



# State Board of Fire Services



## MINUTES

**Thursday, May 21, 2015**  
**Office of the State Fire Marshal**  
**1131 'S' Street, Sacramento CA**

Chair/Ex-Officio  
**Tonya L. Hoover**  
State Fire Marshal

Vice Chair  
**Jerry Davies**  
Insurance Industry

Members:

**Teresa Deloach Reed**  
California Metropolitan Fire  
Chiefs Association

**David Gillotte**  
International Association  
of Fire Fighters

**Steve Kovacs**  
Fire Districts Association of  
California

**Frank Lima**  
California Labor  
Federation

**Michael Lopez**  
CAL FIRE Firefighters,  
Local 2881

**Robert Magee**  
City Government

**Lou Paulson**  
California Professional  
Firefighters

**Russell Rawls**  
California State  
Firefighters Association

**Michael Smith**  
California Fire Chiefs  
Association

**Anne Walker**  
Fire District

**Michael S. Williams**  
California State  
Firefighters Association

**County Government**  
(vacant)

Ex-Officios:

**Janet Barentson**  
CAL FIRE

**Mark Ghilarducci**  
California Governor's  
Office of Emergency  
Services

**Dan Terry**  
California Fire Fighter  
Joint Apprenticeship  
Committee

### MEMBERS PRESENT: (\* attended via conference call)

Tonya Hoover, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Janet Barentson, CAL FIRE  
Jerry Davies, Insurance Industry\*  
David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters\*  
Steve Kovacs, Fire Districts Association of California  
Frank Lima, California Labor Association\*  
Michael Lopez, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881\*  
Robert Magee, City Government\*  
Russell Rawls, California State Firefighters Association(\* second roll call)  
Michael J. Smith, California Fire Chiefs Association  
Anne Walker, Fire District  
Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Teresa Deloach Reed, CA Metropolitan Fire Chief Association  
Mark Ghilarducci, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters  
Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

### STAFF:

Sherry Habon, Administrative Assistant  
Mike Richwine, Division Chief, State Fire Training  
Kris Rose, Manager, State Fire Training  
Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training  
Ken Wagner, Retired Annuitant, State Fire Training

### GUESTS:

Tara Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship  
Randy Collins, Santa Rose Junior College  
Yvonne de la Peña, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFF JAC)  
Jamie Hirsch, Mt. San Antonio College  
Tim Palmer, Sierra College  
Kim Zagaris, California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Tonya Hoover

- ROLL CALL/Determine Quorum

Chair Tonya Hoover called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Chair Hoover made a motion for a small change to the agenda. The change being that public comments be allowed at the end of each action item as well as a general public comment period later in the meeting for items not on the agenda. **Motion was seconded by Michael Williams. Board members unanimously approved.**

- Approval of the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) minutes from November 20, 2014 meeting (*Discussion/Action*) [\[Attachment 1\]](#)  
Chair Hoover opened the floor for discussion on the November 20, SBFS meeting minutes.  
**Motion – David Gillotte moved to approve the minutes; motion was seconded by Michael Williams. Board members unanimously approved the November 20, 2014 minutes as submitted.**

- Announcements  
None at this time.

## II. CONSENT ITEMS

### A. State Fire Training Division (SFT)

1. Approval of Three Colleges for Reaccreditation (*Discussion/Action*) [[Attachments 2, 3, 4](#)]. Seeking SBFS approval for the reaccreditation of Santa Rose Junior College, Oxnard College, and Mount San Antonio College as an Accredited Regional Training Program.

**Anne Walker motioned for approval with Michael Williams seconding the motion. Board members unanimously approved with none opposed.**

Mike Richwine – I would like to introduce Rodney Slaughter and recognize the work he did on the reaccreditation of these colleges.

Rodney Slaughter introduced representatives from two of the colleges: Randy Collins of Santa Rose Junior College and Jamie Hirsch from Mt. San Antonio College.

Rodney Slaughter - There will be about eight more colleges coming up for accreditations approval soon. The push for accreditation, bringing everyone back in to compliance is the leading edge of the National Accreditation certification testing process. We are looking at academies not only how they meet the criteria of the 2008 Procedures Manual, but looking ahead as to them being able to deliver the new 2013 Firefighter I program, and accreditation and testing.

## III. PROGRAM and ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. State Fire Training Division

Mike Richwine

#### 1. Mission Alignment Objectives

##### a. Achieving National Recognition

- i. Approval of Fire Fighter I Certification Examination Process (*Discussion/Action*) [[Attachment 5](#)]. Seeking SBFS approval for implementation of the proposed Fire Fighter I certification examination process. Mike Richwine introduced Ken Wagner a Retired Annuitant with SFT and the lead on new testing requirements for Fire Fighter 1 (FFI) certification and another item later in the agenda, national accreditation.

Ken Wagner – At the August SBFS meeting I provided a detailed presentation on how we envision the whole FFI exam process. We continue to reach out to our stakeholders and the California fire service and other significant groups (list provided in the packet); we giving presentations and soliciting their input. With their input we will be able to make the necessary modification to the program so it can work for everyone, while satisfying the conditions of IFSAC and Pro Board for national recognition. The Fire Fighter I Certification Examination Process was approved to move forward at the January 2015 Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) Meeting. We are here today seeking the board's approval.

In a few moments I will be talking about is our affiliation and accreditation by IFSAC and Pro Board for our certification system. If we do not move forward with the certification examination process we could not be accredited by IFSAC and Pro Board. The last paragraph in the staff report points out were we will go in the future. With your approval we will move forward and submit our self-study reports and applications to Pro Board and IFSAC, we hope to achieve accreditation by them by the end of this calendar year or early next year. We have an understanding with those organizations that we will not roll out anything until they have had a chance to take a look at our whole program, do peer-review, and make site visits. Once we have their final approval we would roll out over 2016 to our stakeholders through our accredited regional training programs and our accredited local academies.

Michael Williams – Looking back to the August 2014 meeting, Attachment 3; are the class fees still what you anticipated they would be?

Ken Wagner – We are still looking at the fee structure as it was previously presented. No changes

**Chief Hoover asked for a motion for approval. Mike Williams made the motion, Anne Walker seconded.**

**Public Comments/Questions**

Yvonne de la Peña, CFF JAC – What is the SBFS approving, the process?

Ken Wagner – The SBFS approval allows us to move forward and submit applications to IFSAC and Pro Board for accreditation. Once we have that, we will implement the certification exam process on a statewide basis. The certification exam process does not have any direct link to the task book process. IFSAC and Pro Board only evaluate how we do the testing and each level of certification.

Mike Richwine – We will continue to work with JAC on looking for equivalencies on task books. One of the goals of mission alignment is to eliminate redundancy.

Randy Collins, Vice president of California Fire Technology Directors – Our organization and all the community colleges are very much vested in this process and in 2013 our group voted to endorse this process and have consistently worked with many in STF to implement this. We feel so strongly that the CFTD wrote a letter to the Board, that you may have in front of you asking you to uphold the votes from the January 2014 STEAC meeting for the Fire Fighter 1 certification process and IFSAC/Pro Board certification. Thank you

**Additional Board Comments**

David Gillotte – Thanks. I see three unique opportunities, one the presentations to CalChiefs, CalPEER and the HR folks in October. Second, I encourage the Chiefs to reach out to their neighbor partners, everything moves smoother when we do that. Lastly, I appreciate that Cap Stone equivalency will continue to be a priority.

**Chief Hoover – The motion is on the floor and second. The board unanimously approved with none opposed.**

**Roll was taken of members on the phone and a quorum was established.**

Mike Richwine – This is an historic day and a big change for State Fire Training and the CA fire service. This will open the door to reciprocity for those like Department of Defense (DOD) firefighters and we hope someday soon we can have intra-state reciprocity between fire departments. That they will recognize the training and skills learned at those academies and incorporated into their departments. Thanks to the Board for your support on this.

- ii. Approval of Implementation of IFSAC/Pro Board Certification (*Discussion/Action*) [\[Attachment 6\]](#)  
Seeking SBFS approval for implementation of IFSAC/Pro Board Certification

Mike Richwine reintroduces Ken Wagner to present on National Accreditation.

Ken Wagner – Once we are accredited by IFSAC and Pro Board we will be able to issue certifications that are aligned with IFSAC and Pro Board. A candidate would make a standard application for California certification, pay a \$40.00 fee and provide all required materials. If the candidate also wants both IFSAC and Pro Board seals, they would check another box on their application pay an additional \$40 fee. This would allow us to process their California application and on their certificate they would have a seal that represents IFSAC and represents Pro Board; they would then have all three levels of certification setting them up for reciprocity at the national level. Candidates would have their choice what level of certification they want to have, one or all three.

Anne Walker – Can a candidate come back later and add them?

Ken Wagner – Yes, they would have had to completed the California certification process, then, they would be able to come back within a specified time period. We are looking at about a ten year period. Because about every five years the NFPA Professional Qualification Standard changes so we then have to update our training standards.

**Public Comment**

Tim Palmer – We have Beta tested the certification testing process three times and it works really well. All the students (approx. 100) from three academies are onboard with national certification, they want that stamp. They want the portability of IFSAC and Pro Board approval. On behalf of the students at community college, I'm going to ask the board to approve this process.

Randy Collins – I have had students that have completed our FFI academy come back and ask what the can do to get their IFSAC and Pro Board certification. Is there a process for reciprocity for those coming from outside of the state with an IFSAC approval and cert?

Ken Wagner – We have a vision as to how that will work. Basically a candidate would present there FFI certificate from outside the state, we would verify that their certificate and testing includes the 3 components that we included in our program; those are the requirements for NFPA FFI, NFPA Wildland FFI (which is something we added here in California that goes beyond the NFPA standard), and the requirements for HAZ MAT First Responder Operations (FRO). If a candidate from out of state was to present IFSAC certificates for all three, we would evaluate the certificates and if we find them appropriate issue a task book and communication that says that they have demonstrated proficiency in the training and testing areas of these particular professional levels of qualifications. They would then need to get their occupational experience in California and get their task book signed off by the chief then we would issue them there FFI certification. If they were to be missing a certificate, like the Wildland FFI, some of the community colleges are looking into providing mini training.

**Chair Hoover asked the group for a motion to approve. Michael Smith made the motion and Michael Williams second. The group approved the motion unanimously with no one opposed.**

**Roll was taken of members on the phone and a quorum was established.**

Mike Richwine – I want to thank Ken Wagner for coming on board as a retired annuitant and taking on this project. I also want to recognize staff, particularly Kris Rose and Brandon Erickson for their insight and diligence to this project.

Chair Hoover – Adding to the kudos, all this wouldn't be possible without the leadership of Chief Richwine who has been doing double duty. His leadership shows through the work that Kris and Brandon and staff have continued to do. They have found ways to work with everyone to address the issues so that the California fire service could continue to shine as the best in the country. Thank you for your leadership and hard work.

- b. Curriculum Development and Delivery
  - i. Approval of Plan Examiner Standards. *(Discussion/Action)* [[Attachment 7](#)]  
Seeking SBFS approval of the new Plan Examiner curriculum materials.

Mike Richwine – Continuing to add to and improve the program we have Plan Examiner curriculum. We have cadre lead, Mark Romer to lead the board discussion.

Mark Romer – I think that the system that we have for curriculum design and development is working and working quite well. When he started working on this, we started rewriting the program and due to a public comment, changes were made and brought to a new cadre. We now have the rewrite of this program and it is written to the latest standard, the 2014 NFPA 1031. Plan Examiner has been taken out of the stair step process and is now its own certification track that meets the levels of both Plan Examiner I and II. Inspector has its own track and in the future you'll see Fire Marshal with its own track. The Plan Examiner track consists of three courses and we are seeking your approval.

**Board Comments**

No comments

**Public Comment**

No Comments

**Chair Hoover asked for a motion to approve: Michael Smith made the motion and David Gillotte seconded. The board unanimously approved the motion.**

B. Fire Engineering Division

Mike Richwine

1. Fireworks Update (*Information/Discussion*) [[Attachment 8](#)]

Discussion of the ongoing challenges of disposal/destruction of seized dangerous and illegal fireworks.

Mike Richwine – The staff report brings you up to speed on the disposal operations. As we reported last year our attempt to get a sustainable funding source for our obligation to dispose of fireworks failed. OSFM was given a one-time fee of \$1.5 million for disposal of the stockpile we have. The \$1.5 million it didn't quite go far enough. We are getting rid of the fireworks in our possession. There are two more disposal operations this month to destroy the leftover fireworks. We will continue to work with the administration to make the necessary steps for a long-term fix. They have really stepped up and engaged in this process. We just have to work through some issues and one of those issues is funding. I am hopeful we will have a solution as part of the budget process that is going on now. We are also hopeful that there will be another appropriation of funds so we can assist local government with the stockpile they have from last year and our stockpile that is already coming in for this July 4<sup>th</sup> season.

If you are looking to express your support speak with Chief Hoover.

Chair Hoover – if your organization wants to express support for the department's Budget Change Proposal, it is out there on both the Senate and Assembly websites.

Jerry Davies – I will be attending an all insurance California meeting on June 3, and I have already requested to say a few words about this.

Kim Zagaris – Mark Pazen spoke to you regarding sheriffs concerns. He is also prepared to solicit the California State Sheriffs Association for support. California Police Chiefs Association is also impacted. They can be confiscating and holding fireworks as well.

Anne Walker – we are looking for permanent long-term funding solution

Janet Barentson – There is an interim peace to take care of this 4<sup>th</sup> of July period, and a long-term fix that will come out later.

Mike Richwine – It was nice to have industries testimony at the hearing in support of the proposal. I think the Governor's Office is making good process with industry, we will see what happens.

C. Fire Plan/CAIRS

Tonya Hoover

1. California Fire Statistics (*Information/Discussion*) [[Attachment 9](#)]

Quarterly Fire Statistics for the Board's review

**No discussion at this time.**

D. Code Development and Analysis Division

Tonya Hoover

1. Update on code development cycle and Memphis hearings (*Information/Discussion*) [[Attachment 10](#)]

Chair Hoover – In our packet there is an update. Chief Reinertson who was the Division Chief for Codes and Regulations Division has taken a position with Riverside County as a Deputy Fire Marshal. In the interim Andrew Henning will be the main point of contact for Code Development and Analysis. Andrew has put together an informational only paper on what is happening with Codes and Regulations in California. Some of the things we talked about in the past are the Flammability Standards for Building Insulation Materials Working Group. That report is being reviewed and we hope to be posting to the website soon. Also, the Code Action Hearings that took place, currently the online voting is open for Group A Public Hearing that includes building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical. A huge thing for California is in September the Group A Public Comment Hearings will be in Long Beach, where all the code development folks and industry from

around the country, that are using the model code, come together and go through the final public hearing and vote on the provision that were heard at the Memphis hearings. The OSFM has 12 votes and we intend to use all 12 to make sure California's vote is heard.

We are in the process of our 2015 Tri-annual Cycle, this will get us to the 2016 California Building Codes. Not a lot will be changed, mostly clean-up.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

Tonya Hoover

##### A. List of NFPA committee members from California *(Informational only)*

Chair Hoover – I do have a list of all those from California sitting on committees. If you are interested in that information I am happy to share. We talked about getting all the California people together on a call so they can talk about their committee, thing they are involved with and tracking, and I still hope to do that.

Mike Richwine – This issue was first brought to the Board by member Lou Paulson, President to the CPF. Because as we move toward national standards, the concern is that standards may be developed by those on the east side of the Rockies that don't necessarily represent the needs of California. As we move in the process of certification, testing, and national accreditation, we would like to see how we can influence these Pro Quals at the national level. With our subject matter experts participating on these technical committees our need would be brought into the NFPA standards and California wouldn't have to do any further changes to move then into our codes or training programs.

##### B. Joint SBFS and CA Highway Patrol Statement of Cooperation

Mike Richwine

*(Information/Discussion) Clarification of roles and responsibilities on Highway incidents.*

Mike Richwine – We are making progress. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has been very cooperative with this endeavor. We will have a draft Statement of Cooperation by the next SBFS in August. It is a possibility that there will be a training component come out of this. I will have a draft Statement of Cooperation at the next meeting.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

Rodney Slaughter – Update on Regulations, SFT has their Title 19 package going to the Office of Administration Law. Within the next 60 days it should be open for public comment.

#### VI. MEMBERS ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Nothing to report at this time from all board members.

Mike Richwine – I would like to announce that we have a new Senior Arson and Bomb Investigator. Tom Oldag comes to us from CAL FIRE's AEU Unit. He is a seasoned investigator, having worked on several Arson/Bomb cases. We are extremely please to have him on board. Also new onboard is Bryan Gouge. Bryan is an excellent investigator; he is currently going through the POST Basic Class at the academy in lone scheduled to graduate in two weeks. We are continuing to rebuild that capacity in the Arson/Bomb Unit.

Chair Hoover – There are two new reports out by the Research Foundation that may be of interest. One is *Disaster Resiliency and NFPA Code and Standards*. This report is available on the NFPA website. The second is concerning school safety and school lockdowns and emergency responders. Both are available on the Foundation's website.

Mike Richwine – The OSFM is putting together a Task Force on the issue of school safety and school lockdowns, those fire and security issues. We will see if there is a need for code changes or if thing can be done through communication with emergency responders regarding the threats that are out there and response to those threats in schools.

Steve Kovacs of FDAC – FDAC and CalChiefs have resurrected the joint Legislative Task Force and are working on those items as well.

David Gillottes of IAFF – We are working to secure safer act grant funding from FEMA and all the grant funding stability actions we will continue to need.

Jerry Davies commented about the California State Council is now awarding grants for 39 fire safe around the state totaling about \$3.2 million and should be distributed by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.

Frank Lima of CLF - LA City is the most understaffed large city Department; we have moved to the new written exam and heavy hiring will start in August.

Chair Hoover – We have had an opportunity to meet with the Fire Prevention folks down there and appreciate the efforts in LA and look forward to continuing that relationship. Also, Frank on his first SBFS meeting; welcome aboard.

Russell Rawls of CSFA - There has been a change in our Board of Directors and I am no longer on the board. There are two new members.

#### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

#### VIII. SET MEETING DATES

The schedule for the remainder of the 2015 SBFS meetings is as follows: Thursday, August 20 and Thursday, November 19.

#### IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Michael Smith and a second by Anne Walker. All were in favor and meeting was adjourned.

This notice has been posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal web site at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boardfireservices/boardfireservices.php>

Copies of the written materials will be made available to the public at the meeting location, Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1131 'S' Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

For information concerning the Board meeting, please contact Sherry Habon at (916) 445-8434 or [sherry.habon@fire.ca.gov](mailto:sherry.habon@fire.ca.gov)

Any written reports being provided to the Board members in advance of the public meeting will also be available to the public upon request.

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Request for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents in alternative formats, please contact Sherry Habon.