



# STEAC Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2022 – Teleconference Meeting

## I. Introductions and Welcome

### Members Present

John Binaski, STEAC Committee Chair  
David Baldwin, FIRESCOPE  
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities  
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
Greg Belk, CAL FIRE (alternate)  
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee  
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association  
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South)  
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE  
Stephen Gutierrez, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs  
Gareth Harris, Fire District Association of California  
Brian Marshall, CAL OES  
Kirk Noffsinger, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North)  
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

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters  
Jarrod Clinkenbeard, CAL FIRE Training  
Darren Hall, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
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)  
Javier Lara, CAL OES  
Gaudenz Panholzer, California Fire Chiefs Association  
Rob Wheatley, CAL FIRE Training (alternate)

### State Fire Training Staff

Mark Bisbee, SFT, Battalion Chief (RA)  
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Andrew Henning, SFT, SFT Division Chief & OSFM Assistant Deputy Director  
Derek Lueth, SFT, Office Technician

Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal I  
Kris Rose, SFT, Staff Services Manager I

## **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 9 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 January 14, 2022 Minutes**

**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

**Motion:** *Tom Carlisle moved to accept the minutes from January 14, 2022. Stephen Gutierrez seconded the motion.*

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

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

**Presenter: Andrew**

Andrew Henning stated that everything that went to State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) was approved, which included Santa Ana College, Cal Fire Training Center, and Burbank Fire Department reaccreditation. SBFS also approved Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Mission College initial accreditations. The Fire and Emergency Services 2019 update was also approved as well as the changes to Technical Rescue Training Site Requirements.

## **V. Consent Items**

### **A. River & Flood Rescue Tech & Boat Tech Task Book**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that in 2021 SFT was approached by Cadre Members who identified a potential safety issue with new registered instructor requirements for River & Flood Rescue Tech & River & Flood Rescue Boat Tech. SFT worked with the members to bring the Task Book and Student Training Record into alignment with curriculum development requirements. C. Fowler stated that moving forward all new registered instructors must meet the instructor trainee task book requirements in order to be

approved to teach either of these two courses. The change is proposed to be retroactive to March 1, 2022 to address any safety concerns with the curriculum.

**B. Long Beach Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation**  
**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

Caryn Petty stated that Long Beach Fire Department is an accomplished agency serving a uniquely diverse community in Southern California, and they provide well rounded and experienced training personal providing a strong focus on comprehensive training. She stated that they have an exceptional training and recruitment that provides a diverse education, a strong workforce, and routine professional development. C. Petty recommended reaccreditation for a period of five years.

Josh Hogan thanked SFT staff and his appreciation for Caryn Petty and Chris Fowler's recommendations and support. He also thanked his staff for their effort in facilitating the process.

**C. Rio Hondo College ARTP Reaccreditation**  
**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

Caryn Petty stated that Rio Hondo College is a statewide ARTP leader, continually demonstrating cooperative partnership and facilitation as well as creative innovation in their training delivery. She stated that they are an active and exemplary regional training academy with a strong focus on wellness for first responders who maintains a steady and robust Fire Science Tech certificate and associate degree program. C. Petty stated that Rio Hondo College has maintained excellent communication and working relationships with SFT. C. Petty recommended an ARTP re-accreditation period of five years for Rio Hondo College.

Dean Mark Yokoyama thanked Caryn for her time and involvement as well as his staff for their assistance throughout the process. Andy Gryzwa and Richard Beckman stated their thanks as well.

Richard Beckman recused himself from consent due to employment with Rio Hondo College.

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

## **VI. Curriculum Development & Delivery**

**A. S-223 Fireline Medic Curriculum Adoption**  
**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that the FIRESCOPE Task Force EMS Subcommittee is seeking approval of the new S-223 Fireline Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic curriculum as an FSTEP course. Fowler deferred to FIRESCOPE Subcommittee member Captain Thomas for further information and questions.

Clayton Thomas stated that the process was started in 2015 to create this curriculum and there is a need for a good instructor registration system which State Fire Training would be able to provide. He stated these positions are in short supply throughout the state and bringing consistency to the curriculum is key.

John Binaski asked what the timeframe for instructors to register for this new curriculum. C. Fowler replied that the curriculum would go to SBFS first and then available to current pool of existing instructors before the end of the year.

Bret Davidson asked if FIREScope is going to require the SFT diploma or will they accept NWCG and other certifications? Clayton Thomas replied that right now certification is by the agency that hosted the course which is part of the reason that inclusion as an FSTEP course with SFT is being requested to tighten up the instructor cadre and provide a legitimate diploma.

Gareth Harris stated he has a concern that the end of the year is not a realistic timeline. C. Fowler clarified that the December 31, 2022, date is a deadline for historical recognition of existing instructors, not for new personnel.

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

## **B. Structural Collapse Specialist (2021)**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

John Binaski referred to a terminology discussion at the previous STEAC meeting on this topic. He clarified that the cadre wants to stick with the FEMA naming but will also include the NFPA equivalency on the certificate.

Chris Fowler stated that SFT is seeking approval of the new Structural Collapse Specialist curriculum. The recommended changes received in January have been incorporated into the attachments. Minor edits in the Staff Report and Implementation plan were made, and the retirement dates have been updated to June 1, 2022 for Rescue Systems 1, and December 2022 for Rescue Systems 2 & 3. C. Fowler advised that the first rollout course was hosted March 31, 2022 with 71 Rescue Systems instructor in attendance and received excellent stakeholder feedback. Three additional courses will be held in May and June.

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

## **C. Confined Space Rescue Personnel (2021)**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated SFT is seeking approval of the updated curriculum for Confined Space Rescue Personal. She stated that no requests for edits were received at January STEAC.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Gail Warner moved to accept the motion. Stephen Gutierrez seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

**D. Defensible Space Curriculum/Pilot Courses**  
**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler advised that SFT staff and several stakeholders are proposing to draft curriculum in response to Assembly Bill 38 and a training need identified for personnel who will conduct home ignition zone and defensible space inspections. Both local government agencies and CAL FIRE have created these new defensible space inspector positions to meet this need and have done a lot of hiring recently. This curriculum will be utilized in its draft form as a pilot course for four to six months and then will be brought back to STEAC for a first read in October.

Bret Davidson asked if C. Fowler sees this as a required course and if a lot of prevention personnel will take the course? C. Fowler replied that there is a lot of interest with two full classes ready to go.

Bret Davidson asked if there is a damage assessment course already in SFT training library? C. Fowler replied that the Damage Inspection Specialist curriculum is also available and would be a level above the Defensible Space curriculum.

## **VII. State Fire Training Updates**

**A. Fire Fighter Exam Random Skill Issuance**  
**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

Caryn Petty advised that SFT has continually reviewed the performance of the Fire Fighter 1 & 2 curriculum to ensure it's meeting the mark of SFT's stakeholders. SFT queried several agencies for feedback to identify the most costly and time consuming skills issued as part of the random components for the exams. Based on this feedback it was found there were some clearly identified skills that required additional personnel, materials, and time. A tiered system has been created wherein skills are categorized based on their feedback so that an academy does not receive three very easy or three very challenging/costly skills. The intent was to make sure the system is more equitable, and all academies are being given a fair issuance of the random skills.

**B. Instructor Update Course Status Report**  
**Presenter: Kris Rose**

Kris Rose stated SFT received approval at the July 2021 STEAC meeting to administer the Instructor Update Course (IUC) online in order to assist instructors that were required to take the IUC and had never done so.

Approximately 1,100 instructors were originally identified, 586 of which had active portal accounts and emails on file with SFT. Emails were sent to those 586 and approximately 140 emails came back as undeliverable.

Three classes have been hosted and out of those notified, 83 instructors have successfully completed the course. The IUC is now retired again – any instructors who were required to complete IUC and did not will now be required to start over and meet the current registered instructor requirements. A big thank you to Jim Eastman, SFT RA for teaching these final 3 courses.

### **C. CICCS Guide**

**Presenter: Mark Bisbee**

Mark Bisbee thanked Chief Vail for the heavy lifting on this item and turned presentation over to Scott Vail. Scott Vail stated this is a process that started a couple years ago to put the USAR components into the CICCS guide and make them more transparent. The main changes are to reflect the all-hazard nature, add new positions, and changes to the equivalency matrix.

John Binaski asked when the implementation will occur. S. Vail replied it depends on the changes going through the STEAC and SBFS, S Vail suspects it would be about 6 months to one year.

Andrew Henning stated that the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors expressed interest in moving forward with historical recognition for the new peer support critical incident stress lead and the other critical incident stress positions and stated that he would advocate for that at both STEAC and SBFS. A. Henning would be more than happy to make that recommendation to CICCS. He stated that he wanted to get STEAC and SBFS input before he moved forward.

J. Binaski asked some clarifying questions which prompted a lot of discussion about the implementation and historical recognition of the new changes.

### **D. Blueprint 2030**

**Presenter: Mark Bisbee**

Mark Bisbee advised that Blueprint 2030 includes reviewing and revising or confirming the mission values and vision for State Fire Training. That is currently in process with SFT Staff to establish goals and objectives. M. Bisbee asked that stakeholders identify people in early or midway through the system for the steering committee. After a rough draft is produced by the steering committee it will be vetted and validated by smaller focus groups and then sent to a larger stakeholder audience.

M. Bisbee stated that the project was started in January with the notification to SBFS and the internal assessment is underway with a plan to convene in May through July

with a stakeholder steering group. After the draft has been presented to focus groups and broad-spectrum comments it would be finalized to create the implementation action plan with a goal of January to April of 2023 to run the final version by SBFS and implementation in July 2023.

Gail Warner voiced a concern that California Fire Tech Director's Association (CFTDA) personnel would be late in their career and not those with 10-15 years left as M. Bisbee early indicated would be valuable as members of the steering committee. C. Fowler replied stating the smaller working groups may be comprised with those younger in their careers and they would be vetting the information and determining its applicability going forward through 2030. There is a place for personnel in different times of the career in this process.

STEAC members further discussed appropriate representation throughout the Blueprint 2030 development process.

### **E. FY 2022-23 Curriculum and Related Projects**

**Presenter: Andrew Henning**

Andrew Henning thanked SFT staff for everything that they've done as well as all the local government and CAL FIRE representatives who sat on curriculum development cadres for this current fiscal year. SFT started off the end of last year with the Structural Collapse Specialist as well as Confined Space Rescue and moved into updates to Rapid Intervention Crew Operations, Fire Fighter Survival, Common Passenger Vehicle (formerly Vehicle Extrication), Heavy Vehicle Rescue, and Trench courses. Based on funding and staff time SFT will update Fire Control 4 and Marine Fire Fighting for Land Based Fire Fighters at the end of spring (May/June).

A. Henning stated SFT is planning another aggressive year next fiscal year to continue the pace of curriculum development. By direction of the recent assembly bill 1103 to develop an "Ag Pass" program. This course would be delivered similar to the Incident Safety Awareness for Hired Vendors course. The course would allow livestock owners access to ranches shut down due to fire in order to take care of livestock. The curriculum delivery is planned to be in person at local level. Other new curriculum projects include Machinery Rescue and Fire Investigator.

He advised there will be a minor administrative update to the Fire Fighter 1C course as well as a new version NFPA 1072 for HAZMAT that is mostly editorial. SFT will need Subject Matter Experts who deliver FF1B to look at potential impact. SFT will be updating the CTS guide and course plans/task books for both FF1B & 1C. In 2024 when the new NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter comes out SFT will only be modifying the 1A course plan. Every 2 -3 years SFT will be updating each of those courses when the new 1001 standard comes out.

Andrew Henning stated staff is working on/continuing to work on the update to Fire Officer series (Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer, and Executive Chief Officer) and Fire Chief Certification. The goal for SFT is to update all courses within two years of the NFPA Pro Qual standards coming out. Additional courses that SFT wants to circle back

on include Animal Tech Rescue, River and Flood courses, and Open Water Boat courses.

He stated SFT would like to get feedback from STEAC on if there were any other courses they would like to see updated or new courses. Some already identified are Tower Rescue and Dive Rescue courses.

**F. National Accreditation Expansion**  
**Presenter: Andrew Henning**

Andrew Henning stated that SFT evaluated and made recommendations based off STEAC's request in October 2021 to further the expansion of national accreditation with both IFSAC and Pro Board. Specifically, how SFT would implement national accreditation for the following Certification Tracks: Company Officer, Instructor 1 and Instructor 2, and Driver Operator Pump. The staff report showed that less than 100 stakeholders per year are seeking Company Officer and Driver Operator Pump certification. Participation is higher for Instructor 1 and 2, primarily as it is a requirement to become a registered instructor for SFT. The staff report also details what other states are doing and how many questions are on their cognitive exams, as well as the different NFPA assessment methodology being used for each of those certification tracks.

**G. Certification Task Book Information Bulletin**  
**Presenter: Andrew Henning**

Andrew Henning advised that SFT recently posted on the homepage a Certification task book informational bulletin, which is a combination of a previously issued bulletin as well as some interim procedures. The bulletin goes into the task book initiation process as well as the qualification of evaluators and the use of a scenario or an interview. The bulletin also clarifies rank and position requirements and outlines timeframe requirements for task books.

A. Henning stated SFT desires to continue delivery of courses and certification testing in a similar fashion as currently, with the ALAs and ARTPs hosting and conducting both the cognitive and psychomotor exams or any other type of NFPA methodology.

He asked that if SFT moves to certification testing for different levels, should the task book continue to be required? Students should be prepared to demonstrate any of the required JPRs in the task book during the certification exam.

Richard Beckman stated that he is not opposed to no longer requiring the task books, he asked if there is anything that would prevent someone not aligned with a fire service organization to get these certifications – would experience letters from Fire Chiefs still be required?

A. Henning replied that SFT is not proposing elimination of all task books, it would only be for those who successfully completed the state certification testing. He stated there may still be experience/degree/otherwise requirements that have to be met and signed off by the Fire Chief or Tech Director for the certification.

He then asked STEAC if the state certification exams should be required similar to Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2? The only way to become a certified Fire Fighter 1 or 2 is to have completed the SFT certification exams. Should this be phased in in 2-3 years or should there be no retirement date and have both methodologies to become certified available: through state certification exam (no task book requirement) or the task book route (not eligible for IFSAC/Pro Board accreditation). A. Henning stated his recommendation would be to offer both at this time.

John Binaski first asked about the possibility of offering both for 3-5 years, similar to what happened with Fire Fighter 1 and 2, and re-evaluating at that time based on participation numbers. He then also asked about potential fee structure changes in order to encourage participation in the certification process.

A. Henning replied that a 5-year plan similar to 2013 Fire Fighter 1 is certainly feasible, implementing the certification testing at the three-year mark and at the five year mark sunset the task book option. In regard to the participation and fees, he replied that part of the issue may be confusion with the task books which is being addressed via the bulletin. He stated that the current level of fees are bringing in the appropriate amount of revenue that SFT needs to be successful. He mentioned the option of building the certification costs into the CFSTES course/diploma costs so that once you have completed the coursework there is not an additional application fee for the certification itself.

Gail Warner raised the point that without employers requiring state certification it may be difficult to increase participation. Binaski agreed but stated that in the past when more requirements were implemented, departments created work arounds to get personnel hired.

Ken Sebastiani stated that they have seen a drop in Company Officer class attendance and upon query of local committees/departments he found it is in part that they are unable to keep up with the number of promotions, so they have modified requirements to have AS or bachelor's degree requirements in lieu of the certification. He asked the fire advisory committee what is needed to bring it back as a requirement for part of the promotional process.

Andrew Henning asked STEAC for their input regarding test bank validation against both IFSTA and Jones and Bartlett textbooks. It currently takes a considerable amount of staff time and SFT is recommending that they only validate against one of the textbooks for certification testing to reduce the cost for implementation during the pilot phase.

In response, Binaski asked for those who do internal promotion testing exams, what textbook are they using?

Richard Beckman stated that they are transitioning to Jones and Bartlett from IFSTA, he noted that Jones and Bartlett seem more geared to pre-service personnel. He asked if it is possible to have one textbook for one level/certification track, and another for a different level/track.

A. Henning responded stating that some states align with only one textbook provider, other states who mix and match based on the curriculum development cadres pick the

best textbook and package for that level, and other states don't validate to a particular textbook and state that they validate to NFPA but are likely still validating to a publisher.

In a final recommendation, he stated that staff does not want to pursue Company Officer as the testing methodology will be more difficult for SFT to implement. Driver Operator Pump would be very similar to the way Fire Fighter 1 and 2 exams are delivered and easy for SFT to implement. Instructor 1 and 2 would also be possible with limited impact. One difficulty with instructor would be if students have already taken the course have taken it outside of an ALA/ARTP and how they would obtain IFSAC/Pro Board accreditation. A. Henning recommends Instructor 1 and 2 as the first certification track to implement.

## **VIII. Public Comment**

None.

## **IX. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence**

**Presenter: Andrew Henning**

Andrew Henning advised that SFT recently went through their first IFSAC reaccreditation. The site team visited Sacramento City's Fire Academy during its exam delivery. He noted that the site visit went well – there were some minor recommendations on skills sheets and test banks provided. As a result, SFT was recommended for reaccreditation. A. Henning stated thanks to Chris Fowler, Caryn Petty, Brandon Erickson, and Kris Rose for their work. A. Henning advised the Pro Board reaccreditation will be coming up in a little less than a year.

Chris Fowler stated that SFT would like to honor the Santa Rosa Jr College Fire Academy. The ARTP received the first Ronnie J Coleman California Accredited Academy of Excellence Award. During the committee review process Santa Rosa demonstrated several exceptional distinctives, including their efforts with recruitment, diversity, and inclusion as well as their workforce development within their region.

C. Fowler also noted that she would like to recognize the other applicants for this award: Fresno City College, Las Positas College, South Bay Regional Training Consortium, San Jose Fire Department, Sacramento City Fire Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and San Francisco City Fire Department.

On behalf of Santa Rosa, Ken Sebastiani thanked his staff and expressed that the academy is honored to receive the award.

## **X. Future Meeting Dates**

**July 8, 2022, October 14, 2022**  
**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

## **XI. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.