



# STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 17, 2014 – Sacramento, California

## **Members Present:**

Robert Briare, California Professional Firefighters  
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (alternate)  
Ron Coleman, STEAC Chair  
Randy Collins, California Fire Technology Directors Association (North) (alternate)  
Lorenzo Gigliotti, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) (alternate)  
Timi Hayward, California Fire Technology Directors Association (South)  
Sam Hoffman, California State Firefighters Association (alternate)  
Mary Jennings, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee  
Kenneth Kehmna, Fire District Association of California  
Ron Myers, League of California Cities  
Daren Palacios, Metro Chiefs  
Kay Price, Cal Fire Academy  
Daniel Stefano, California State Firefighters' Association  
John Wagner, NorCal Training Officers Association (alternate)  
Kim Zagaris, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

## **Members Absent:**

Dennis Childress, SoCal Training Officers Association  
Bret Davidson, SoCal Training Officers Association (South) (alternate)  
Natalie Hannum, California Fire Technology Directors Association(North)  
Jim Skinner, League of California Cities (alternate)  
Ken Wagner, California Fire Chiefs Association, STEAC Vice Chair  
Chris Jelinek, NorCal Training Officers Association  
Stephen Shull, California Fire Technology Directors Association(South) (alternate)  
Rich Thomas, California Professional Firefighters (alternate)  
Nathan Trauernicht, California Fire Chiefs Association

## **State Fire Training Staff:**

Kevin Brame, Fire Service Training Specialist III  
Joseph Bunn, Fire Service Training Specialist III  
Ron Martin, Fire Service Training Specialist III  
Linda Menchaca, Associate Governmental Programs Analyst  
Diane Radford, Division Support  
Mike Richwine, Assistant State Fire Marshal and Division Chief  
Mark Romer, Fire Service Training Specialist III  
Kris Rose, Staff Services Manager I  
Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist

## **Guests:**

No guests were in attendance.  
I. Introductions and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chief Ron Coleman.

A. Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

II. Agenda Review

Ron Coleman advised that Ron Myers needed to leave the meeting at 11:00 am. Today's meeting priority is to get everything done quickly without revisiting non meeting items.

III. Approval of the July18, 2014 Minutes

**Motion:** *Mary Jennings moved to accept the minutes from July18, 2014.  
Darin Palacios seconded the motion.*  
**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Chief Richwine indicated that the State Board Fire Services met on August 21, 2014 and approved the re-accreditation of El Camino College as an accredited regional training program. Trench Rescue was approved as well. Getting Trench Rescue approved was a compromise, and included an engineer who worked up solutions that resulted in the approval.

A Deputy Chief of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) was brought in to talk about on highway incidents and how communications could be better between the Fire Service and the Highway Patrol. This is to avoid similar incidents that occurred previously in Chula Vista, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. This was a candid discussion with the CHP. There were admissions on both sides of shortfalls and the determination was that this has been a communications issue exacerbated by the presence of media and social media. The SBFS' motion is for the State Fire Marshal's office to work with the CHP to get out a joint training bulletin that provides some guidance and clarification of who is in charge of what on the highway. An explanation needs to be outlined advising why the CHP may ask you to move your rigs, what are the considerations and what is the perspective of where the CHP is coming from, and at the same time educating law enforcement and the Highway Patrol about fire services role and the need to protect their crew, especially in a critical rescue situation. Chief Coleman said that similar discussions have occurred about three times over the years. CHP is king on the highway and it is critical to keep the communications loop open. The CHP academy is going through some cultural changes. They are working on their approach for more responsibility and recognition of other emergency response roles. Timi Hayward asked if taking a lane on the highway came up in this discussion. Chief Richwine said yes, that is what we do. We have an obligation to protect our crew. The highway is the most dangerous place you can be on for a rescue. The CHP wants access limited to prevent

accidents. CHP gets political pressure, and calls regarding blocked freeways when they declare a sig alert. People have to be able to move. Randy Collins said this was dealt with about ten years ago in Sonoma County. A highway response policy was put together, and was edited through the CHP and their CHP Commander agreed to it. The biggest problem we've had is when you lose the continuity due to a change in command. We need to make sure that we are connected and communicating with the CHP. Chief Coleman said that one of the Chief Deputies of the CHP is also a volunteer Fire Chief over in Lakeville.

## V. Mission Alignment Objectives

### A. Achieving National Recognition

#### **1. Evaluating and Understanding Department of Defense (DOD) Training Records Presenter: Mike Richwine (Attachment 1)**

There is information in the agenda packet that we discussed before on our desire to provide guidance to local Fire Chiefs to assist them in deciphering the DD214 general discharge papers from returning service members. There have been issues with returning veterans who grew up in California, then went on to serve their country, and then became a Firefighter in another state. They do not get the recognition here in California for the training and service they received in other states. It's not that we don't want to do that, but the system is not set up for recognition at the local level. The Fire Chiefs need to be able to evaluate this training to determine whether or not it meets the Minimum Qualifications (MQ) for a particular application. In order to assist both the Fire Agencies and members of the military, SFT researched the way the DOD records the military training records. This was done with assistance from the Travis Air Force Base Fire Department Battalion Chief Kevin Bouillon. He was instrumental in helping with what the DOD provides and requires. Although the DD214 does not specifically contain information regarding Firefighters qualifications, there are several areas that will be of interest to a hiring agency, such as indicating fire related terminology and may reference some firefighter certifications. Chief Richwine indicated this information has not yet been distributed but will be available on the SFT website soon. There is still a need to break down barriers at the local level, as well as recognition from IFSAC and Pro-Board. Dan Stefano said some agencies are already doing this. Randy Collins said communication is a big issue with IFSAC and Pro-board. We must be cognizant of regulations regarding reciprocity. Mary Jennings indicated that a lot of military bases in California already provide Wildland training as part of their DOD training.

#### **2. Discussion: Fremont Fire Reaccreditation Presenter: Rodney Slaughter (Attachment 2)**

A reaccreditation site visit took place at the Fremont Fire Department. The site team consisted of Kevin Conant, Rodney Slaughter, Chris Jelinek and Dave Brown. The Fremont Fire Academy was not adversely affected by changes in the department's administration. All class documentation is kept in an exceptionally well maintained records management system. Besides the records management system, best practices at the Fremont Fire Academy include a low student to instructor ratio. The site team recommends the reaccreditation of Fremont Fire Department.

R. Slaughter indicated that reaccreditation of Oxnard College and Santa Rosa College will be on the January STEAC agenda. An accreditation application was just received from Columbia College and reaccreditation for Santa Ana College is also coming up at the end of the year.

***Motion:*** *Dan Stefano moved to accept the reaccreditation of Fremont Fire. Kenneth Kehmna seconded the motion.*  
***Action:*** *All members voted unanimously.*

## **B. Curriculum Development & Delivery**

### **1. NIMS/NWCG/CICCS Update**

**Presenter: Mike Garcia**

**(Attachment 3)**

Mike Garcia was unavailable to present this item due to illness. Chief Coleman asked if anyone had any information for this presentation. As of October 1, 2014, the NWCG no longer provides instructor materials for ICS 200,300,400. Access to instructor materials is controlled by CAL OES. ICS 200 is available by independent study through the Emergency Management Institute. ICS 300 and 400 Instructor materials are accessed through CAL OES or by existing State Fire Training ICS instructors. Initial analysis of this change points out that there is no net loss to SFT. Chief Coleman asked everyone to review the staff report on this agenda item. He also indicated that he thinks there are more restrictions than what we would like. Further discussion will take place at the next STEAC meeting.

### **2. National Fire Academy (NFA) Off Campus Program**

**Presenter: Mike Garcia**

**(Attachment 4)**

The class schedule will be posted to the SFT website with contact information. Kevin Brame indicated that the Region 9 class codes will be out by the end of the week. K. Brame also indicated that California does not get three 6-10 day courses. Of those 4 states, we get three of the 6-10 day courses. Each state gets 9 of the two day courses. When M. Garcia publishes this information we need to get those classes filled. It is difficult to get 10 day courses accepted. Two day course discussion is on curriculum and coordination. Chief Coleman asked K. Brame where we find courses that are available. K. Brame indicated that they are available by catalog. R. Slaughter provided Chief Coleman with a list of scheduled volunteers scheduled over weekends. This is informational only.

The Managing officer program is a 2 year program. Students don't start until spring. A package will be available at the next meeting. There are currently 450 students hoping to be in the program. We want to attract younger folks to the academy.

**3. Community Risk Educator, Community Risk Specialist, Community Risk Officer Standards & Curriculum**

**Presenter: Joe Bunn  
(Attachment 5)**

This is the second reading of the Community Risk Educator, Community Risk Specialist and the Community Risk Officer Certification Training Standards. Chief Richwine asked Joe Bunn to handle the presentations for the So-Cal and Nor-Cal Fire Prevention Officer's. J. Bunn indicated that the present curriculum did not meet the needs for risk reduction. He praised the cadre that was formed to address the Community Risk Officer Curriculum, indicating they were tireless in their review and validation and a pleasure to work with. Randy Collins asked about the experience with public educators, would the old Firefighter I instructor courses be allowed or do they have to retake them to get certified. M. Jennings said people are certified in the public education track, but that is not for today's discussion. This needs standardized recognition. Chief Richwine said we have a dated public education program but educators out there are excited about this program.

<p><b>Motion:</b> <i>Ron Myers moved to approve the Community Risk Educator, Community Risk Specialist &amp; Community Risk Officer Standards &amp; Curriculum.</i></p> <p><i>Daren Palacios seconded the motion.</i></p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>All members voted unanimously.</i></p>
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**4. Implementation Plans and Procedures for New SFT Curriculum**

**Presenter: Kevin Brame  
(Attachment 6)**

Kevin Brame indicated that the new curriculum/certifications have a full implementation date of January 1, 2017. Implementation plans have been provided to all for review.

## VI. **Announcements/Correspondence**

### **Presenter: Ron Coleman**

Chief Coleman advised that the California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) new President is Mike Shroud. Sam Hoffman said he has met him and indicated that he seems to be a motivated individual. Chief Richwine said we will be reaching out to Humboldt County next week regarding the impacts of certification testing to that area. The testing process thus far has been well received. Chief Richwine advised we can come speak about the new testing process and to let him know if you are interested. He said everyone has a better understanding when we get out in front of people to relay the message. Chief Coleman asked if there was talk about doing a video. This would help to capture the information, so everyone gets the same message. Randy Collins asked if he was going to Mendocino. Chief Richwine said yes, we are targeting areas that are underserved. The areas that are considered underserved are shown on the map that was discussed at the last meeting.

## VII. Roundtable

### **A. Prerequisites**

#### **Presenter: Dennis Childress**

Dennis Childress was absent from today's meeting. Chief Coleman said he has a concern about students meeting the prerequisites. He indicated that the students need to take the courses in the proper order before they take something else. This would certainly streamline training.

### **B. Fire Prevention 1 Prerequisite for Command 1A**

#### **Presenter: Randy Collins (Attachment 7)**

Mary Jennings asked if Fire Prevention 1 or 1A was required for the Fire Officer certification and Linda Menchaca said yes it is. L. Menchaca reiterated that if you are working on the current Fire Officer track which includes Command 1A, 1B, 1C, Fire Instructor etc., you can continue on with these courses through December 31, 2016. Next month the new Company Officer track comes out and will run parallel to the current Fire Officer track.

Randy Collins asked to clarify the new Company Officer track. Within the track is Prevention 1 being replaced by the new Fire Inspector course? Neither course is required for the new Company Officer Track. The courses that are required for Company Officer are brand new.

Regarding sequencing from classes, the volunteers have no interest in doing Command 1A because they haven't taken the prerequisite. As of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, there is no one registered for the Command class. Because no one has taken Prevention 1, can this be waived? Rodney Slaughter said the issue is unequal enforcement of prerequisites. Not everyone is enforcing this requirement, so instructors are unequal. There is no way to enforce the program statewide. Chief Coleman stated that this is not on the agenda as an action item and therefore, STEAC cannot take action on something we have not been properly notified of. Randy Collins and Chief Coleman indicated that due diligence must be taken. R. Slaughter said from a State Fire Fighter's perspective, the due diligence is still at the instructor level. There is no recourse if no names are provided. We must reiterate that the primary responsibility is on the instructor. There is nothing to take action on. R. Collins stated that he would like something put together for the next meeting. R. Slaughter and R. Collins will discuss further.

Kevin Brame indicated that for the new Command 1A course the pre requisite courses must be taken. The prerequisite courses are ICS 200, Fire Fighter I training and Prevention 1 or Prevention 1A & Prevention 1B. These prerequisites are thought out by development and validation teams and reviewed by STEAC and the State Board of Fire Services. K. Brame indicated that this is a temporary issue since the command courses will retire at the end 2016. Chief Coleman stated that instructors should enforce prerequisites. He is concerned as to why this is not taking place. This topic should be discussed further at the January 16, 2015 STEAC meeting.

Chief Richwine indicated that there is no policy change we are just reinforcing the existing policy. He also stated that the implementation plans have a lot of information and wanted to ensure that we are communicating clearly.

#### VIII. Future Meeting Dates

A. January 16, 2015, April 17, 2015, July 17, 2015 and October 16, 2015

#### IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.