



# STEAC Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2022 – Teleconference Meeting

## I. Introductions and Welcome

### Members Present

David Baldwin, FIRESCOPE  
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)  
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE  
Gareth Harris, Fire District Association of California  
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)  
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North) (alternate)  
Javier Lara, 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)  
David Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association

### Members Absent

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters  
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association  
Stephen Gutierrez, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs  
Darren Hall, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Andrew Kibby, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section, (South) (alternate)  
Brian Marshall, CAL OES  
Gail Warner, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
Rob Wheatley, CAL FIRE Training (alternate)

### State Fire Training Staff

Mark Bisbee, SFT, Battalion Chief (RA)  
Brandon Erickson, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Andrew Henning, 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 9:05 A.M. by John Binaski

## **Roll Call/Quorum Established**

A quorum was established during introductions.

## **II. Agenda Review**

**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

## **III. Approval of the July 8, 2022 Minutes**

**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

<b>Motion:</b>	Bret Davidson <i>moved to accept the minutes from July 8, 2022. Gaudenz Panholzer seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

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

**Presenter: Andrew Henning**

Andrew Henning stated that everything presented to SBFS was approved, including Rio Hondo College, Butte College, Fresno City College, Glendale Community College, Los Medanos College, Imperial Valley Collage, and San Diego Miramar College re-accreditations. SBFS also approved the initial accreditation of Santa Clara County Fire Department. They also approved the adoption of the S-223 Fireline Medic curriculum.

A. Henning stated that the historical recognition avenue for S-223 was extended through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, due to it being missed from the E-News bulletin. He also stated that the Structural Collapse Specialist and Confined Space Rescue Personnel curriculum updates were approved.

## **V. Consent Items**

### **A. Skill Coach Update**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that in 2021 several course plans were modified to include recommended Skill Coach ratios. It was discovered that since State Fire Training (SFT) does not track skills coaches in ACADIS it has complicated the course returns process and therefore SFT will be removing the skills coach recommendations from those

course plans. C. Fowler stated it is still the Primary Registered Instructor's responsibility to track the skills coaches and it is still recommended that they follow a 1:5 skills coach to student ratio. The 2023 Procedures manual has proposed added language to clarify skills coaches usage/application.

**B. Instructor Task Book Interim Procedure**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler advised that this information bulletin and interim procedure provides clarification on the requirements of an instructor trainee task book, including the number of trainees allowed to be signed off during one course by a single registered primary instructor.

**C. College of the Desert Reaccreditation**

**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

Caryn Petty stated that College of the Desert proactively constructs cooperative relationships with their neighboring agencies and entities. They are focused on strong, well rounded fire service professionals at both the entry level student and career continuing education level. College of the desert has a desire to serve the needs of regional partners by providing far search training to all members. They have strong emphasis on higher education and the degree completion. Their staff has maintained an excellent communication and working relationship with State Fire Training.

State Fire Training made a recommendation for a re-accreditation period of four and a half years for College of the Desert.

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

## **VI. Accredited Academies**

**A. Alameda City Fire Department Initial Accreditation**

**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

Caryn Petty stated Alameda Fire Department is an accomplished organization steeped in rich tradition. It serves to promote teamwork and reliability and exceptional customer service to a growing and evolving region of the State. The Academy cadre provides comprehensive training evolution focused on relevant and timely practices utilizing cutting edge techniques and equipment. Alameda City Fire has become an active participant in the State Fire Training system.

State Fire Training made a recommendation for an initial accreditation period of three years for Alameda City Fire Department.

**Motion:** *Dave Winnacker moved to accept the motion. Richard Beckman seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

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

### **A. Trench Rescue Technician Curriculum (2021)**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated this is the second read of the curriculum update. There have been no substantial changes or concerns following the initial July review.

**Motion:** *Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion. Gaudenz Panholzer seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

### **B. Common Passenger Vehicle Curriculum (2021)**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated this is the second read of the curriculum update. There have been no substantial changes or concerns following the initial July review.

**Motion:** *Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion. Gaudenz Panholzer seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

### **C. Heavy Vehicle Rescue Curriculum (2021)**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated this is the second read of the curriculum update. There was one request for edits, the cadre will be developing proposal to increase the number of registered instructors available for the course. The cadre will develop an online rollout class similar to the way Structural Collapse Specialist was implemented. This will provide a more robust instructor cadre for new material.

**Motion:** *Gaudenz Panholzer moved to accept the motion. Bret Davidson seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

### **D. Fire Control 4 Curriculum (2022)**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated this is the second read of the curriculum update. There have been no substantial changes or concerns following the initial July review.

**Motion:** *Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion. Gaudenz Panholzer seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

**E. Home Ignition Zone – Defensible Space Curriculum**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated this is the second read of the curriculum for Home Ignition Zone – Defensible Space. There were some recommended edits based on student and instructor feedback from the pilot courses. The ICS online training requirements have been removed as a prerequisite as many inspectors are working in a pre-fire environment and that training may not be applicable. It was also clarified that new instructors for the course must take the new course and/or apply through the PACE 2 process.

**Motion:** *Dave Winnacker moved to accept the motion. Cat Frazer seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

**F. Marine Firefighter for the Land Based Fire Fighter Curriculum**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that State Fire Training (SFT) has developed new curriculum in alignment with NFPA 1005. The course is intended to provide the knowledge and skills that will ensure safe, effective, and consistent fire fighter response across California's waterways. The course is aligned with the coast guards best practices and provides a framework for SFT to use as we build a new professional certification track. A separate package will be brought to January STEAC to present a certification track that complements this and other classes.

Bret Davidson asked if there were significant training props required for the course. C. Fowler responded that the training props required would be a boat prop or actual boat. If the class is held in coordination with other agencies that have a marine response program, there should not be any limits to offering the class.

**G. Incident Safety for the Agricultural Land and Livestock Producers Curriculum**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that this course is presented as a 4-hour FSTEP course, which provides the basic skills and knowledge for agricultural land and livestock producers to work safely and efficiently in or around an emergency incident. The course was created in compliance with Assembly Bill 1103 with one-time funding provided to SFT to develop the course. The course can be administered by a county Agricultural Commissioner or other agencies designated by a county Board of Supervisors.

She informed that the actual pass or certification that's required in the Assembly Bill will be provided by the individual county. State Fire Training will not be issuing any certifications for this program

**H. Online S-290**

**Presenter: Mark Bisbee**

Mark Bisbee stated that the current NWCG S-290 is inadequate to address the needs to California. There are two questions to be answered: what does the course look like, and how would it be delivered? One option to augment that curriculum would be to add a four-hour WUI fire behavior block and a four California specific case study, bringing the course up to 40 hours. The second option is to build off another course that was created based off the NWCG course and augment with California specific examples. Regarding delivery, M. Bisbee provided the example that the University of Idaho does an online S-290 with some asynchronous portions as well as synchronous/interactive. That is the curriculum he is suggested Chief Davidson look at and audit.

Bret Davidson suggested an option of an eight-hour course for those that already have S-290 from elsewhere to bring them up to the California standard of this newly developed California S-290 course being discussed. John Binaski voiced support for this idea. Gaudenz Panholzer mentioned that it may be challenging to manage two options (the full forty-hour class and the supplemental eight-hour block). Stakeholders may have difficulty finding availability of the supplemental block and end up having to take the full class. The consensus from STEAC members is that they would like SFT to investigate the viability of having both training options.

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

### **A. Staffing Update**

**Presenter: Andrew Henning**

Andrew Henning stated that State Fire Training (SFT) has begun to backfill vacant positions within the unit. Frank Vue has promoted to the Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) position of Instructor registrar, and the Staff Services Analyst (SSA) position he vacated is currently in the hiring process. He stated the recent Budget Change Proposal (BCP) added a new AGPA position for managing the ACADIS system and performing document remediation, and that position was filled by Derek Lueth who was previously the Course Scheduler. The BCP also added a second Staff Services Manager to parallel Kris Rose – this position was filled by Brandon Erickson. Brandon started over 12 years ago as a Student Assistant and made his way up the ranks of SFT.

A. Henning also stated that SFT is in the process of going through their first Pro Board re-accreditation. SFT's self-assessment is due to Pro Board at the end of this calendar year, and they will be meeting with SFT tentatively in the spring.

A. Henning stated that SFT is looking at potentially transitioning to a hybrid STEAC meeting for either the January or April STEAC meeting that would provide both in-person attendance and virtual attendance options.

### **B. Update to Blueprint 2030**

**Presenter: Mark Bisbee and Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that State Fire Training (SFT) brought in the focus group in August at Sacramento State College to work on goals for the future of SFT via Blueprint 2030. The group was very future-focused and created five goals for SFT. The next steps are for SFT to continue their internal SFT staff assessment based on information received from the focus group. In January SFT will form the validation group, which will take what the initial focus group created and hold workshops to produce a product with timelines and implementation. The topic will be brought back to STEAC in April and State Board of Fire Services in May for first read, and July STEAC for second read and approval.

Mark Bisbee added that there is two-track fiscal planning that will look at the goals and benchmarks and establish costs associated with them and see what can be done with existing staff and resources, and then look at what would take additional funding or staffing to accomplish.

## **IX. Public Comment**

None.

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

**Presenter: John Binaski**

Chris Fowler thanked Joe Bunn for his continued involvement in the curriculum development process.

David Baldwin will be retiring at the end of the year, and this will be his last STEAC meeting. He stated it has been an honor to be involved.

## **XI. Future Meeting Dates**

**January 13, 2023, April 14, 2023, July 14, 2023**

**Presenter: John Binaski**

## **XII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.