



State Board of Fire Services MINUTES Thursday, August 22, 2013 Office of the State Fire Marshal Sacramento, California



Chair/Ex-Officio

Tonya L. Hoover
State Fire Marshal

Vice Chair

Mike Esparza
California State
Firefighters Association

Members:

Jerry Davies
Insurance Industry

David Gillotte
International Association
of Fire Fighters

Robert Magee
City Government

Patrick McOsker
California Labor
Federation

Lou Paulson
California Professional
Firefighters

Michael J. Smith
California Fire Chiefs
Association

Michael S. Williams
California State
Firefighters Association

Glenn Ziemer
Fire Districts Association
of California

**California Metropolitan Fire
Chiefs Association**
(vacant)

CDF Firefighters
(vacant)

County Government
(vacant)

Fire District (vacant)

Ex-Officios:

Janet Barentson
CAL FIRE

Mark Ghilarducci
California Emergency
Management Agency

Dan Terry
California Fire Fighter
Joint Apprenticeship
Committee

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tonya Hoover, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Mike Esparza, California State Firefighters Association
Janet Barentson, CAL FIRE
Jerry Davies, Insurance Industry*
David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters*
Michael J. Smith, California Fire Chiefs Association
Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee *
Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association
Glenn Ziemer, Fire Districts Association of California
Robert Magee, City Government *

* attended via conference call

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Patrick McOsker, California Labor Association
Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters
Mark Ghilarducci, California Emergency Management Agency

STAFF:

Amanda Elliott, Office Technician, Support Services
Kirsti Fong, Staff Services Analyst, CAIRS
Sherry Habon, Administrative Assistant
Ben Ho, Division Chief, Fire Engineering
Karen Phillips, Staff Services Analysis, CAIRS
Mike Richwine, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Ken Wagner, State Fire Training

GUESTS:

Russell Rawls, California State Firefighters Association/Los Angeles Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tonya Hoover, State Fire Marshal, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

- **Swearing in of New Board Member**

Tonya Hoover administered the Oath of Office to new Board member Michael J. Smith

- **ROLL Call/Determine Quorum**

Roll call of the State Board of Fire Service was conducted by Sherry Habon. Introductions were made, including over the phone. A quorum was established with the arrival of Dan Terry at 10:15 a.m.

- Approval of Minutes from **May 22 2013 Meeting** (*Discussion/Action*) [\[Attachment 1\]](#)

Motion – Glenn Ziemer moved to approve the May 22 2013, minutes; motion was seconded by Michael Williams. Members unanimously approved the May 22 2013 minutes as submitted.

- **Announcements**

Jerry Davies announced that on August 15th he stepped down from Farmers Insurance. He has submitted a request to the Governor's office to continue serving on the Board and is waiting to hear back.

II. PROGRAM and ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. State Fire Training Division

Mike Richwine

1. Mission Alignment Objectives

a. Curriculum Development and Delivery

i. Curriculum Development Update *(Information/Discussion)*

Update on on-going curriculum development projects utilizing new development guidelines.

Mike Richwine - The process of updating the curriculum is moving very rapidly. We were able to have Fire Fighter I and II, Hazmat and Wildland Fire Fighter presented to Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) in July 2013. The curriculum is available for review on the State Fire Training (SFT) website. The draft Certification Training Standards (CTS) for the position of Company Officer, Chief Fire Office and Executive Chief Office are complete. We are working with Sacramento State editors to have a new course plans out in October 2013. We are also in the stages of cleaning up Fire Inspector I and II, Plans Examiner and Fire Marshal. Fire Inspector I and II will be implemented and available online starting September 1, 2013. The new training that will be emerging will be different, the course title, the course hours and the course content. We are trying to streamline with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) and also trying to provide competency based/minimum standards that are required by the job functions. It will be up to the local academies, community colleges and the Fire Departments to add to the course plan if they have specific requirements that will need to be met. It has been a struggle to establish new curriculum in the past, but with the contract that we have with Sacramento State it is becoming smoother. As of right now there are seven curriculum cadres. What used to take between 18 and 24 months to complete is now taking 3 months. Due to this fast pace we should set up interim meetings with STEAC and State Board Fire Services because if we wait to discuss this at every quarterly meeting then we are going to get backlogged and behind. The goal is to incorporate new firefighters, the main users of the system, and future leaders of the fire service into the curriculum development process.

Firefighter Safety and Survival reciprocity between State Fire Training and International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

Ken Wagner

Ken Wagner- We were waiting on approval from IAFF on the implementation plan that was discussed a few meetings back. We finally heard from Los Angeles County Fire Department Battalion Chief Derek Alkonis, he sent an email last Sunday regarding IAFF approval. On August 30, Ken Wagner I will meet up with the State Fire Training cadre to have the experts review it. They will put the final touches on the document, to make sure that the system is going to work in the implementation phase. IAFF is going to roll it out and the hope is that it will work for us. This will grant the equivalency of the IAFF Fire Ground Survival course for the FSTEP Firefighter Survival course. Both courses will then be accepted as a pre-requisite course for the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Operations course.

Glenn Ziemer - When was the RIC Operation updated?

Ken Wagner - I believed the RIC Operation course was update in 2010.

Mike Richwine - The main focus of curriculum updates is certification courses; specifically NFPA Fire Officer in levels 1-4. Next would be the FSTEP courses and making them part of the continuing education, if the board accepts.

Glenn Ziemer - The alignment on national level would benefit both sides; do you see this as being a problem? Do you see changes that could be forced upon us at a national level, that may not be necessarily the way that you would like to go, but you have to comply due to the relationship? Could this be a challenge that we will face later?

Mike Richwine - We are not going to formally adopt the NFPA standards; they are recommended standards. We will review everything as it comes in, and incorporate state standards as needed. We would like to engage in the NFPA process so we have representation with the technical committees of NFPA. We are trying to get California standards adopted into NFPA standards process.

Glenn Ziemer - It is believed that there is enough flexibility if there is something that is contrary to our perception or desires, that it will not make it into California curriculum; even if it is politically forced into the NFPA process.

Mike Richwine assured that we recognize that if there is a politically sensitive issue it will be discussed in the approval process through STEAC/SBFS.

ii. Advanced All-Hazards Incident Management (AAIM) Course Approval *(Action)*

Re-vote on Approval for AAIM course as a FSTEP training Program

Mike Richwine – At the last meeting Kim Zagaris made the motioned to approve these courses; it should have come from Mark Ghilarducci. We need a re-vote on this particular section.

Motion – Mike Esparza made a motion and was seconded by Glenn Ziemer. Members unanimously approved the actions taken.

B. CAIRS

Kirsti Fong

1. California Fire Statistics *(Information/Discussion)* [\[Attachment 3\]](#)

Kirsti Fong – The Fire Department statistic report you have (Attachment 3) will be in the September OSFM Newsletter, the data will show statistics from April to June. The report provides total counts of fire department responses reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal including fires, EMS, hazmat, and search and rescue. In building fires where sprinkler systems are present, there have been no fatalities reported but the ratio of injuries between fire service and civilians was 1:1.

It is possible to add an electronic newsletter to the CAIRS website that would include current information, links, and frequently asked questions. The importance of reporting and training comes from the Fire Chief. There are some agencies that feel that reporting is not necessary.

Michael Esparza - This is a good report because this reminds us/department leaders where the issues may lie, what we need to do about it, and who is or is not reporting. Suggestion - link the report and add frequently asked report coding questions to the CAIRS website, this way, agencies are aware of incidents and they can now put a code with the type of incident presented.

Michael Esparza commented that CICCIS is helpful with the new issues and reports what is happening.

Statistics for 2011 and 2012

Kirsti Fong – The 2011 and 2012 Statistics information was presented at the January meeting and since that time, there has been a 56% increase in reported incidents for 2012. In 2011, there has been an increase of 70,000 incidents and 21 fire departments.

Michael Esparza - If there is a death or a death within a year of the incident it needs to be reported to us. The reports need to be updated and resubmitted.

Kirsti Fong - Many of the incidents that are investigated need to be re-reported, most of the time they are not. This should be updated on a State level after an investigation and a cause is determined.

Glenn Ziemer - The number of agencies reporting gives a good cross section of fire departments in the state. Smaller agencies with less professional personnel seem to report less. There needs to be a way for them to realize that the information from them is just as important as bigger agencies.

Kirsti Fong - This is getting better; there are more and more agencies that are reporting their activity.

C. Fire Engineering Division

Ben Ho

1. Fireworks/Disposal of Fireworks Update *(Information/Discussion)* [\[Attachment 4\]](#)

Discussion/update of current status on the disposal/destruction of seized dangerous and illegal fireworks.

Ben Ho –This fireworks season we acquired another 100,000 pounds of seized illegal fireworks. As of today our inventory is approximately 250,000 pounds. We disposed of 44,500 pounds in two different ways, 22,000 pounds were emergency burned here in California, and 22,500 were packed and shipped to a hazardous waste disposal facility in Colfax, Louisiana. To date, we have 205,000 pounds left to destroy. We are working with other agencies to get rid of our inventory, but funding has been the main issue that needs to be solved.

Chief Ho showed a PowerPoint presentation on the process, a short video of a fireworks disposal burn, and a slide show of the storage sites and packaging operation.

Chief Ho - There are several facilities throughout California that store these seized illegal fireworks: the two owned by CALFIRE are located in Amador and Yolo Counties; the privately owned facility in Sylmar is run by the LA County Fire Department; the rest of the facilities are owned and run by the local fire or sheriff's departments. At these facilities there is a mixture of loose products, products that still in original packaging, illegal fireworks and explosives products. Products that are still in original packaging will be packed and shipped to a hazardous waste disposal facility. Loose, opened, damaged, and unstable products will be disposed by emergency burning using a DTSC burn permit. For our burning operation, we are following strict guidelines and procedures. We have an Incident Action Plan (IAP) in place for these operation and we always have a fire engine standby. We also get approval from the local air district prior.

We are running out of funds to dispose of these products. We have received a one-time amount of \$500,000 general fund for the fiscal year (2013-2014); this allows us to pack and ship out approximately 60,000 pounds which leaving us with 140,000 pounds in storage. The plan is to submit a BCP for a one-time amount of \$1.5 million, and \$800,000 per year thereafter, to prevent the stockpiling of seized illegal fireworks product.

Mike Richwine - This is a complex issue that needs to have a solution. We are trying to get funding for this issue, we are talking with the Department of Finance, the Governor Office/ legislature and using the general fund.

Mike Esparza - Is pending legislation going to decrease or increase to battle this problem? Enforcement is hard because people think that you are being "un-American" and people are getting away with having illegal fireworks that it is becoming more and more dangerous.

Ben Ho - Most of the seized fireworks are not state approved Safe and Sane.

Tonya Hoover - It is not the companies that are the issue; it is the illegal fireworks in general. Reporting on this issue is very important and as of the moment there is no accurate data/reporting. Different agencies should be like Orange County, they have modified their data collection to better combat the issues that they have within their cities.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Tonya Hoover - I have been in communication with the Governor's office about appointments and how we need to fill the vacancies because we cannot do the job that is assigned with so many vacancies. I am confident that they will be making decisions to fulfill the openings.

Mike Esparza is stepping down after 20 years on the Board. Russ Rawls has sent his letter to the Governor's office to represent the California State Firefighter Association (CSFA)

IV. NEW BUSINESS

No discussion items to report.

V. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Tonya Hoover is working with NFPA to incorporate California into the process. There are individuals that are in the standing, they are involved in the Firework Disposal task force. Most are either sitting as principles or alternates.

Mike Richwine also stated that in regards to communication, we are on Twitter as SFTnews4you.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Russell Rawls states that he is excited to learn and get caught up, looking forward working with everyone.

VII. SET MEETING DATES

Next meeting is November 21st 2013. Location is CPAT Center off Garden Highway

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion –Michael Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15; motion was seconded by Janet Barentson. The motion to adjournment was unanimously approved by the members.