



STEAC Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2023 – Teleconference Meeting

I. Introductions and Welcome

Members Present

Gregory Barton, League of California Cities
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association
Greg Belk, CAL FIRE (alternate)
John Binaski, STEAC Committee Chair
Jeff Boyles, League of California Cities (alternate)
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South)
Stephen Gutierrez, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs
Scott Lewis, FIRESCOPE
Brian Marshall, 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)
Gail Warner, California Fire Technology Directors Association
David Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association

Members Absent

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association
Jarrod Clinkenbeard, CAL FIRE Training
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE
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)
Javier Lara, CAL OES
Rob Wheatley, CAL FIRE Training (alternate)
Jason Serrano, FIRESCOPE (Alternate)

State Fire Training Staff

Joe Bunn, SFT, Fire Service Training Specialist
Madison Cannon, SFT, Office Technician
Brandon Erickson, SFT, Staff Services Manager I
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Dustin Franks, SFT, Staff Services Analyst
Selena Garcia-Villicana, SFT, Staff Services Analyst
Andrew Henning, SFT, 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 09:01 A.M. by John Binaski

A. Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

B. Member Appointments and Re-Appointments

1. Scott Lewis – FIRESCOPE – Member Appointment
2. Jason Serrano – FIRESCOPE – Alternate Appointment

II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

John Binaski stated there will be a late addition under Curriculum Development and delivery, the Fire Fighter 1 Cognitive Exam.

Motion:	<i>Gail Warner moved to add the Fire Fighter 1 cognitive exam to the agenda under Curriculum Development and Delivery. Bret Davidson seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

Presenter: Daniel Berlant

Daniel Berlant thanked Chief John Binaski for serving as the chair for the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC), as he will be retiring following this meeting. D. Berlant then announced that Chief Mike Richwine will be replacing J. Binaski as the Chair for this committee and Bret Davidson will continue to serve as the Vice Chair.

III. Approval of the January 13, 2023, Minutes

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

Motion: *Stephen Gutierrez moved to accept the minutes from January 13, 2023.
Richard Beckman seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously.*

IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) met in February of 2023, approving one Accredited Local Academy (ALA) and two Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) reaccreditations. They also approved the updates to the Burn Boss course which increased the number of students, as well as the update State Fire Training (SFT) did for the Fire Marshal Task Book, moving the Public Information Officer (PIO) course to task book completion requirements instead of an initiation requirement. SBFS also approved the Marine Fire Fighting for Land Based Fire Fighters course and certification track as well as the new Incident Safety for Agricultural Lands and Livestock Producers Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) course.

V. Consent Items

L-180 for FF1 Reciprocity

Presenter: Brandon Erickson

Brandon Erickson explained this is a motion to approve the use of the L-180 online course, L-180 is used in concert with S-130 and S-190 to meet the Fire Fighter 1C Wildland Fire Fighter component for out of state reciprocity applicants. This is one of four options applicants can use to complete the Wildland training. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) no longer offers this course in person; they offer a four-hour online L-180 course.

Existing Course Approval for California Code of Regulations (CCR)

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated that over the previous 12 months State Fire Training (SFT) has been working with the Code Development and Analysis program to update the SFT procedures manual, and in that process SFT has been notified that an official advisory committee record of existing courses is now required by the Office of Administrative Law. The staff report presented is to support the update to the initial statement of reasons and to create a formal record from the body that the existing courses and certifications meet the current goals and objectives of the SFT program. There are no changes to any of the listed courses.

Fire Fighter Curriculum Update

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler explained that over the past six months State Fire Training (SFT) has been updating the Fire Fighter 1B curriculum to align with the 2022 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 470 for Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction as well as the Fire Fighter 1C with the 2022 1140 standard. This alignment was very extensive and is editorial. The skill sheets for Fire Fighter 1A and 2A have also been updated based on the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and Pro Board recommendations for compliance. C. Fowler clarified this update would add more specific detail to the skill sheets to supports students' success with exams and there are no changes to the Fire Fighter 1A and 1B course content, these changes are largely editorial to align with NFPA as well as the recommendations of IFSAC and Pro Board from our accreditation.

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

VI. Accredited Academies

Antelope Valley Accreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated the site evaluation took place February 28, 2023. The site evaluation team consisted of Richard Beckman from Rio Hondo College, Jarrod Clinkenbeard from CalFire, Eric Bennett from Orange County Fire Authority, and Christian Miller from Pasadena Fire Department.

C. Petty explained Antelope Valley College (AVC) was in the State Fire Training (SFT) system before deciding to rebuild and return as an initial accreditation. The fire technology staff and administration recognized the underserved student populations in the region of Antelope Valley and in the southern region of the LA County area and have intended to bridge the regional training and education gap. The attention to student and instructor diversification and outreach exemplifies this program's devotion to fire service progression. Coordination personnel possess an unwavering approach to program development with a strong focus on technologically advanced training and diversified student populations while adhering to the standards set forth by SFT. AVC is proactively building cooperative relationships founded on producing strong, well rounded fire service personnels and career development.

The floor was then given to Academy Coordinator Mark Gilman of AVC who spoke briefly on his experience and the program which has been revitalized to offer courses for degree paths in both fire technology and wildland fire technology.

The floor was then given to R. Beckman and E. Bennet who spoke highly of the program and technology offered at AVC.

C. Petty stated the site evaluation team was unanimous in the recommendation of AVC becoming designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for an initial accreditation period of 3 years.

Motion: *Stephen Gutierrez moved to accept the motion. Kirk Noffsinger seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously.*

VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery

FY 2023-24 Curriculum and Related Projects

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated that State Fire Training (SFT) plans for another busy year of curriculum development for next fiscal year starting in July of 2023. Last year the curriculum development budget was increased. Previously budgeting for \$300,000 per year, SFT is now budgeting between \$400,000 and \$450,000 per year, he elaborated this is in partnership with Sacramento State University. SFT is also looking at possibly contracting with UC Davis for similar services, providing conference room space and transportation to and from cadres.

A. Henning then spoke regarding how SFT prioritizes curriculum development projects, stating the first priority is anything that is required by state law, second priority is maintaining the current existing courses, third priority is expanding the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and Pro Board accreditation, and fourth priority is new courses.

A. Henning then spoke to items SFT will be moving forward with, starting with a peer-to-peer suicide prevention course as required by assembly bill 662.

The new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)1010 standard is now set to be released January 2024. This new standard affects the Fire Fighter 1A & 2A courses. It also involves all five Driver/Operator certification tracks and their six associated courses. Textbooks "The Fundamentals of Firefighting" and "Essentials of Firefighting" are expected to be released about May 2024 and the Driver/Operator books to be released August 2024.

SFT will be updating NFPA1030 which includes the Fire Inspector 1 and 2, Plans Examiner, and Fire Marshal certification tracks. SFT is in the process of updating the Fire Officer Series (Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer, Executive Chief Fire Officer). Based STEAC guidance from the previous year, SFT will be seeking International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and Pro Board accreditation in 2024 for the Fire and Emergency Services Instructors 1 and 2 certification levels. SFT is also researching other curriculum development regarding possible Dive Rescue courses based off NFPA 1006 as well as other possible courses.

Fire Fighter 1 Cognitive Exam (Late Addition)

Presenter: Brandon Erickson

Brandon Erickson stated Fire Fighter 1B is the HazMat Awareness and Operations module of the Fire Fighter curriculum and this is a motion to approve the increase of test items on Hazardous Materials First Responders Awareness (HMFRA) from 10 to 25 and Hazardous Materials First Responders Operations (HMFRO) from 15 to 25. The initial numbers of 10 and 15 appeared to be low so consultants from Sac State who specialize in test reliability and performance were consulted. The consultants recommended that for high stakes certification exams, the test items need to be increased to receive better performance and reliability.

B. Erickson elaborated in August of 2021, SFT had begun an optional pilot program where academies and test sites can elect to use higher item tests for HMFRA and HMFRO; the participating colleges have had positive results as it had been observed that performance and reliability had increased and retakes have decreased. B. Erickson restated that this is a motion to approve beginning in July of 2023. The impact of the increased test items would be an additional 30 minutes on exams for test sites.

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

Fire Fighter Survival

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty began by stating this item is coming for final motion for approval. The Fire Fighter Survival 2013 curriculum is an update to the 2010 curriculum in correlation with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fire Ground Survival program. The course remains 16 hours in duration and is expected to be implemented June 1, 2023, pending approval. Noted changes are prerequisites which have been amended to include the IAFF online Fire Ground Survival Awareness course. Class sizes have been increased from 40 to 50 students. Ratios are 1:50 for lecture and 1:10 for activities which is line with the latest curriculum from SFT. The instructor and student guides have been eliminated in favor of providing a Student Training Record developed for verification of skills, practice, and completion to pass the class. SFT will be authorizing existing Fire Fighter Survival registered instructors in good standing to teach the new curriculum after they complete the online IAFF Awareness course, and there will be an update form available through Acadis. Existing instructors who do not complete this course by June 30, 2024 will be required to reapply under the new requirements. Instructors with open task books will have until December 31, 2023 to apply under the current Fire Fighter Survival curriculum to then be cross walked to the new curriculum. New instructors will need to complete any version of the Fire Fighter Survival course. C. Petty clarified that because of the minimal changes to the curriculum, both versions of the course will work, however they will be required to complete the Instructor Trainee Task Book 2023 Version as well as the IAFF online Awareness course.

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

Fire Fighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Operations

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Caryn Petty stated that the title has been changed to Fire Fighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Operations. This is an update the 2010 curriculum and was built in alignment with what International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is currently constructing for Fire Fighter Rescue course. Notable changes include completion of the IAFF Fireground Survival Awareness course within 90 days of course start date and SFT's Fire Fighter Survival course as required prerequisites to attend. The course incurs an 8 hour increase from 24 to 32 hours to accommodate the increased content focused on fire fighter rescue separate from and potentially prior to the activation of a RIC deployment. The class size increased from 40 to 50 students and ratios increased to 1:50 for lecture and 1:10 for activities and skills proficiency. The instructor and student guides have been eliminated in favor of providing a Student Training Record developed for verification of skills, practice, and completion to pass the class.

Due to substantial updates to the existing course, existing instructors will have to complete the online Fire Ground Survival Awareness course. The Fire Fighter Rescue and RIC Operations Instructor update course will be delivered virtually from SFT, all existing instructors will be contacted to attend. The instructor update web form will be available on the SFT user portal. Instructors who do not complete these items by June 30, 2024 will need to reapply under the new standards. Anyone with an open task book will have until June 30, 2024 to submit their task book or be required to apply under the new curriculum. New instructors will be completing a Fire Fighter Rescue and RIC Operations course or the RIC Operations 2011 version and the IAFF Awareness level course prior to applying for instructor registration and must complete the Fire Fighter Rescue and RIC Operations Instructor task book.

Motion: *Stephen Gutierrez moved to accept the motion. Richard Thomas seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously*

Machinery Rescue Technician

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated this is the second reading of the curriculum with no stakeholder requests for edits following the January 2023 meeting. This course is intended to provide knowledge and skills that will ensure a safe, effective, and coordinated response to rescuing victims from simple or complex machinery. It is aligned with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006 standards for technical rescue and industry best practices.

Motion: *Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion. Richard Beckman seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously*

Animal Technical Rescue Awareness & Technician

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Chris Fowler stated this is the first reading of the curriculum. This course update is intended to provide knowledge and skills to ensure a safe, effective, and coordinated response to incidents involving trapped, stranded, or entangled animals. It is aligned with NFPA 1006 standards for technical rescue and industry best practices. A second read will be held during the July 2023 STEAC meeting.

VIII. State Fire Training Updates

A. Staffing Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated SFT is still in the process of hiring an Associate Governmental Program Analyst to backfill Brandon Erickson's previous position. SFT is also still in the process of hiring an office technician to assist with course processing, course approvals, and digitally archiving paper records. The floor was then handed to Chris Fowler for further staffing updates.

C. Fowler stated two new deputies have joined the team, Deputy Terence Liszewski and Deputy Eddie Aguilar who were present. They will be working with Caryn Petty and C. Fowler in SFT Field Operations. Beginning April 17, 2023 Deputy Connie Guerrero will be joining the team as well.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence

Presenter: John Binaski

Bret Davidson thanked Chief Binaski on behalf of the training officers for his leadership. B. Davidson stated that what he has done for the training officers in the region and SFT is immeasurable. He has pushed the fire service forward and has done a lot for training and training officers and has affected the whole state. Thanked him again for his contribution and leadership.

Richard Beckman stated a study had come out from the Centers of Excellence who gives information to the State Chancellor's Office for California community colleges about entry level Fire Fighter openings, positions, and how well they are meeting the training requirements from community colleges to address those openings. R. Beckman voiced his concern about the accuracy of the study, providing examples of potential misinformation, and stated he is concerned this study could impact funding to community colleges and perhaps the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (Cal-JAC) program. R. Beckman provided a link to the study for review and to offer the opportunity to provide feedback and help increase the accuracy of the study.

Gail Warner was also present for meeting of the study and voiced her concerns of accuracy and misinformation providing more examples.

Chief Gutierrez on behalf of Metro Chiefs thanked Chief Binaski for his service and wished him a happy retirement.

Chief Henning also thanked Chief Binaski for his leadership, mentorship and guidance to SFT and STEAC.

Chief Binaski stated that the fire service has been very rewarding to him and it has been a fantastic ride. He never thought he had left a legacy but maybe he has a little bit and hopes that the legislation will go thru that will provide SFT funding. It has been his pleasure.

XI. Future Meeting Dates

July 14, 2023, October 13, 2023, and January 12, 2024

Presenter: John Binaski

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 09:59 AM.