



**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 11, 2025 – Teleconference Meeting

### I. Introductions and Welcome

#### Members Present:

Mike Richwine, Chair  
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  
Ray Mosack, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Peter Cacossa, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
Greg Greenlee, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities  
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)  
Dwight Stewart, California State Fire Fighters Association  
Patrick D'Arcy, FIRESCOPE  
Nic Turner, FIRESCOPE (alternate)

#### Members Absent:

Glen Pavlovsky, California Professional Fire Fighters  
John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)  
Kyle Heggstrom, Fire Districts Association of California  
Geoff Belyea, Fire Districts Association of California (alternate)  
Christopher Nigg, League of California Cities (alternate)  
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE (alternate)  
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)

**State Fire Training Staff:**

Jill Bennetts, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Natasha Cocke, SFT, Office Technician  
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Derek Lueth, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)  
Kris Rose, SFT, Staff Services Manager I

**Public Attendees:**

Kim Rust, CAL FIRE Training Program, Staff Services Manager I  
Nick Payne, City College of San Francisco  
James Skinner, City College of San Francisco  
Jim Damico, Clovis Fire Department  
Chris Ekk, Clovis Fire Department  
Christina Madoyan, Clovis Fire Department  
Nick Branch, College of the Sequoias  
Chris Delcour, College of the Siskiyous  
Ryan Harold, Crafton Hills College  
Amanda Ward, Crafton Hills College  
John Begg, Moreno Valley College  
Jose Hernandez, Porterville College  
Dennis Lollie, Santa Clara County Fire Department  
Mark Shumate, Santa Clara County Fire Department  
Kyle O'Neill, San Diego Fire Rescue Department  
Benjamin Vernon, San Diego Fire Rescue Department  
Robert Stoddard, Yuba College

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 09:02 AM by Chief Richwine, STEAC Chair.

**Roll Call/Quorum Established**

A quorum was established during introductions.

**Member Appointments and Reappointments**

1. Donovan Lacy– Cal Chiefs Training Officer Section (North) – Switch from Alternate to Member
2. Nic Turner – FIREScope – Alternate Appointment

**Past Member Recognition**

1. Jaime Brown – Metro Chiefs – Member
2. Scott Lewis – FIREScope – Alternate
3. Kirk Noffsinger – Cal Chiefs Training Officer Section (North) -- Member

## II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief Richwine

## III. Approval of April 11, 2025 Minutes

Presenter: Chief Richwine

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Donavan Lacy moved to accept the minutes from April 11, 2025. Keith Alexander 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 (SBFS) achieved a quorum at their previous meeting, but unfortunately, the meeting was not notated correctly. As a result, the committee cannot let the decisions made at the meeting stand. Chief Berlant granted State Fire Training administrative approval to implement the updates to Fire Fighter 1A, Fire Fighter 2A, and Fire and Emergency Services Instructor on July 1, 2025. State Fire Training will proceed with administrative updates as usual. SBFS plans to meet in August to revote on the items that were approved in the July meeting.

## V. Consent Items

### A. City College of San Francisco ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

City College of San Francisco's site evaluation took place on May 12, 2025. Chief Petty described the college's strengths to the committee, stating that it has a great approach to programming and a strong focus on diversifying student populations. The college built a new training tower during the last accreditation cycle, which is now up and running.

Chief Petty yielded the floor to City College of San Francisco's Department Chair, James Skinner to speak about his program. He thanked Chief Petty and State Fire Training for their guidance during the reaccreditation process. Chief Skinner shared that it was not an easy feat to get the new training tower approved but that the college is extremely happy with the result. They are also working closely with the San Francisco Fire Department to share the training tower.

Chief Petty shared that the self-assessment report review and site evaluation for City College of San Francisco went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued designation of this institution as an ARTP in the system for a reaccreditation period of five years.

## **B. College of the Sequoias ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty spoke to the committee about the College of the Sequoias' site evaluation, which took place on June 5, 2025. She added that this college serves a need in the middle of the state and focuses on training, development, and recruiting students from local high schools for diversification efforts.

College of the Sequoias' Fire and EMS Program Director, Nick Branch, shared his experience with the accreditation process. N. Branch thanked Chief Petty for her support when he started working in this position in January 2025. He told the committee that College of Sequoias is expanding its Fire and EMS program to meet the demand in California's central valley. N. Branch shared that the college learned a lot during this accreditation process and looks forward to continuing to grow this program.

Chief Petty concluded by stating that the self-assessment report and site evaluation both went very well. State Fire Training recommends a continued designation for College of the Sequoias as an ARTP for a reaccreditation period of five years.

## **C. College of the Siskiyous ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that College of the Siskiyous had their evaluation on April 1, 2025. This college serves a unique region of California, near Mount Shasta. The college provides affordable, robust, and well-rounded training programs to entry level, volunteer, and career fire service professionals. This program provides an array of State Fire Training courses and continues to diversify its training catalog. Chief Petty acknowledged that the college's last training academy had unique obstacles and that Chris Delcour overcame these obstacles with great success while also taking care of the students and staff. She then yielded the floor to C. Delcour.

C. Delcour told the committee that the fire program has great momentum and receives a lot of support from the college. They are working to grow the program and recently put in requests for additional staffing to meet the needs of students. C. Delcour said that College of the Siskiyous has strong relationships with nearby departments, including Cal Fire's Siskiyou unit. They feel confident about the program's future and thanked State Fire Training staff for its support.

Chief Petty added that the self-assessment report and site evaluations for College of the Siskiyous went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued designation of this program as an ARTP in the system for a reaccreditation period of five years.

## **D. Crafton Hills College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty informed the committee that Crafton Hills College's site evaluation took place on April 17, 2025. The college provides numerous educational opportunities for individuals seeking career advancement as well as entry level candidates. The program also boasts exemplary retention and success rates among its students.

Ryan Harold then shared updates from Crafton Hills College. R. Harold shared that the college has partnered with State Fire Training for over four decades to deliver fire fighter curriculum to its community. The college plans to construct a three-story training tower during the next accreditation cycle. Crafton Hills College also received the largest grant in its history and will be using this to support students moving through the program. R. Harold feels that the college is well positioned for the future. He also thanked Chief Petty for being available to assist during the accreditation process.

Amanda Ward, the Associate Dean of Public Safety at Crafton Hills College, said that she greatly appreciated State Fire Training's assistance since she is new to her role at the college. She thanked Chief Petty and R. Harold for his hard work.

Chief Petty concluded by saying that the college's self-assessment report and site evaluation both went very well. State Fire Training recommends the continued designation of Crafton Hills College as an ARTP in the system for a reaccreditation period of five years.

#### **E. Monterey Peninsula College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty stated that Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) delivers a strong, challenging, and robust training academy. The college is an excellent cooperater in the region, providing seamless cohesion and training opportunities to their local agencies. MPC's site evaluation took place on May 23, 2025.

Chief Petty then yielded the floor to MPC's Academy Coordinator, Greg Greenlee, who spoke about the accreditation process. G. Greenlee shared that this was his second time being involved with the accreditation process and that it went smoother than the previous accreditation. He thanked Chief Petty and State Fire Training for their support. He added that Monterey Peninsula College looks forward to continuing to deliver programs for the state in their region. MPC also plans to work with local partners and fire agencies. They plan to support these agencies by continuing to expand IFSAC and Pro Board testing to the additional certification levels.

Monterey Peninsula College's self-assessment report and site evaluation both went very well. Chief Petty concluded that State Fire Training recommends continued designation of MPC as an ARTP for a reaccreditation period of five years.

#### **F. Moreno Valley College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that Moreno Valley College's site evaluation occurred on May 9, 2025. The college is in Riverside County and supports this region by providing an array of State Fire Training courses. The college also provides unique training through its state-of-the-art training facility, which was built for technical rescue and specialized courses. The college also provides affordable, robust, and well-rounded training to its diverse student population.

Moreno Valley College's Academy Coordinator, Captain John Begg, also updated the committee on the college's goals. The college will work with Cal Fire Riverside and local agencies to ensure they meet the needs for the fire service in their region. J. Begg also thanked Chief Petty and State Fire Training for their support throughout the accreditation process.

Chief Petty added that Moreno Valley College's self-assessment report and site evaluation both went very well. State Fire Training recommends that the college be reaccredited as an ARTP for a period of five years.

### **G. Porterville College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Porterville College's site evaluation took place on June 12, 2025. Chief Petty told the committee that Porterville College serves a uniquely diverse student population in the middle of California. Many underrepresented demographics and students participate in the college's fire academy. The college also provides one of the few wildland-specific academies for students seeking work in regional wildland firefighting or hand crew membership.

Chief Petty invited Jose Hernandez to share his experience as Porterville College's academy coordinator. J. Hernandez thanked Chief Petty, Selena Villacana-Garcia, and other State Fire Training staff for their cooperation. He said that working as the academy coordinator has been a good challenge. The college works well with the College of the Sequoias and shares equipment. He also thanked Porterville City Fire Department for allowing the college to use Fire Station 72 as their training site. The college is processing new SFT curriculum updates, updating its staff, and obtaining a new Dräger prop. Porterville College plans to invest in building their own forcible entry and Fire Fighter Survival props to share with Porterville City Fire Department. The college will host a Wildland Fire Academy in the spring. This academy is specific to wildland fire fighting and caters to a lot of Cal Fire requirements.

J. Hernandez concluded by thanking the cooperating departments between Tulare and Kings counties for their support and providing props for training. He also specifically thanked Cal Fire for their assistance with the wildland training and sharing equipment for skills training.

Chief Petty added that Porterville College's self-assessment report and site evaluation went very well. State Fire Training recommends the continued designation of Porterville College as an ARTP for a reaccreditation period of five years.

### **H. Yuba College ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty spoke to the committee about Yuba College, which had its site evaluation on May 28, 2025. Chief Petty describes the college as an institution with an energetic and revolutionary approach to program enhancement. The college also maintains a strong focus on diversifying its student population. Yuba College and its personnel are excellent cooperators, working seamlessly with State Fire Training, regional partners, and local fire agencies. They are devoted to student development and providing their region with its training needs.

Chief Robert Stoddard thanked Chief Petty for her help. He told meeting attendees that Yuba College has grown exponentially, going from a single-academy ARTP to running two full academies along with multiple Wildland, Driver Operator, and Company Officer academies. The ARTP hosts training from August 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, only closing for the month of July to service their training equipment. The college has also worked to improve its cadre. R. Stoddard thanked Yuba College's staff and administration for their continued support and funding. He also thanked State Fire Training staff for their prompt assistance with answering questions and issuing diplomas. He looks forward to the next five years of growth.

Chief Petty added that the college's self-assessment and site evaluation went very well. State Fire Training recommends the continued designation of Yuba College as an ARTP for a period of five years.

#### **I. Clovis Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Clovis Fire Department's reaccreditation took place on March 19, 2025. Chief Petty described this department as an accomplished organization that provides routine professional development, in-service training specific to its jurisdiction, and a growing list of State Fire Training opportunities. The department has a steadfast devotion to fire service training and safety standardization efforts. The department has exceptional members of the California Fire Service.

Chief Chris Ekk, Chief Jim Damaco, and Administrative Assistant Christina Madoyan were in attendance. Chief Petty yielded the floor to C. Ekk, who discussed the accreditation process. C. Ekk thanked Chief Petty and State Fire Training staff for their help and patience throughout the accreditation process. He also thanked C. Madoyan, J. Damaco, J. Bennett-Snow, and E. Connors for their work to improve their training, expand their training center services, and maintain working relationships with State Fire Training and partnering agencies. Clovis Fire Department looks forward to the future.

J. Damaco additionally thanked Chief Petty and State Fire Training staff for their support and said that the department learned a lot from the accreditation process. He also said that the department looks forward to maintaining positive training relationships with their neighboring partners and State Fire Training.

Chief Petty added that Clovis Fire Department's self-assessment report and site evaluation both went very well. State Fire Training recommends the continued

designation of Clovis Fire Department as an ALA in the system for a reaccreditation period of five years.

#### **J. Santa Clara County Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty informed the committee about Santa Clara County Fire Department's reaccreditation. Santa Clara County Fire Department returned for its first reaccreditation after its initial three-year accreditation period. The site evaluation for the department occurred on May 30, 2025. Chief Petty describes this department as a model fire agency that demonstrates a strong devotion to fire training indicative of a progressive fire department. The agency provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, cutting edge techniques and equipment, and wellness and safety for their community. This department is a focused and cooperative neighbor in their region, promoting teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. Chief Petty also gave a nod to firefighter Justin Adney for his exceptional work in the Academy and exceptional exam delivery. She emphasized that he is doing a great job and would like to have him as a coach for other agencies in the state.

Dennis Lollie and Mark Schumate were in attendance on behalf of Santa Clara County Fire Department. D. Lollie thanked SCCFD's academy staff and administrative staff, including Tiffany Thornton, for their hard work. He also thanked State Fire Training and Chief Petty for walking them through the accreditation process and making the self-assessment report less intimidating. He also expressed appreciation for Chief Petty helping them update their systems and processes as they added secondary training sites and props to their agency. The department is getting ready for their fourth ALA team this year.

Chief Petty stated that the self-assessment report and site evaluation both went very well for Santa Clara County. State Fire Training recommends full accreditation designation for the department as an ALA for a reaccreditation period of five years.

#### **K. Update to Non-Motorized Watercraft Rescue Technician**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared an update to the Non-Motorized Watercraft Rescue Technician Curriculum. After previously bringing this curriculum back to STEAC and the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS), the curriculum was shifted from the virtual rollout to an in-person training course. The cadre then created a two-day Train-the-Trainer class. However, the cadre has had some delays in scheduling and providing training to the



potential instructor cadre. After conversations with the cadre, State Fire Training decided that it is in the best interest of the program to take the Non-Motorized Watercraft Rescue Technician curriculum down until 2026. This would allow time for the cadre to recruit the necessary number of instructors to teach the in-person course. State Fire Training is going to work with the cadre to provide these courses in February, March, and April. These classes have been pushed to early spring due to some concern about snow melting and its impact on the dynamic water.

State Fire Training will modify the implementation plan for this course. Chief Fowler said that the Non-Motorized Watercraft information will either be removed from the SFT website or have a notice added, explaining that the curriculum is pending. A separate implementation plan and new curriculum will be made available in early 2026.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Donavan Lacy moved to accept the motion for all consent items. Keith Alexander seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

## **VI. New Accredited Academies**

### **A. None to Report**

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

### **A. Fire Officer 2**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler presented the second read of the Fire Officer 2 curriculum. She shared that SFT received non-substantial requests for edits after the April STEAC meeting to fix the course title throughout the curriculum. There were references to the old title in the curriculum documents, but this has since been changed.

The Fire Officer 2 update follows the same philosophical shift in course delivery as Fire Officer 3 and Fire Officer 4, which were already approved by the State Board of Fire Services. The Fire Officer 2 courses will be delivered over a longer period, with both in-person and remote instruction.

The Company Officer (2014) curriculum will retire on December 1, 2026. The Fire Officer 2 curriculum will be released following the State Board of Fire Services' approval in September. Students working on their Company Officer (2014) task books will have almost a full year to submit their task books before being required to move to the new curriculum.

Richard Beckman brought up some concerns about the Fire Officer 2 curriculum and its impact on fire service agencies, college curriculum, instructors, and unions. For fire service agencies, R. Beckman stated that most agencies utilize a 40-hour layout for their Company Officer series and would change employees from being detailed out on a 40-hour work week to complete their training to a 54-hour work week, which could cause scheduling complications.

R. Beckman also expressed concerns that the change in curriculum would lead to a decrease in available instructors. The change to the curriculum structure would result in 17 hours of lecture, 4 hours of testing, and 30 hours of activities, which is coded as lab time in college courses. This would change how instructors are compensated for the courses, since instructors receive only two thirds of their salary for lab hours. This would make the course less enticing for instructors since they would work more hours but receive less pay. Instructors will also need to complete additional training at their colleges to teach in a hybrid format. In addition to these factors, the combining of the curriculum from five courses to three means that there are fewer instructors who are eligible to teach. To teach Fire Officer 2C, instructors would need to have taught Company Officer 2D and 2E to be eligible. This would drop the number of instructors from 1,028 to 250 instructors in California. R. Beckman suggests allowing instructors with Company Officer 2D **or** 2E remain eligible to teach Fire Officer 2C.

R. Beckman also brought up potential complications regarding the unions. During a meeting with Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association (LAAFCA), he was told that the union would not be able to grant employees who obtain a Fire Officer 2 certification the same pay bonus that they would receive for the older Company Officer curriculum. This is due to the reduction in training hours in the curriculum.

Due to the potential effects on agency scheduling, instructor compensation, and union compensation, R. Beckman stated that he would vote no on the Fire Officer 2 curriculum.

Chief Fowler asked R. Beckman if he could write these concerns out in an email, so they can discuss this further. Chief Fowler added that this is the first time these concerns have been brought to State Fire Training despite Fire Officer 3 and Fire Officer 4 being approved by STEAC and SBFS with the same course structure. State Fire Training cannot get involved with conversations around employee incentives and salaries, but that they can look at the curriculum's impact on colleges and instructor availability. She added that the curriculum was designed following the NFPA 1140 standards and NFPA cohort-based delivery model which is supposed to be recognized by graduate-level university programs. She asked R. Beckman to send her an email with his concerns as well as the concerns from LAAFCA so they can look at where State Fire Training might need to make changes to implementation.

R. Beckman agreed to send Chief Fowler this information over email.

Chief Fowler stated that, due to stakeholders' concerns, they would need to bring the curriculum back for a third read at the October STEAC meeting. This would allow State Fire Training to make any necessary curriculum changes and allow for public comments from STEAC members.

Bret Davidson asked Chief Fowler if she could clarify the eligibility requirements for registered Company Officer instructors. Chief Fowler explained that there is a table in the Fire Officer 2 Implementation Plan, which shows how Company Officer 2 courses translate into Fire Officer 2. For example, an instructor of Company Officer 2A: Human Resources Management would be eligible to teach Fire Officer 2A: Human Resources. All existing instructors would need to complete the Fire Officer 2 instructor update web

form by December 2027 to transfer their Company Officer courses to the new curriculum. State Fire Training will send out notifications to instructors when they are able to complete this webform.

B. Davidson also asked for clarification on which Company Officer instructors are eligible to teach Fire Officer 2C. R. Beckman explained that currently only instructors who are registered to teach both Company Officer 2D and Company Officer 2E can teach Fire Officer 2C. Company Officer 2D and 2E have different experience requirements for teaching Initial Incident Command. R. Beckman added that there are a lot of Company Officer 2D instructors and very few Company Officer 2E instructors, which limits which instructors can teach Fire Officer 2C.

Peter Cacossa shared that he has also heard concerns from instructors about the Fire Officer 2C course requirements and had two adjunct instructors back out of preparing to teach the new Fire Officer 2C. He seconded R. Beckman's concerns.

Chief Fowler confirmed that State Fire Training will review the curriculum. She also added that there is an opportunity for Company Officer 2D instructors to take the Company Officer 2E course to bolster their resumes as well as obtain the eligibility to teach the new Fire Officer Initial Incident Command course. She added that the curriculum might require a give and take on both sides. Chief Fowler also reiterated that State Fire Training was following current NFPA standards and curriculum models being utilized throughout the country. The new curriculum for Fire Officer 2, 3, and 4 also aligns California with future IFSAC and Pro Board testing for the Company Officer series, which was the direction previously provided by State Fire Training and the State Board of Fire Services. Backing out of the existing requirements could create some challenges, so STEAC will have to decide what they want to do moving forward.

Chief Richwine asked Chief Fowler for her recommendation on this agenda item. She responded that they need to look at R. Beckman's concerns and determine what changes State Fire Training can make. Chief Fowler stated that it did not seem like there were concerns about the Fire Officer 2 course plans but rather the process to teach those classes.

Chief Fowler also asked if one or two members from STEAC could coordinate with State Fire Training to collect input from STEAC members and stakeholders. R. Beckman and B. Davidson agreed to work on this.

While STEAC originally put forth a motion to approve the curriculum, the committee agreed to change this motion to allow time for curriculum review. B. Davidson changed his original motion of approval on the curriculum to a motion to delay the vote on Fire Officer 2 to October STEAC. Devin Flannery changed his original second of the motion to seconding the motion to delay the vote as well. Chief Richwine confirmed that there were no objections to this motion.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion to delay this vote until the next STEAC meeting. Devin Flannery seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

## **B. Fire Inspector 1 (Information Only)**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that the link to the documents for Fire Inspector 1 were noted on the meeting agenda but not available on the State Fire Training website. After discussing this with Chief Richwine, it was determined that Fire Inspector 1 (Information Only) would have to be brought back to the next STEAC meeting, since members could not review the documents prior to the meeting. The curriculum will be brought to October STEAC for its first official reading and then brought back to the January STEAC for a motion. This will also align the curriculum approval with Plan Examiner, Fire Marshal, and Fire Inspector 2.

Chief Fowler then gave a brief overview of the key changes to the Fire Inspector 1 curriculum. This curriculum, titled First Responder Inspector (2024), will be released on January 1, 2026 and the existing Fire Inspector 1 curriculum is set to retire January 1, 2027. This would allow candidates pursuing the existing Fire Inspector 1 certification until December 31, 2026 to complete and postmark their application to State Fire Training.

SFT moved the curriculum content from NFPA 1031 to NFPA 1030. The biggest change to the curriculum is the removal of the plan review requirements since this content exists in the Plan Examiner curriculum. Some changes regarding emergency planning and preparedness have been added to the curriculum. SFT has changed the standard to include the topics of providing an approved plan for an existing fire protection system, verifying code compliance for storage, handling and use of combustible liquids and gases, and verifying code compliance for storage, handling, and use of hazardous materials. SFT also rearranged units on conducting inspections, operational readiness, and hazardous materials. Standards regarding internal written correspondence to communicate fire protection and prevention concerns were moved to Fire Inspector 2. Additional standards on determining code compliance and verifying certain fire and life safety hazards were also moved to the new Fire Inspector 2 curriculum.

State Fire Training also updated the curriculum template and added new education requirement for certifications. Students will need to take I-200 and Home Ignition Zone and Defensible Space Inspector courses to be certified as a Fire Inspector 1. This decision was made because content in these courses is critical to fire and life safety in California.

Instructors that currently teach Fire Inspector 1 will be updated in ACADIS to teach the new curriculum.

Chief Richwine asked Chief Fowler if the changes to the STEAC approval timeline would affect the implementation plan for Fire Inspector 1. Chief Fowler stated that this should not affect the implementation plan, since it had already been aligned with Fire Inspector 2, Plan Examiner, and Fire Marshal, which will also have their first read at October STEAC.

## **C. Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A & 2A (2025) (Information Only)**

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty explained that Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness (BHCA) will return to October STEAC for a final review and approval. State Fire Training updated this curriculum to keep up with the continually evolving nature of this subject area. This curriculum has been updated to reflect revisions from stakeholders and new NFPA standards. This series is intended to provide awareness and education for anyone working in emergency services, including dispatchers, lifeguards, police officers, fire service members, and administrative professionals supporting fieldwork.

The curriculum will be available January 1, 2026 and at that time, State Fire Training will remove the 2020 curriculum from its catalog. There will be no overlap between the two versions of the BHCA curriculum.

The BHCA curriculum that was incorporated into Fire Fighter 1A will also remain in the FSTEP course so that there can be as much access to the material as possible. However, students will only receive a BHCA course completion diploma if they sign up for the formal F-STEP course. Students who want to become a BHCA instructor would need to complete the FSTEP course.

Chief Petty then shared important changes to the curriculum. For BHCA 1A, students must learn to identify and describe indicators of behavioral health distress. This new topic teaches students to communicate with people who are in distress or struggling with mental health. The cadre felt that it was important for students to learn to identify if someone around them is struggling and get them the resources they need.

The 2020 BHCA 2A and 3A courses were condensed into a single 32-hour course. The instructor to student ratio increased from 1:32 to 1:50 to mirror the BHCA 1A and match current academy enrollment rates. The BHCA 2A (2025) course will also have new prerequisites which include BHCA 1A (2025) and Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023). The Peer-Based Suicide Awareness requirement can also be fulfilled by an equivalent course approved by Cal-JAC.

Existing BHCA 1A instructors will be able to teach BCHA 1A (2025). Existing instructors who want to teach the updated BCHA 2A course must be qualified to teach both BHCA 2A and 3A (2020). Any instructors who are in the process of becoming registered must submit their applications by December 31, 2025.

New instructors must take both BHCA 1A and 2A in addition to meeting subject matter requirements. The cadre agreed that BHCA instructors must have five years of full-time fire service employment. This requirement is doubled for volunteers. Chief Petty explained that instructors must also have two years of experience working in the rank of Fire Officer, two years of experience working in behavioral health and two years of experience related to cancer mitigation and exposure reduction. Instructor candidates need to provide a letter from their Fire Chief, verifying their qualifications to deliver this course material. Chief Petty explained that instructors for these courses must be subject matter experts.

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

## **A. Title 19 2025 Procedures Manual Update**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) requested additional changes to the 2025 Procedures Manual. Some new content that was added to the manual will be removed since it was determined to be outside of State Fire Training's scope. Chief Fowler explained that some of the proposed changes are being removed because State Fire Training would have to send all 162 of its courses through the APA process to get the changes approved. Overall, the procedures manual remains largely unchanged besides some grammatical edits regarding passive voice.

The Title 19 2025 Procedures Manual will be posted for a 15-day comment period. State Fire Training looks forward to hearing from stakeholder groups during that time.

## **B. Blueprint 2030**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler announced that Chief Tyler approved Blueprint 2030. State Fire Training has approval to proceed with its strategic plan. Over the next five years, SFT will regroup internally and then return to STEAC with further proposals.

State Fire Training is making progress towards its Blueprint 2030 goals and is currently working on creating online content to deliver through Acadis. The SFT website was updated to be more intuitive for users on mobile devices. SFT is continuously working on curriculum development and hopes to make internal staffing changes to make this process more efficient.

## **C. California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Guide 2025**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler told the committee that a stakeholder group requested additional edits to the CICCS Guide. After receiving these requests, the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) decided to move forward with publishing the current CICCS Guide. In the meantime, Cal OES will create a place to keep these comments and then include them in the January 2026 update. Prior to this meeting, Chief Vail posted a letter which captured all the requested changes. These changes were already viewed by STEAC in April 2025. Chief Fowler added that she can forward any additional questions to Chief Vail over email.

## **IX. Public Comment**

No Public Comments.

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

### **A. FIRESCOPE Urban Conflagration Training**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that State Fire Training received a letter from FIREScope proposing a new course on preparedness for urban conflagration. State Fire Training recommended that FIREScope follow the procedures for creating new curriculum and shared its curriculum proposal document with FIREScope. This form will allow SFT to evaluate the curriculum, the intended audience, and the corresponding content standards. From there, SFT staff would be able to determine student and instructor requirements.

Bret Davidson asked Chief Fowler if this content needs to be a stand-alone course or if State Fire Training can evaluate the content FIREScope wants and implement this into Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer or Wildland courses. Chief Fowler said that FIREScope recommended SFT develop a course on urban conflagration preparedness. FIREScope provided key characteristics to focus on when developing this curriculum. However, SFT needs data on the intended audience, demand for this course, and fiscal impact before moving forward. After determining that there is a quantifiable demand for this course, SFT can move forward with the cadre process and determine if this material can be a course or added to existing curriculum.

### **A. Roundtable and Announcements**

Presenter: Chief Richwine

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

Richard Beckman shared that California Fire Technology Directors Association (CFTDA) worked with the State Map Initiative to finish the credit for prior learning programs for EMS, Paramedic and Wildland Fire Fighters. These programs would offer community college credit for existing training certifications. There are currently six colleges that have adopted all three programs. All colleges must bring these initiatives to their board for approval. R. Beckman suggested that committee members check with their local colleges and ask them to pursue this initiative.

R. Beckman also shared that the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association and the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association held a summit to discuss a unified response to violent incidents. These organizations plan to create a task force consisting of five individuals from fire service and five individuals from law enforcement. This task force will determine the best practices and create joint training for police and fire service professionals. The summit had over 180 attendees who are excited about the possibility of training “as one.” They are also looking at the possibility of getting post-accreditation for these programs.

R. Beckman concluded by sharing that the California Fire Technology Directors Association (CFTDA) hosts its next meeting on September 4, 2025.

Patrick D’Arcy asked if the urban conflagration white paper was already covered in this meeting. Chief Richwine responded that this was discussed but that the committee would like to hear from him on this topic. P. D’Arcy shared that the request for an urban conflagration course came from conversations after the Palisades Fire. Many FIREScope members feel that there is a need for additional education on how to

respond to city fires of this magnitude. FIRESCOPE wants to work with SFT to add a standalone training course on this topic or add this material to one of the hazards training courses. Chief Richwine shared that the committee previously discussed the possibility of including this information in existing command training courses. Chief Fowler asked P. D'Arcy if he could contact her offline to discuss the process of proposing this course. Chief Fowler feels that it would be best to see if this content matches an existing course with NFPA requirements, since new FSTEP course requests are prioritized second to NFPA-required updates unless mandated by legislation. Chief Fowler wants to make sure that SFT addresses this request and incorporates best practices based on recent fires across the state. P. D'Arcy agreed to meet with Chief Fowler at a later date.

Chief Petty shared that SFT is working on two new ARTPs at College of the Redwoods and College of the Canyons. Per regulation, SFT must have one member of STEAC on the accreditation site team as well as one member of the opposing accreditation type. Since these are two new ARTPs, State Fire Training will need representatives from ALAs. The College of the Redwoods site evaluation will take place on August 28, 2025. The College of the Canyons site evaluation will take place in early 2026. Chief Petty told the STEAC representatives to contact her if they are interested in participating.

Devin Flannery from California Fire Chiefs Association announced that the California Assembly Committee passed SB345 on June 30, 2025. The California Appropriations Committee will evaluate this bill before sending it to Governor Newsom. This bill would allow SFT to collect admission fees for seminars, conferences, and specialized training under CFSTES and the California Fire and Arson Training Act. D. Flannery added that the California Fire Chiefs Association will host its annual conference in Anaheim from October 28-30, 2025. Registration is now open on the CFCA website.

Todd Braverman told STEAC that Cal-JAC's 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference will be in Rancho Mirage on November 12-14, 2025. Cal-JAC was also awarded 10 million dollars in funding from the latest California budget. This will allow the organization to host training academies throughout the state. Cal-JAC plans to hold over a dozen committees this year. These academies include hybrid upgrade programs for existing EMTs.

## **XI. Future Meeting Dates**

**October 10, 2025; January 9, 2026; April 10, 2026; July 10, 2026, October 9, 2026**

Presenter: Chief Richwine

## **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.