Intervention Crew Operations course and NFPA standards as well as FIRESCOPE and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reference documents. Notable changes to the curriculum include an 8 hour increase from 24 to 32 hours to accommodate the increased content focused on fire fighter rescue separate from and potentially prior to the Rapid Intervention Crew Operation activation. Student size increased from 40 to 50 students with a 1:50 instructor to student ratio for lectures and 1:10 ratio for activities, skills proficiency, and demonstration. The perquisites have been updated – both the IAFF Fireground Survival course completed within 90 days of the course start date and SFT FFS must be completed to attend this course. SFT did these updates to FFS and FFR in tandem to build the fire fighting skill set. The updated FFR course does not maintain reciprocity with IAFF Fireground Survival Operations at this time because IAFF has not finalized that course so there is no direct crosswalk or correlation. SFT will review that new curriculum when it is released to reevaluate.

Instructor and student guides have also been eliminated for this course and a student training record has been developed to verify skills practice and completion. The curriculum is expected to be implemented June 1, 2023. For existing instructors, due to the substantial updates to the RICOP 2011 curriculum, current RICOP instructors must complete the following to receive authorization to teach the new FFR 2023 course: they must complete the online Fireground Survival Awareness course through IAFF within three years of teaching their first FFR course, they must have completed the FFR instructor update via virtual session through SFT, and then complete a verification web form to submit these requirements prior to June 30, 2024. Instructors with an open RICOP task book must have it completed and submitted no later than June 30, 2024 – if not they will need to meet the new requirements. New instructors need to complete FFR 2023 or RICOP 2011 with Fireground Survival Awareness (IAFF), as well as the FFR instructor task book.

John Binaski asked about the impact to accredited academies, Caryn Petty responded stating that RICOP has most often been offered at agencies and is not often offered via the colleges, as well as they have had several months' notice of this coming change.

Richard Beckman asked how instructors/agencies verify that students have taken the IAFF Fireground Survival Awareness course. Andrew Ruiz stated that students will receive a certificate of completion they can print to present to satisfy the prerequisite.

E. Machinery Rescue Technician **Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that this is the first read of the new Machinery Rescue Technician. The course is developed to ensure training for an effective response to rescuing victims who've become entrapped or tangled or pinned in various types of machinery. The course is in alignment with NFPA 1006. It is an FSTEP course which is in alignment with the professional qualifications allowing for later pursuit of rescue technician certification if desired. The course requires that the student complete both Vehicle Extrication or Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician and Confined Space Rescue Awareness training as a pre-requisite. To build out the registered instructors for this new curriculum, the cadre will be hosting Machinery Rescue Technician instructor roll out courses beginning February first, allowing from February until June to meet the needs of qualified registered instructors. The delivery of the roll out class will be very similar to how the Structural Collapse Technician series was introduced to existing instructors.

Gail Warner asked what the reasoning was for capping the class size for lecture at 32 students, stating that college class sizes are often higher. Chris Fowler stated that it is in alignment for technical rescue courses and common throughout NFPA 1006 series. She advised that the colleges can submit variance requests for review if they need to hold larger classes. John Binaski commented that if there is too high a number of students that they may not get sufficient amount of time with props for the course. Aide Barbat also noted that part of the maximum class and ratio maximums concern safety of conducting the class as well as the logistics become more difficult in large classes.

F. Fire Fighter 1 Cognitive Exam

Presenter: Brandon Erickson

Brandon Erickson stated that the current test bank for Fire Fighter 1B comprises of 10 questions for First Responder Awareness (FRA) and 15 questions for First Responder Operations (FRO). SFT consults with Sacramento State University data scientists to review test item performance and they have flagged this exam as a risk due to the number of questions. They recommended increasing the number of questions to a total of 50. In August of 2021, SFT rolled out an optional pilot program where sites could elect to use a larger item bank with 30 questions each for FRA and FRO. Due to a small participation pool, it took some time to gather significant results, but they now show significant reliability improvement and reduced retakes needed to pass. Academies delivering the pilot exam have had a favorable reception of the change. SFT will be bringing this item back at the April STEAC for a motion to increase the test items to 25 items each for FRA and FRO.

Andrew Henning also added that there will be a separate agenda item at the April STEAC meeting for minor updates to the Fire Fighter Curriculum to align with the new editions from NFPA.

VII. State Fire Training Updates

A. Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and State Fire Training (SFT) Updates

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning turned the floor over to Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal. W. Collins stated that the Governor has appointed Chief Daniel Berlant to Acting State Fire Marshal.

Daniel Berlant stated that there is not currently a time frame for how long he will remain in the acting position. He thanked John Binaski for the dedication of his time to STEAC. John Binaski stated he will be retiring as STEAC chair.

A. Henning provided updates on State Fire Training (SFT) staffing. Brandon Erickson has been promoted to Staff Services Manager 1, acting alongside Kris Rose – he will be focusing on all things national accreditation and overseeing technical staff. Dustin Franks is a new Staff Services Analyst overseeing Burn Boss certifications, Driver/Operator Certifications, Skills and Lead Evaluators, as well having been cross-trained in course processing. Selena Garcia-Villicana is a new Staff Services Analyst who has taken the position formerly occupied by Rene Rose – handling all Fire Fighter exam scheduling. Madison Cannon is a new Office Technician who is handling all course scheduling in the position previously occupied by Derek Lueth, and she is also helping with course processing. SFT is currently in the process of back filling Brandon Erickson's former Associate Governmental Program Analyst position that handles exam processing and special project. SFT will also be adding another Office Technician position that will be helping with STEAC administration, course processing backup, and Field Operations staff.

A. Henning stated that himself and Brandon Erickson were in Plano, Texas at the Pro Board annual conference. SFT recently submitted their self-assessment report in December of 2022 for SFT's re-accreditation with Pro Board, which will be their first re-accreditation. Pro Board will likely conduct a site visit of SFT this spring.

He stated that per direction from STEAC, SFT is hoping to bring accreditation expansion to Instructor 1 and 2 a year from now. SFT will be going through the Fire Fighter 1 and 2 re-write in 2024 and has been in talks with the textbook vendors about their anticipated release date for the new NFPA 1010, which is the basis for Fire Fighter 1. SFT will be coordinating when cadres will be planned for the re-write as well as exam validation. SFT will also have several staff members attending the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) conference coming up in April.

A. Henning stated that SFT is currently accepting curriculum proposals. At the April STEAC meeting, SFT will typically bring their proposals for curriculum plans for the next year.

A. Henning provided an update on the feature enhancement for ACADIS that will allow instructors and agencies to directly submit student rosters as well as pay via credit card. A pilot test is projected to start in February or March with a small number of agencies and a projected live start date of July 2023. The major change is instructors and agencies will directly input student rosters into ACADIS rather than uploading and excel roster. The other major change is that course completion diplomas will not be released to the students until full course payment is received. This will streamline course processing and ensure that SFT is receiving payment from parties delivering SFT courses. SFT will continue the invoice program for Accredited Academies so that their diplomas will be continued to be issued upon receipt of roster.

For his final update, A. Henning stated that SFT is aware of current delays in course processing and has conducted additional staff training so that additional staff members can assist with course processing. As a result, the 8-week backlog is currently down to 6 weeks and continuing to improve.

B. SFT Course Payments Information Bulletin
Presenter: Brandon Erickson

Brandon Erickson stated that this is a reminder that fees are to be paid in full and that SFT does not take partial payments for courses. Students should make payment to host agency or instructor and the agency or instructor should make a single payment to SFT.

VIII. Public Comment

None.

IX. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence

Presenter: John Binaski

Bret Davidson asked about the Coleman Award as the Fresno Training Officer Symposium is coming up in March. Chris Fowler responded that SFT has received the applications and the committee was going to meet that afternoon.

X. Future Meeting Dates

April 14, 2023, July 14, 2023, and October 13, 2023

Presenter: John Binaski

XI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:09 AM.