



STEAC Meeting Minutes

July 8, 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
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South)
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 (alternate)
Andrew Kibby, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section, (South) (alternate)
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North) (alternate)
Brian Marshall, CAL OES
Gaudenz Panholzer, California Fire Chiefs Association
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
Greg Belk, CAL FIRE (alternate)
John Binaski, STEAC Committee Chair
Jarrod Clinkenbeard, CAL FIRE Training
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE
Javier Lara, CAL OES
Kirk Noffsinger, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North)
Ken Sebastiani, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
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, SFT Division Chief & OSFM Assistant Deputy Director

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

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 A.M. by Bret Davidson

Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief Bret Davidson

III. Approval of the April 8, 2022 Minutes

Presenter: Chief Bret Davidson

Motion:	<i>Rich Thomas moved to accept the minutes from April 8, 2022. Tom Carlisle seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated that State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) did not have a Quorum to meet in May and will be meeting in August. Due to that, there has been a delay in the implementation of the Structural Collapse courses that were approved by STEAC in April. State Fire Training is allowing pilot courses of Structural Collapse Specialist 1 and Structural Collapse Specialist 2. These are very similar to a normal delivery and will still grant FSTEP diplomas to the students. SFT will also be proposing an update to the Implementation Plan delaying the retirement of Rescue Systems 1, 2, and 3, due to the postponement of SBFS. The retirements are being delayed to December 31st, 2022 for Rescue Systems 1, and June 30th, 2023 for Rescue systems 2 and 3.

V. Consent Items

A. Butte College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the site visit was conducted on May 2nd, 2022. She stated that Butte College has maintained a robust academy since 1981 focused on serving the needs of the specific region it occupies. They are proactively constructing cooperative relationships with neighboring agencies and colleges in their region, founded on producing strong well-founded fire service professionals, they do have some projected program enhancements and training ground new builds coming in the new accreditation

cycle. State Fire Training (SFT) is excited to support them in that effort and Butte College has maintained excellent and consistent communication with SFT.

SFT recommended a reaccreditation for Butte College for a period of 5 years.

B. Fresno City College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the reaccreditation visit was conducted on May 20th, 2022. She stated that Fresno City College is an absolute statewide leader in training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools, and demonstrating a strong diversification outreach program dedicated to generating and maintaining career interest in young adults. The College provides numerous continuing education opportunities for those seeking career advancement, offering a growing array of specialized courses and training events. All participants, staff, and students adhere to strong program standards that have served as the foundation of this model fire service training program. The projected programs and enhancement as well as a new training facility are expected in the coming accreditation cycle and State Fire Training (SFT) is excited to see the outcome. Fresno City College also maintains excellent communication and consistent working relationships with SFT.

SFT recommended a reaccreditation for Fresno City College for a period of 5 years.

C. Glendale Community College/Verdugo Fire Academy ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the Glendale Community College and the Glendale Verdugo fire academy site inspection took place May 12th of this year. Glendale Community College has expressed a strong commitment to the ideal of academic freedom derived through careful and critical appraisal, providing a place where all may formulate ideas and values students and staff alike. The academy and staff focus on excellence, human worth, and realization of individual potential. They have a strong devotion to cooperative working relationships within the region and have maintained excellent consistent communication with State Fire Training.

SFT recommended a reaccreditation for Glendale Community College/Glendale Verdugo Fire Academy for a period of 5 years.

D. Los Medanos College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the site inspection for Los Medanos College took place May 26th of this year. Los Medanos provides for a very diverse student population, and offers an affordable, challenging, and well-rounded training program. They are engaged in active recruitment and outreach throughout the region, making sure that this is a possible career outcome for an under-represented population in the state. They provide instructor mentorship programs to ensure relevance and program sustainability, and they have a strong devotion to cooperative working relationships within the region with agencies nearby.

SFT recommended a reaccreditation Los Medanos College for a period of 5 years.

E. Imperial Valley College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated the Imperial Valley College site evaluation took place on June 7th of this year. This program was established to meet the needs of providing standardized training to the Imperial Valley region, while maintaining mindful curriculum delivery that specific to the demographics of the region. This is the only Community College within a 100 mile radius, so they are capturing students in need with an active recruitment and outreach program. They have a successful track record of providing graduates with gainful employment in their home community. Imperial Valley College is eager to engage with a statewide level and has maintained excellent communication with State Fire Training throughout this process.

SFT recommended a reaccreditation Imperial Valley College for a period of 5 years.

F. San Diego Miramar Community College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated the San Diego Miramar Community College site evaluation took place on April 21st. Miramar College has an expressed desire to serve the needs of the region partners by providing fire service training to all Members from academy students to career professionals. The college has a strong emphasis on higher education and degree completion for its students. The staff demonstrates an energetic and proactive approach to program development and continues program and student diversification efforts.

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 19, the college was provided a six-month extension and as such the re-accreditation period is recommended at 4 and a half years.

G. Online S-290

Presenter: Mark Bisbee

Mark Bisbee stated his goal was to introduce the concept of an online S-290 course to STEAC for consideration. There was a previous online program for S-290, but it was geared towards the incident meteorologist and how they should interact with the fire behavior analyst. Since COVID, there has been a lot of pressure on Community Colleges, Agencies, and State Fire Training to open up hybrid or more remote learning which is also a driving factor for this need. He stated that he was approached about a potential online course through the University of Idaho and was able to audit the class and how it was presented and felt that it was very well done. The course required in-depth and critical thinking and to apply learned knowledge in scenarios. The students were required to be on camera and in person for portions of the class for discussions and exercises.

M. Bisbee recommended that S-290 be approved for an alternate online delivery. This also aligns with CAL FIRE Training Center taking a hybrid approach to S-290 for their academy and personnel.

Bret Davidson raised a concern that STEAC has had concerns with online S-290 in the past. M. Bisbee responded to the concerns stating that the new online course has more interactive exercises including analysis of fuel moisture.

David Baldwin asked how the online S-290 and CICCIS qualifications overlap because there are portions of the qualifications that specifically state online S-290 is not acceptable. M. Bisbee responded stating that the CICCIS document would have to be updated or some sort of interim procedure implemented. He stated that perhaps FIRESCOPE take a task force to allow that to occur. He reinforced that the disallowing of online was based on the old S-290 course that was not geared for online suppression personnel.

Scott Vail stated the reason the in-person class was required by CICCIS is the existing online S-290 was not a good course and that there has been a desire to find an online course that met their needs.

Due to some concerns from STEAC, Online S-290 was revoked from the consent calendar for this meeting. It will be brought back at the October STEAC meeting.

Motion:	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion for all consent items except for S-290. Don Lacy seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VI. Accredited Academies

A. Santa Clara County Fire Department Initial Accreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the site evaluation took place May 5th. She stated that Santa Clara County is an accomplished organization steeped in rich tradition, they serve to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service to a growing and evolving in region of the state. The academy cadre provides comprehensive training focused on relevant and timely practices utilizing cutting edge techniques and equipment. They are eager to meet the needs for the region and the community they serve and Santa Clara County Fire has become an active participant in the State Fire Training System already.

The site team was unanimous in support of State Fire Training recommending ALA Initial Accreditation for Santa Clara County Fire Department for a period of three years.

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

VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery

A. Trench Rescue Technician Curriculum (2021)

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that the cadre met in April to update the Trench Rescue Curriculum – the course remains an FSTEP class; however, there is a new CTS guide, updated course plan, instructor task book, and student training record. They are all based on the 2021 NFPA 1006 Standard for Technical Rescue personnel. She stated that many of the changes to the curriculum were editorial and non-substantial. One item of specific note is the change to the timetable, which has been modified to accommodate minor updates to the course topics, however, there is no change to the length of the course. The instructor level has been updated to primary registered instructor as senior instructor is no longer required to host this class. Current registered instructors will not need to take any update courses and State Fire Training will update ACADIS to authorize both primary and senior Trench Rescue Technician (2014) instructors to teach the new 2021 class. The course prerequisites have also been updated to include the new Structural Collapse Specialist 1 as well as Rescue Systems 1 and Confined Space Rescue Awareness classes.

Following STEAC approval in October, the curriculum would be available December 1st, 2022, and the 2014 curriculum would retire June of 2023.

B. Common Passenger Vehicle Curriculum (2021)

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that the Common Passenger Vehicle cadre met in February. This curriculum was previously known as Vehicle Extrication (2015). The cadre has also developed the new CTS guide, updated course plan, instructor task book, and student training record based on the NFPA 1006 standard. The course remains an FSTEP class. The lecture time was decreased, and activities and skills increased – the course total hours remain the same. The instructor to student ratios have changed from 1:10 activities to 1:8 and this decision was made to increase student safety. The current Vehicle Extrication instructors will not need to take an update course and will be updated by State Fire Training in ACADIS, authorizing all registered instructors to teach the new Common Passenger Vehicle class. Effective January 1st, 2023, all new Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician instructors will be required to complete a task book. Following STEAC approval in October, the new curriculum would be available January 1st, 2023, and the 2015 course would retire June 2023.

C. Heavy Vehicle Rescue Curriculum (2021)

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that this a new course, the Common Passenger Vehicle Technician cadre that met in February was able to spend the time to develop the new Heavy Rescue Technician class. This class is designed to allow students to better prepare for an incident that involves heavy vehicles like semi-trailers or buses and the challenges that can be found on those incidents. The course is also an FSTEP class with a CTS guide, course plan, instructor task book, and student training record based on the NFPA

1006 standard. The course is 24 hours, the max class size will be 32 and a ratio synchronized with Common Passenger at 1:8 instructor to student. Heavy Vehicle Rescue cadre numbers will be teaching several courses in early 2023 to build out the instructor cadre in the State Fire Training system since this is a new class. Any new instructors will need to take the new course next year and complete the instructor task book. Following STEAC approval in October, the new curriculum would be available January 1st, 2023.

D. Fire Control 4 Curriculum (2022)

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that the Fire Control 4 cadre met in May to update the 2015 curriculum. The updates were in alignment with NFPA 1001 and the course remains an FSTEP class. The cadre has decided that the course should be divided into two levels of instruction. There is now more practical application for live fire drills at the awareness level, while separating out the more technical instruction of pipeline and fixed facility into a technician level class. The classes will each be 12 hours in length. Fire Control 4 (2015) instructors will not need an update class, ACADIS will be updated to authorize instructors to teach the new awareness and technician level – senior instructors will no longer be required. Following STEAC approval in October, the new curriculum would be available January 1st, 2023 and the 2015 course would retire June 2023.

VIII. State Fire Training Updates

A. State Fire Training Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated that there have been additional curriculum cadres that have met this year that are still in the process of curriculum development, including Maritime Fire Fighting for Land Based Fire Fighters, Rapid Intervention Crew Operations, and Fire Fighter Survival. The reason State Fire Training (SFT) has been able to provide this additional curriculum development is the previous Fee increase that was approved. This enables SFT curriculum to meet the needs of the California Fire Service. SFT is planning to do another substantial curriculum update going into the next Fiscal Year.

SFT recently had a Budget Change Proposal go to the state legislature that was approved and included in the Governor's budget. SFT needed to do the fee adjustment to add positions to SFT. The proposal increased SFT's spending authority by \$914,000. Even though SFT is a special funded program that retains its money at the end of the fiscal year, SFT cannot spend more money than allocated, even if bringing in more revenue. This increases SFT spending authority to just below \$5 million for the next fiscal year. The change adds a permanent Office Technician position, a new Associate Governmental Program Analyst working as the SFT Records Management System Administrator, and a new Staff Services Manager 1.

SFT has had staffing changes with the departure of Marisol Ramos (Instructor Registrar), and the upcoming retirement of Rene Rose (Exam Scheduler). SFT is in the

process of hiring backfill for these positions. SFT is also in the process of hiring additional Deputy State Fire Marshals to support field operations.

A Henning stated that another legislation that passed was assembly bill 1106, which directs SFT to develop a livestock pass program. The program would allow ranch owners who have livestock to enter a fire area to care for the livestock. SFT received \$60,000 in general fund money to support and develop the course.

The state Fire Marshal's Office Pipeline and Safety Division is working with the North American Association of State Fire Marshals as well as subsidiaries of the Department of Transportation to form the Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI) committee to bring together the fire service, law enforcement, and other first responders with pipeline operators. The first kickoff meeting was in Long Beach last week - as the meetings continue there is a need for California Fire Service representatives to attend to make sure there is adequate participation to meet the needs of the California fire service.

He stated that SFT is working on a process update to help expedite processing times, wherein instructors will type ID#s directly into the ACADIS system and receive real-time confirmation of correct student info. This will allow instructors to be able to pay online immediately via credit card (mail-in check will still be an option). The current invoicing program will only continue for the accredited academies. The new feature is targeted to be deployed in January but may be pushed back due to development timeline.

B. 2022 CICCS Qualifications Guide

Presenter: Scott Vail

Scott Vail stated that the new edition of the qualifications guide has taken about four years to complete primarily due to addition of the urban search and rescue regional team training qualifications were provided and approved by FIREScope. New positions are unchanged except in format to mirror the qualifications guide from their source documents from FEMA, FIREScope, NWCG, or OES.

Motion:	<i>David Baldwin moved to accept the motion for all consent items. Jason Hosea seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

C. Hazardous Material Awareness & Operations Information Update

Presenter: Brandon Erickson

Brandon Erickson stated that California is somewhat unique in that it has three agencies accredited to issue Hazardous Materials FRA and FRO – State Fire Training (SFT), CSTI, and IAFF. SFT recognizes that as part of the Fire Fighter 1 program there are some agencies that prefer to use CSTI or IAFF. There is an equivalency program for the training that is captured in ACADIS – there is no paper or application process – the testing site documents the alternate agency for Hazardous Materials testing. B Erickson stated that as a reminder that CSTI and IAFF operate on separate timetables from State Fire Training – this has resulted in students waiting up to 8 to 24 weeks to

receive their Hazardous Materials results which delays issuance of their Fire Fighter certification. Due to these delays, SFT is making a recommendation to testing sites to place the Hazardous Materials module first to help expedite the process.

B Erickson stated that when SFT originally rolled out the Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness (FRA) and First Responder Operations (FRO) testing there was a single combined exam of 25 questions. It was later found out that the correct testing methodology was to have a separate cognitive exam for FRA and FRO, independently. As such this resulted in a 10 question FRA exam and 15 question FRO exam – which led to some concern that it makes the FRA exam difficult – with only 10 questions there is very little room for incorrect answers before failing the exam. SFT has looked at other programs where they have more questions per cognitive exam and has contracted with a consultant from Sacramento State University for analysis. One of the primary recommendations of the analysis would be to increase the item numbers on both exams to protect against poor test performance and reliability. SFT is not taking any action at this time and is putting together a cadre later this year to evaluate changes due to the consolidation of NFPA 1072 to 470 and will consider this question regarding exam length at that time.

IX. Public Comment

Andrew Murtagh expressed the benefit to San Francisco Fire Department of the additional involvement through the increased amount of cadre development opportunities recently with State Fire Training and expressed thanks to the staff.

X. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence

Presenter: Bret Davidson

Bret Davidson stated that Southern California Training Officers in cooperation with Northern California Training Officers are reviewing the Porterville Library Fire on August 2nd in San Diego.

XI. Future Meeting Dates

October 14, 2022, January 13, 2023, April 14, 2023

Presenter: Bret Davidson

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.