

AGENDA
Friday, October 21st, 2011
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee

VI. New Business

B. Expand CFSTES Online/Hybrid Class Offerings

Background: At its' meeting on March 24, 2006, the California Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) appointed an Ad-Hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of presenting the Fire Officer classes on the internet or in a hybrid (internet\classroom) delivery method.

Following a detailed analysis of the concept and a Beta Test delivery of the CFSTES Fire Officer classes, STEAC approved the delivery of the CFSTES Fire Officer classes in an Internet/Hybrid fashion at its October 17, 2008 meeting. **IT WORKS!**

Delivery of the CFSTES and FSTEP classes in a Internet/Hybrid fashion provides an opportunity to deliver a higher level of professionalism to more members of the fire service, more efficiently, more cost effectively and in the manner most desired and expected by today's students.

Since that time, the Fire Officer classes have continued to be offered in an Internet/Hybrid fashion. Also, numerous inquiries, suggestions and requests have been received from members of the California Fire Service, who would like to see more CFSTES and FSTEP classes offered in a Internet/Hybrid manner. They most often suggest the Chief Officer and the Fire Prevention\Fire Marshal tracks.

While California is in the midst of a major change in the certification tracks for Fire Service Professionals, and with the current economy, this might not seem like an opportune time to expand the on-line offering.

Just the opposite, technology and the current economy demand this change. Plus, it provides an opportunity to deliver a higher level of professionalism to more members of the fire service, more efficiently, more cost effectively and in the manner most desired and expected by today's students.

Suggested Direction: Two areas need to be addressed: 1. The Maintenance of the CFSTES Fire Officer, and 2. Expansion of the Internet/Hybrid delivery to other Certification tracks.

1. **The Maintenance of the CFSTES Company Officer Classes:** This should done as the curriculum is developed and classes are initially taught.
2. **Expansion of Online Internet/Hybrid Delivery to other Certification Tracks:** With the recent completion of the Fire Marshal Tracks, this may be a good place to start. However, a logical progression from the Fire Officer classes, that are already offered in an Internet/Hybrid format, and have recently been updated are the Chief Officer Management series.

For standalone classes and small series in the CFSTES and FSTEP programs, it may also be advisable to invite subject matter experts and instructors, collectively and individually, to develop proposals for the various classes and series. These would then be considered by STEAC under the auspices of Blueprint 20\20.

Ultimately, STEAC's Goal should be to determine the various and best instructional delivery methods of all CFSTES and FSTEP courses offered.

Request: Whatever direction it goes, STEAC should appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee or Committees of Members and others to develop these courses for Internet/Hybrid delivery.

Today, technology drives communication, in gaining information, on the job, at an emergency, when socializing and in every other aspect of the Fire Service Professional's life. The California Fire Service needs this technology in the delivery of the CFSTES and FSTEP classes today!.