



**STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STEAC)
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**
State Fire Training Division
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Website: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/state-fire-training/>



STEAC Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2023 – Teleconference Meeting

I. Introductions and Welcome

Members Present

Gregory Barton, League of California Cities
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association
Jeff Boyles, League of California Cities (alternate)
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Jarrod Clinkenbeard, CAL FIRE Training Center
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South)
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE (alternate)
Stephen Gutierrez, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North) (alternate)
Javier Lara, CAL OES (alternate)
Scott Lewis, FIRESCOPE
Gaudenz Panholzer, California Fire Chiefs Association
Mike Richwine, STEAC Committee Chair
Gail Warner, California Fire Technology Directors Association

Members Absent

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters
Greg Belk, CAL FIRE
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association
Darren Hall, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Gareth Harris, Fire District Association of California
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)
Andrew Kibby, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section, (South) (alternate)
Brian Marshall, CAL OES
Kirk Noffsinger, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North)
Glen Pavlovsky, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)
Ken Sebastiani, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Jason Serrano, FIRESCOPE (alternate)
Rob Wheatley, CAL FIRE Training Center (alternate)
David Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association

State Fire Training Staff

Eddie Aguilar, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Terrance Liszewski, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Jill Bennetts, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Joe Bunn, SFT, Fire Service Training Specialist
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Dustin Franks, SFT, Staff Services Analyst
Luke Gamboa, SFT, Office Technician
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 III (Specialist)
Kris Rose, SFT, Staff Services Manager I
Frank Vue, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 by Chief Mike Richwine.

A. Introductions

Chief Mike Richwine began the meeting with introductions. Those present at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) headquarters introduced themselves and their role within SFT.

B. Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

C. Member Appointments and Re-Appointments

Javier Lara – CAL OES – Alternate Reappointment
Glenn Pavlovsky – CPF – Alternate Appointment

D. Past Member Recognition

Chief Richwine began by stating he has the honor of replacing Chief John Binaski as the STEAC chair before handing the floor to acting the State Fire Marshal, Daniel Berlant, to speak in commemoration of J. Binaski's work.

D. Berlant welcomed M. Richwine back and spoke words of appreciation towards J. Binaski for his years of service, devotion, and highlighted the progress State Fire Training (SFT) and STEAC has made under his guidance. D. Berlant also thanked Bret Davidson, the Vice Chair of STEAC, for his willingness to continue to ensure that we have leadership and a local government perspective in running the advisory committee. The floor was then handed over to Andrew Henning.

A. Henning noted that STEAC has a letter of appreciation for J. Binaski and part of the letter highlights the accomplishments and the leadership that he took the California Fire Services SFT program through, particularly financial struggles along with the COVID-19 pandemic and moving STEAC to an online format. Other notable accomplishments included adding 11 new courses to the SFT program, 29 existing course updates, 2 new certification tracks, 12 new accredited regional training programs and accredited local academies to the SFT fire academy system, guiding through a total of 44 Accredited Region Training Program (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academy (ALA) reaccreditations, and chairing through 14 STEAC meetings. A. Henning ended thanking J. Binaski for his guidance and mentorship.

J. Binaski thanked everyone for their words and in turn thanked the staff at SFT and the STEAC members for their commitment and dedication, and thanked everyone for his time serving as Chair for STEAC noting that it is a highlight of his career.

M. Richwine then moved to highlight Rich Thomas noting that he has served for many years as a CPF alternate and was very involved and insightful. He ended thanking R. Thomas for his years of service to STEAC.

II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief Mike Richwine

III. Approval of the April 14, 2023, Minutes

Presenter: Chief Mike Richwine

Motion:	<i>Richard Beckman moved to accept the minutes from April 14, 2023. Gaudenz Panholzer seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) met in May and approved all the items that had moved forward from the April STEAC meeting. This included the Firefighter 1 update for Firefighter 1B and 1C which were updated to the latest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. SBFS also approved Antelope Valley College as a new ARTP. They approved the transition to move the Firefighter 1B certification exams to 25 questions for FRA and 25 questions for FRO. SBFS also approved 2 course updates for Firefighter Survival and a course update for Firefighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Operations. They also approved a new course, Machinery Rescue Technician, which is based on NFPA 1006. The next SBFS meeting will be held on a different day than their regular schedule, the Thursday before Labor Day, August 24th, 2023.

V. Consent Items

A. Cosumnes River College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated this is Consumnes River College's (CRC) first visit to STEAC as a reaccreditation. The date of inspection was June 9, 2023. CRC possesses a diverse student population with a focus on personalized student attention and exemplary support from their college administration and regional neighbors. They maintain a mission of respect and appreciation for student diversification and equity efforts providing an affordable and accessible education for the adult learner. The close relationship between the College and Cosumnes Fire Department creates a unique employment opportunity for students to serve the community through its internship program, from which the department has hired many of its current personnel. The Academy Coordinator and instructors are active participants in the State Fire Training (SFT) system, engaged in curriculum and procedural development, stakeholder meetings, and instructor development. C. Petty recognized in attendance Kris Hubbard, the Dean of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources, and Human and Health Services; as well as Robert Montinez the Vice President of Instruction, and Dana Wassmer the Associate Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development. The floor was then given to K. Hubbard.

K. Hubbard thanked Chief Petty for the process and stated how valued he views the process as a learning opportunity and looks forward to a continued relationship with State Fire Training. He then handed the floor to Dana Wassmer.

D. Wassmer recognized the respect, dedication, and gratitude for the long-standing partnership with Consumnes Fire Department that has been maintained since 1987. She also highlighted that they were able to develop a safety protocol to continue their Fire Academy program through the unprecedented pandemic that demonstrates their leadership and dedication to the SFT program. D. Wassmer then echoed K. Hubbards' comments regarding their appreciation and collaboration with SFT and thanked Chief petty for her support and guidance through this process. The floor was then handed back to C. Petty.

C. Petty summarized the self-assessment report review and site evaluation went very well. SFT is recommending continued designation for Cosumnes River College as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a period of 5 years.

B. American River College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated site inspection took place on June 6, 2023. American River College (ARC) serves a uniquely diverse student population, with many under-represented demographics participating in the Academy. The College maintains a dedication to

providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs. The relationship between the college and the Sacramento Fire Department has created many employment opportunities for its graduates as well. The floor was then handed to Ken Kwong, interim Fire Tech Coordinator.

K. Kwong thanked C. Petty and C. Fowler for their understanding and assistance as was his first ARTP reaccreditation cycle. He also thanked SFT for their assistance and understanding during their multiple transitions in leadership both at the center Dean level as well as with the Fire Technology program. The floor was then given back to C. Petty.

C. Petty summarized in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, a 6th month accreditation extension was granted in November 2022 to the ARC ARTP. All the requirements set forth by SFT have been satisfied for reaccreditation and there has been no lapse in accreditation. SFT is recommending continued recognition of the American River College as an ARTP in the SFT system for a reaccreditation period of 4½ years given the 6-month extension.

C. College of San Mateo ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated Site Evaluation took place on February 28, 2023. College of San Mateo (CSM) is committed to the ideal of academic freedom derived through careful and critical appraisal, providing a place where student, faculty, and staff may formulate ideas and values. Focused on fostering and developing fire service professionals, CSM continually demonstrates cooperative partnership facilitation and innovation through construction of cooperative relationships within the region. CSM is an eager participant in the SFT system, looking to expand its involvement at the statewide level. The floor was then handed to CSM academy chief Christy Baird.

C. Baird thanked STEAC for having her and echoed the same statements as the previous programs thanking Chief Petty and Chief Fowler for their invaluable help, knowledge, and accessibility. She noted that while the process can feel grueling, they recognize that it is a great opportunity to for them to take inventory on what they've done and what they plan to do in the future. C. Baird noted that one of the things that they are very excited about is this Fall (2023) they will be combining the in-service and pre-service academy for San Mateo County and the fire departments are joining their academy at the college. C. Baird ended by thanking everyone again for their support and dedication through their program before handing the floor back to C. Petty.

C. Petty stated in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, CSM was awarded a 6-month extension in November 2022. All requirements set forth by SFT have been satisfied for Reaccreditation and there has been no lapse in accreditation. The self-assessment report review and site evaluation both went very well and SFT is recommending continued designation of College of San Mateo as an Accredited

Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of 4½ years accounting for the 6-month extension.

Motion:	<i>Scott Lewis moved to accept the motion for all consent items. Gail Warner seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VI. Accredited Academies

A. Hayward Fire Department Accreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated this is an initial accreditation for the Hayward Fire Department (HFD). Site Evaluation took place on May 16, 2023. HFD was an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system before stepping away as they were building a new training center and are now returning as a new ALA in the SFT system. HFD is an accomplished and historical organization serving a uniquely diverse community in the East Bay Area. Their personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the growing community. A cooperative neighbor in the region, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The department provide comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment with a focus on wellness and safety. HFD has demonstrated a strong devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud, professional, and progressive organization. C. Petty then commended the site evaluation team that participated, Battalion Chief Brett Fucillo representing STEAC, Fire Academy Coordinator Christy Baird from College of San Mateo, and Coordinator James Connors from City College of San Francisco; Both C. Baird and J. Connors representing the Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) system. The floor was then given to C. Baird to speak on how the site visit went.

C. Baird stated the facility and the department is embracing the changes, the students, and the population of the fire service. With the facility, the outreach to the community, and their work with the ROP program, their future is looking bright and are looking forward to what the program offers in the future. The floor was then handed over to Fire Chief Garrett Contreras from HFD.

G. Contreras thanked C. Baird for her comments and then spoke to the feeling of aspiration and excitement felt by the HFD and their partnership with Chabot College, another ARTP. He then thanked C. Petty for the amazing process and assistance, commenting that she and her staff actively make the fire service better every day. The floor was then handed back to C. Petty.

C. Petty stated the Self-Assessment report and Site Evaluation both went very well, the site evaluation team was unanimous in the recommendation of the Hayward Fire Department being designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training System for an initial accreditation period of 3 years.

Motion:	<i>Gaudenz Panholzer moved to accept the motion. Donavan Lacy seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery

A. Animal Technical Rescue Awareness & Technician

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated this is the second reading of this curriculum with no stakeholder requests for edits following the April STEAC meeting. As was presented in April, this course update is intended to provide the knowledge and skills to ensure a safe and effective response to incidents involving trapped, stranded, or entangled animals. It is aligned with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006 standards for technical rescue and our industry best practices.

Motion:	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion. Scott Lewis seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VIII. State Fire Training Updates

A. Overall Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning began with new staff introductions starting with Jill Bennetts who will be processing the FF exams and issuing Firefighter 1 certifications with IFSAC and Pro Board seals. Luke Gamboa is another new addition to SFT who will be assisting with the STEAC meetings, digitally archiving paper records, as well as covering other staff duties while they are out of office.

For the next meeting, STEAC is transitioning to a Zoom Webinar which will provide more features and a smoother experience for STEAC members and attendees. The meeting link should remain the same, any changes for STEAC members will be noted in the email sent out by Kris Rose with the agenda for the next STEAC meeting.

SFT will be going through their first Pro Board reaccreditation site visit August 29-30. It is a very similar process to what our ALAs and ARTPs go through during a site visit. Pro Board will send out 2 Site Team Evaluators as well as a couple other trainees. SFT went through its first IFSAC reaccreditation a little over 1 year ago and the Pro Board reaccreditation will be a slightly different process as they are more interested in the policy and procedures. Part of that process is to meet with members of STEAC. Several STEAC members will be contacted via email in the near future to set up a time to meet and interview with the Pro Board site visit team.

SFT continues to work on the Curriculum Development projects that were included in the plan that was brought to the April STEAC meeting. SFT met on July 12 and 13 with

the Fire Chief Certification cadre and a good discussion was had as the certification has not been updated since 2006 and it is the highest certification that SFT has to offer. Chief Davidson was present to represent the training officers as well as STEAC along with Chief Binaski as a former member, and several other representatives from the California Fire Service. There was discussion on how to start actively promoting the certification further as it is the highest certification SFT offers and only 2 people have become certified since 2020 and 41 individuals have gone through the process since its inception in the mid-90s. Proposed changes for that certification will be brought to the October or January STEAC meeting.

The Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations cadre will be meeting in 2 weeks to work on an update to this curriculum based on the new edition of NFPA 1006. A. Henning urged members to ensure that their department staff are signed up for the SFT e-news as that is where the cadre invitations go out.

SFT has funded a feature enhancement for Acadis that will allow credit card payment for course processing. It is anticipated to go live on January 1, 2024, and a live demonstration will be brought to STEAC in October. As a result, SFT will not issue course completion diplomas until SFT receives full payment for the course. This can either be done instantly via credit card or a host agency can mail a check to SFT which will delay the courses from being processed. There is an exemption for ALAs and ARTPs where SFT will continue with the invoice programs where diplomas will be issued prior to fulfillment of payment. If an ALA or ARTP owes SFT more than \$30,000 then SFT will stop processing course diplomas until full payment has been made of past invoices. More information will be presented to STEAC in October.

Finally, the CFAT fund ended the 2022 fiscal year in a financially good spot. There has been an increase in system use and as such revenue is meeting and exceeding expectations, so there are no plans for fee increases in the near future.

B. FESHE Update

Presenter: Mark Bisbee

Mark Bisbee explained the Fire and Emergency Service Higher Education (FESHE) Curriculum Focus Groups are comprised of fire service stakeholders and are convened to provide clarity and expand our fire and emergency professional and educational pathways in alignment with proposed Blueprint 2030 Goals 2 and 3. Specifically, to address fire service industry higher education needs. The first focus group was in September of 2022, and they realized they are lacking in data for the fire service industry. Some examples include how many company officers there are statewide, how many chief officers, the average age and grade, and how many individuals in the fire service pursue higher education. Two surveys were conducted in partnership with Sac State and while the analytics were strong, the sample size was admittedly small. It is currently under discussion to revamp the surveys and pursue a larger sample size.

The focus group also looked at FESHE model curriculum from the national fire academy at the Associates' level and determined there were no changes; they could effectively adopt that model curriculum into the FESHE program. For the Bachelors, it looked very robust, but the focus group felt that it needed two California specific courses to identify and address California problems. One is based on organizational development and management, and the other is specifically on how to develop community resilience for wildfires. Looking at the model Masters degree, it was determined that if they could attach to an online masters of public administration, they could then leverage the current executive Chief Fire Officer curriculum as electives within that.

The second focus group vetted the items previously noted as well as the EMS Bachelors degree and appears it could be imported from the national model without any issues in California.

The second focus group also focused on identifying the fire service community of practice. What does the fire service included as far as positions, ranks, and occupations, noting that in some cities it would include lifeguards or those involved in fuel mitigation and wildland fuel treatment.

M. Bisbee then stated the next steps are reevaluating the survey for a broader sampling and continue to reach out to the various sectors within our community of practice for their training and education needs.

Gail Warner inquired as to who was involved in the focus groups. M. Bisbee explained the focus groups consisted of STEAC stakeholders and representative examples from community colleges, northern and southern California, city departments, rural, volunteers and more. He noted that there was some cross over, but the focus groups consisted mostly of different members including Richard Beckman who then spoke to his desire to revamp the survey and redistribute with more emphasis on Cal Chiefs to get responses from agencies and their participants.

C. Prescribed Fire Training Center

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated the Prescribed Fire Training Center proposal is being presented in compliance with the directives of Assembly Bill 642. The legislation language was very specific to the involvement of STEAC with their review of a proposed plan to establish a prescribed fire training center for the state of California. The training center committee was formed in 2021 and meets bi-monthly. The membership has grown into a very diverse cross- section of 45 members and subject matter experts who represent local, state, federal, and tribal partners. There are 4 working groups that are detailed within the staff report, and they have researched and proposed the attached content. C. Fowler reiterated that this is a proposal only and not the development of a prescribed fire training center.

Moving forward, the Prescribed Fire Training Center committee will be conducting a needs assessment of 4-5 potential location hubs in California and proposing an expansion of the CalTRES training exchange throughout the state.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence

A. Training Officer Symposium

Presenter: Bret Davidson

Bret Davidson stated that since the training officer symposium has been moved to March, the planning meeting will be in October. State Fire Training is invited to assist in coordinating the SFT classes that are offered such as RIO, CEET and Ethics. An email will be sent to Kris Rose to distribute to SFT staff.

B. In Person Meetings

Presenter: Mike Richwine

Mike Richwine stated that he prefers in person meetings though he understands that times have changed, and the convenience of virtual meetings results in higher participation. He asked that the members consider the opportunity for hybrid meetings in the future to allow the opportunity to network and discuss topics in a face-to-face setting.

Gail Warner recognized that virtual meetings are more convenient and cheaper for the colleges. She suggested that the STEAC meetings could move to Fresno being the center of the state or possibly even rotating the location to allow more accessibility and opportunities for members to appear in person.

Andrew Henning stated that whatever STEAC wants, SFT will make it work. If members would like to hold two meetings in Southern California and two meetings in the north, that can be arranged if it is what the members desires. He explained that the Office of the State Fire Marshal has an office located in Long Beach that is near the airport and has appropriate accommodations to hold STEAC periodically.

M. Richwine asked that the members take some time to think about this and discuss with each other what they would like to see. He then stated that he would encourage members to seek more engagement within the STEAC meetings, explaining that with the virtual environment it can often feel like a large download of information, however there are significant changes occurring and have occurred within SFT. He also asked that members communicate what is occurring in STEAC back to their associations to keep them informed about what is transpiring in their training and education system as well as to encourage feedback.

XI. Future Meeting Dates

October 14, 2023, January 14, 2024, and April 12, 2024

Presenter: Mike Richwine

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 AM.