



STEAC Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2022 – Teleconference Meeting

I. Introductions and Welcome

Members Present

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters
David Baldwin, FIRESCOPE
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association
Greg Belk, CAL FIRE
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association
Jarrod Clinkenbeard, CAL FIRE Training
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South)
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE
Stephen Gutierrez, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
Darren Hall, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Gareth Harris, Fire District Association of California
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North) (alternate)
Brian Marshall, CAL OES
Gaudenz Panholzer, California Fire Chiefs Association
Gail Warner, California Fire Technology Directors Association
Rob Wheatley, CAL FIRE Training (alternate)
David Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association

Members Absent

Andrew Kibby, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South) (alternate)
Javier Lara, CAL OES
Kirk Noffsinger, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North) (alternate)
Ken Sebastiani, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Rich Thomas, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)

State Fire Training Staff

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 9:01 A.M. by John Binaski.

Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

Member Appointment/Reappointment

Jarrold Clinkenbeard – CAL FIRE Training Center – Member Appointment

Rob Wheatley – CAL FIRE Training Center – Alternate Reappointment

Greg Belk – CAL FIRE – Member Appointment

Tom Carlisle – CSFA – Member Reappointment

Jason Hosea -CSFA – Alternate Appointment

Gareth Harris – FDAC – Member Reappointment

Kirk Noffsinger – Cal Chiefs Training Officer Section, North – Member Reappointment

Donavan Lacy – Cal Chiefs Training Officer Section, North – Alternate Reappointment

Past Member Recognition

Ann Rosales – CAL Fire Training Center – Alternate

Brent Stangeland – CAL FIRE – Member

Sam Hoffman – CSFA – Alternate

II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

III. Approval of the October 8, 2021 Minutes

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

Motion: *Richard Beckman moved to accept the minutes from October 8, 2021. Stephen Gutierrez seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously.*

IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Chief Henning states that the SBFS reaccredited the four agencies that were approved by STEAC last October. SBFS also reviewed the recognized Fire Departments item recommended at a previous STEAC meeting. It was pointed out that State Fire Training (SFT) had not included Tribal Fire Departments on the list of recognized Fire Departments, SFT will be adding them to the list of recognized Fire Departments within California. SBFS also approved the Fire and Life Safety Educator, which replaced the Community Risk Reduction certification track and courses.

V. Consent Items

A. Fire and Emergency Services Instructor (2019) Update

Presenter: James Eastman

Jim Eastman stated that SFT is seeking the approval to update the Instructor Curriculum. The major topic added is online or interactive learning. Since that topic is not currently covered by current NFPA standards, it has been added as a California standard. NFPA has removed a requirement for modifying lesson plans on the Instructor two level since it is already covered in Instructor 1. Along with that is the augmentation of signing off by the instructor for some JPRs, as that skill set is done during class – such as the teaching and evaluation of peer instructor teaching demonstrations. Those are the biggest updates and changes.

Bret Davidson asked if the courses are being renamed or will there be a retirement for the current instructor certification. J. Eastman responded that it's an update of the curriculum with a name change but that there is no retirement for the current certification just to the courses.

J. Eastman stated that the proposed changes will be effective July 2022. Taral Brideau asked if someone with the current Instructor 1 will be able to meet the prerequisite for the updated Instructor 2. J. Eastman responded confirming that is correct.

B. ICS Course Instructor Rank Requirement Update

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that about a year and a half ago State Fire Training (SFT) identified some language in the SFT Procedures Manual that disqualified candidates from applying to instruct the 100 and 200 level classes. A small committee was formed to review the language. The table within the staff report identifies the language changes to align with common language throughout all of the other applications. There are no potential agency impacts.

Gail Warner asked for clarification on what “Qualified in the position you have applied to instruct” means. C. Fowler responded that it means they have completed the 100 and 200-level courses successfully and they've met all of the NWCG requirements and are qualified to instruct based on SFT requirements.

C. Proposed Change to Technical Rescue Training Site Requirements

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated this topic came up in 2018 but was tabled while waiting for the technical rescue cadres to complete their curriculum updates and make recommendations regarding Rescue Systems and rescue sites. Historically, the site evaluation and approval process was a joint effort with SFT and The Office of Emergency Services (OES). In years past, OES provided grant funding for sites and equipment, and the partnership between the two agencies created program accountability. Since 2018, State Fire Training has continued to provide the site

evaluation and approval of Rescue Training Sites without the partnership of OES. The cadres have identified that the assessment of the site, training props, and equipment should be the responsibility of the Registered Instructor. This responsibility is in alignment with other SFT curriculum, such as Fire Control 3, Structural Fire Fighting. The Registered Instructor is the Subject Matter Expert (SME) and is qualified to determine the facilities, equipment, or personnel required to safely deliver the course.

Gail Warner asked if there will be a template created for the agencies to follow when verifying the site meets requirements. C. Fowler responded that SFT follows the list in the NFPA standard, and that it can be provided if needed. The registered instructor is still required to follow the list within the procedures manual.

Darren Hall proposed that the list for agencies to follow be added to the procedures manual as well. C. Fowler responded that she will investigate how that is currently structured in the procedures manual and how that template can be added.

D. RIO/CEET Maximum Class Size Alignment

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Caryn Petty stated that in 2019 State Fire Training (SFT) revised the Registered Instructor Orientation (RIO) from 8 hours to 4 hours. This condensed the information and made it possible to deliver RIO and Certified Examination Evaluator Training (CEET) in the same day. The problem that occurred is that RIO has a 30-student cap and CEET has a 60-student cap, which required SFT to have to submit variance requests for most deliveries to increase enrollment for RIO. This proposed change would modify both classes to a maximum class size of 50.

E. Santa Ana College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated Santa Ana College has a well-rounded robust fire training program focused on relevant timely and innovative training delivery for their students. They are a long-time participant in the State Fire Training (SFT) system with a strong devotion to fire service training and education from the entry level students to the career professionals, while serving the needs of the region exceptionally. Santa Ana College has maintained excellent communication and working relationships with SFT and has successfully utilized the distance education format during COVID to ensure students were provided continuing learning opportunities during the pandemic, so there was no lapse in education. Santa Ana college is a statewide ARTP leader with exceptional SFT participation and communication. C. Petty stated that they are one of SFT's strongest partners and she is proud to recommend Santa Ana College be reaccredited as an ARTP in the system for a period of five years.

Fred Ramsey and William Reardon gave thanks to SFT for their assistance and guidance through the reaccreditation process.

F. CAL FIRE ALA Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that CAL FIRE Training Center is concentrated on maintaining innovative and relevant training for it's more than 6,000 uniformed statewide employees. This is a world-renowned model all risk response agency that proudly demonstrates stellar inter-agency cooperation, discipline, adaptability, and serves to meet the diverse needs of the state as a whole. CAL FIRE has strongly demonstrated a devotion to the fire service training, education, and employee wellness of its staff – indicative of a progressive organization. CAL FIRE Training Center has maintained excellent communication and working relationship with State Fire Training (SFT) and has also successfully utilized the distance education format during the pandemic to ensure that students were provided continued learning opportunities.

Cat Frazer and the Training Center staff gave thanks to the SFT staff. C. Petty stated that SFT recommends that CAL FIRE Training Center receive ALA reaccreditation for a period of five years.

G. Burbank Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that Burbank Fire Department provides a very robust fire training program focused on serving the community with an outstanding focus on outreach and recruitment. They are a modern fire agency who have a strong focus on safety, standardization, professionalism, and high-level training, and they are a continued cooperative regional partner eager to increase their engagement at the statewide level. They have maintained excellent communication with State Fire Training (SFT).

Tray White stated his thanks for SFT staff. C. Petty stated that SFT is recommending an ALA reaccreditation period of 5 years.

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

VI. Accredited Academies

A. Orange County Fire Authority Initial Accreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is an accomplished organization with a vast response capability intent on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the community that is growing. To meet those needs OCFA has demonstrated efforts to become a cooperative regional partner offering comprehensive entry-level and in service training focused on professional development. They offer a well-rounded innovative fire training with a strong emphasis on wellness, safety, standardization, and high-level training. The agency is eager to meet the needs of the region and has become an active participant in the State Fire Training (SFT) system.

Neil McCann thanked the SFT staff. C. Petty stated OCFA is recommended for an initial ALA accreditation period of 3 years.

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

B. Mission College Initial Accreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that Mission College has a staff and administration that recognizes the underserved student population as well as the small agency population in their region and is seeking to bridge that regional training gap by becoming an ARTP. They have an exemplary devotion to student and instructor diversification making sure the cadre mirrors the students and community that they serve. Mission College has a strong devotion to progressive training through technology focused and forward-thinking delivery modality. They have also maintained excellent communication and working relationships with State Fire Training (SFT) and has an eager intention to increase its participation at the statewide level.

Guy Hall thanks SFT for the opportunity, as well as Mission College staff. C. Petty recommended Mission College be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.

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

VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery

C. Structural Collapse Specialist (2021)

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that the Structural Collapse Specialist (SCS) curriculum has been a long time coming. The intent is to retire the Rescue Systems 2 and 3 serie and replace them with the Structural Collapse Specialist. State Fire Training (SFT) has aligned with NFPA 1006, the standard for technical rescue, as well as the FEMA structural collapse specialist training.

C. Fowler provided the student and instructor requirements as outlined within the Staff Report. She stated that the virtual roll-out course required for all currently registered instructors will be provided by SFT. The dates are yet to be determined for 2022.

Based on the direction of STEAC, SFT is exploring the possibility of creating a technical rescue certification. A CTS guide and instructor task book have also been developed, allowing for a transition to CFSTES from FSTEP in the future, if that is the direction of STEAC.

The new SCS curriculum is proposed to be released June 1, 2022, following April STEAC and June State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) if there are no major changes. The retirement of the Rescue Systems Series is planned for December 31, 2022, pending any other impacts.

Bret Davidson stated there is a difference between the state USAR terminology and SFT's terminology. There has been a pushback regarding the naming of the courses because there's a difference between the USAR FIREScope curriculum and the FEMA curriculum. He asked for reasoning as to why SFT is going with this name. C. Fowler responded that for this course SFT aligned more with FEMA, because it gives stakeholders the opportunity to go outside of the state and align with national needs.

Gaudenz Panholzer asked that SFT might consider changing their choice of retirement date for courses and certifications to not be December 31 in the future.

D. Confined Space Rescue Personnel (2021)

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that the Structural Collapse Specialist (SCS) cadre also did the update to the Confined Space Rescue Technician (CSRT). After the SCS development there was enough time left to update another series. She thanked all those involved in the cadre/process. CSRT is now updated to correlate with NFPA 1006, the updates are largely editorial with no major content changes. The lengths of the course did not change and existing Confined Space Rescue Awareness (CSRA) and CSRT instructors will be authorized to teach the new course without any further update class. New instructors will be required to meet the new requirements.

The existing CSRA/CSRT material will continue to be available during the transition period. The new curriculum should be released June 1, 2022, and the existing curriculum will be retired December 31, 2022.

VIII. State Fire Training Updates

A. Instructor Update Course Status Report

Presenter: Kris Rose

Kris Rose stated so far two Instructor Update Courses (IUC) have been held. There were originally approximately 1100 instructors who needed the course to become current. 586 of those stakeholders were contacted via their active ACADIS portal e-mail on record – approximately 140 of those emails came back undeliverable. So far only 60 instructors have completed the IUC and have been put back into good standing with State Fire Training. Approximately 386 instructors will be sent another email notifying them that this is the last chance to complete the IUC.

Bret Davidson raised a concern about those without emails being left out. Caryn Petty stated that SFT has specifically checked for active instructors in the last 4 years to make sure they were contacted. She advised that the SFT Procedures Manual clearly states that the registered instructor must ensure that their contact information with SFT is up to date. John Binaski and multiple STEAC members asked if it would be possible for SFT to release the list of the 1100 instructors to the members of STEAC so they can check with their respective staff. SFT agreed to provide this information before the next IUC is held.

B. CAL FIRE Director Staff Awards

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated that State Fire Training (SFT) nominated two of their curriculum development cadres for CAL FIRE's partnership award. The CAL FIRE partnership award is for superior performance that demonstrates a commitment to the values and mission of CAL FIRE. It also demonstrates the abilities to work in a cooperative partnership with department staff in the resolution of issues.

The first cadre that received this award was the Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 curriculum cadre as well as the SFT staff that participated with that. SFT was able to obtain IFSAC and ProBoard national accreditation for their Fire Fighter 2 certification level. The cadre also assisted with developing new test banks that are now being offered within the SFT user portal. This has streamlined the cognitive exam and certification issuance. Chief Henning thanks the Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 cadre members for their time and dedication to SFT.

The second cadre that received the Director Staff award was the Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness (BHACA) curriculum cadre. This curriculum is cutting edge and an important issue. The BHACA cadre was instructed to develop three courses: the frontline responder, the first line supervisor, and the organizational leader.

A. Blueprint 2030

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated in April 2020 the Gap Analysis reported that many major goals for State Fire Training (SFT) within Blueprint 2020 were accomplished. Over the last two years SFT has identified the need to plan for the future. Blueprint 2030 is the new proposed theme – SFT is looking to gather a cross section of its stakeholders to meet and discuss alignment with the training and educational needs in California moving forward.

Mark Bisbee stated that with Blueprint 2030, SFT wants to focus on two key points: the deliverables, and the process. In terms of deliverables, SFT wants to confirm or modify their values, mission, vision, and goals. The other deliverables include success indicators and an implementation action plan. The implementation action plan will be a living document to keep Blueprint 2030 alive and at the forefront. The proposal includes creating a stakeholder steering group that will do input workshops and preparing a draft plan that would be distributed to focus groups and stakeholders prior to finalization and approval at STEAC and SBFS.

John Binaski noted that the League of California Cities and FIRESCOPE are missing from the membership cadre for the steering committee. Brian Marshall added that OES would like to be involved as well.

IX. Public Comment

Jeff Seaton stated that currently S-290 is a prerequisite listed in the S-230 course plan. Unlike the CICCIS quals guide where it clarifies that the online version of S-290 does not meet the requirement, the SFT course plan doesn't specify that. Binaski clarified that J. Seaton is requesting to have language added specifying that the online course does not qualify to be in-line with the CICCIS language.

John Binaski brought up that there is confusion among stakeholders surrounding rank requirements in regard to Company Officer and Driver Operator. C. Fowler proposed an information bulletin and e-news update restating the current requirements.

John Bagala echoed this concern and adds that he feels that the focus should be educational requirements and that it needs to be consistent across all certifications and not just Chief Officer or Company Officer. He states that the position requirement puts some stakeholders in limbo as they have the classes complete and are waiting on promotion but can't obtain the certification.

David Baldwin asked about the possibility of administrative access for organizations within the ACADIS portal. Andrew Henning stated that there is one pilot program going and there are concerns that need to be cleared through legal before it is rolled out on a larger scale.

Joe Konefal stated that currently FI-210 is a requirement for Fire Investigator certification and would like to propose a California version of this course. The course would go from a 36 hour to a 40-hour course to address some of the incendiary issues that are commonly occurring in the Wildland arsons, and to address California law. In addition, the revision would also add California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI) as a provider for the FI-210 course.

X. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning provided the State Fire Training (SFT) updates: There is an upcoming IFSAC site visit on February 10th and 11th. A. Henning thanked those involved in the Confined Space Rescue and Structural collapse updates. He stated there are Trench Rescue and Vehicle Extrication cadres coming up this spring to ensure those courses are meeting current protocols and NFPA requirements. For April STEAC, SFT plans to bring the fiscal year 2022/23 curriculum and related projects, including technical rescue and maritime courses. He stated there is also a request from Chief Winnacker to bring in a defensible space inspector course.

A. Henning thanked Kris Rose and all SFT staff for their work during the retirement of the Fire Fighter (2013) curriculum and handing the 1,300 plus applications that have come in. He also stated that the Governor's budget was released earlier in January and with that there is a budget change proposal for State Fire Training. The proposal includes creating additional staffing positions, expanding out of state travel budget for staff to attend the IFSAC/ProBoard and other national level conferences, and expanded spending authority for SFT to develop new curriculum.

XI. Future Meeting Dates

April 8, 2022, July 8, 2022, October 14, 2022

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55AM