



**State Board of Fire Services  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, March 22, 2012  
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:**

**Steve Brown**  
California Fire Chiefs Association

**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 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:**

**Mark Ghilarducci**  
California Emergency Management Agency

**Janet Barentson**  
CAL FIRE

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Michael D. Esparza, California State Firefighters Association\*
- Tonya L. Hoover, State Fire Marshal
- Steve Brown, California Fire Chiefs Association
- 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 Association
- Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association
- Glenn Ziemer, Fire Districts Association of California\*

\*Attended via conference call

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Janet Barentson, CAL FIRE
- Mark Ghilarducci, California Emergency Management Agency
- Dan Terry, California Fire Fighters Joint Apprenticeship Committee

**STAFF:**

- Mike Richwine, Assistant State Fire Marshal
- Sherry Habon, Administrative Assistant
- Diane Seiple, Staff Services Analyst, Support Services
- Bob Gorham, Division Chief, Pipeline Safety
- Phyllis Banducci, Staff Chief, Fire Plan
- Kirsti Fong, AGPA, CAIRS
- Ben Ho, Division Chief, Fire Engineering
- Kevin Reinertson, Division Chief, Code Development and Analysis

**GUESTS:**

- Dave Giblin,
- Kim Zagaris, Chief, California Emergency Management Agency
- Yvonne de la Peña, California Fire Fighters Joint Apprenticeship Committee\*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Tonya Hoover, State Fire Marshal, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) 1131 S Street, Sacramento, California.

- **Roll Call/Determine Quorum**  
Roll call of the State Board of Fire Services was conducted. A Quorum was established.
- **Introductions**

- Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2011 Meeting  
David Gillotte moved to approve the August 18, 2011, minutes; motion was seconded by Glenn Ziemer. Members unanimously approved the August 18, 2011 minutes as submitted.
- Announcements

Tonya Hoover – Chief Richwine was appointed Assistant State Fire Marshal by Governor Brown on March 2. I invite you all to stay for his Badge Pinning Ceremony, this afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Lou Paulson – The CA Fire Foundation has been selected by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to be the representative for the Local Assistance Teams for the State of California. If there is a line of duty death in the state of California the Local Assistance Team will be available to the local fire departments to assist with what ever they need. There are two teams, one in northern California and one in southern California.

## II. PROGRAM and ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. State Fire Training (SFT)

**Mike Richwine**

#### 1. Mission Alignment of State Fire Training

We have put together a group to work on Mission Alignment. SFT can no longer sustain the current system of 100 or more courses. We need to look at a smarter way of doing business. STEAC will now be viewing things through Mission Alignment:

- What we need to provide
- What is relevant according to the Job Performance Requirements (JPR), National Standards, and CA Law and Regulations
- What courses we need to focus on and maintain

Currently in California it takes 20 courses to obtain Chief Officer Certification, many other states only need six courses and they are Nationally accredited. The Mission Alignment group has been challenged to reduce the curriculum by 30-50 percent and to develop a new certification system. We need to look at equivalencies and opportunities. One example: We are working through a process with Center for Public Safety Excellence to establish equivalencies for Chief Officer Designation and Fire Chief Certification.

SFT needs to:

- Focus on national publishers to deliver the curriculum we want in California
- Get out of the lesson plan development business/practice; today's publisher are providing on-line content, instructor resources, quizzes/exams
- Clarify Registered v. Certified instructors – if you want to teach you should be certified.
- Be open to setting up equivalencies for Chief Officer process

SFT is moving forward six strategic directives: (See Staff report for details)

1. Achieving National Recognition
2. Engaging all Generations into Planning Process
3. Evolving, Evaluating and Reconfiguring Curriculum Development and Delivery
4. Pursuing Strategic Partnership
5. Evaluating and Reconfiguring State Fire Training
6. Changing Stakeholder Perceptions

The focus groups have been meeting independently to develop 90-day plans. On April 4 we will come together at Sacramento State University and see where we are in the process, then develop one, three and five year action plans that will reflect the goals listed above.

By June we hope STEAC and SBFS will be deep into the development of a new process for SFT that would be all inclusive of the groups represented at the SBFS.

Dave Gillotte – a lot of local entities as well as the stakeholders in the room are looking to do the same. The more we bring partners (IFF, IFC, CICCIS, JAC, and colleges) together, the more integrated we become with less redundancy. Integration would take away competition between programs and create a layered program that is up to date, accredited, works well, uses technology, etc.

Chief Richwine announced that starting in June, there will be 24 free Instructor Workshops throughout the state. This will provide information and training to current instructors on developing exams, the new course plan process, task book process, mission alignment, and exchange for multi media archiving. Sac State will be a repository of our multi media and will be made available.

## **2. Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee Update**

STEAC had the discussion that some things would have to be tabled until we know where we are going under mission alignment.

At the last SBFS meeting the board asked for guidance on the task book, the team is working on it, and will be bring recommendations forward.

## **B. Code Development and Analysis**

**Kevin Reinertson**

### **1. Triennial Code Adoption Cycle for Title 24, 2013 California Building Standards Codes**

The OSFM is and has been conducting pre-rulemaking activities that include several SFM committees and Task Forces (e.g. Fire Alarm and Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committees; High-rise and I-3 Task Forces) and general stakeholder meetings.

High-rise: Phase I worked with the operation side of the fire service and moved 26 recommendations forward to Phase II. In Phase II the group dealt with the codes; they are finalizing their recommendations that will given to Chief Hoover for approval to be included in the codes package.

I-3: We have been dealing with CCRC facilities. There is currently a large project in Stockton, about 30 buildings, that is a cross between a prison and a hospital, the current code does not adequately address certain types of facilities. We will be seeing more of these facilities the future, so we are working in a task force/group to develop regulations for those types of buildings.

Also, the I-3 group has been working closely with Northern and Southern California Fire Prevention Officer and local Building Officials because we have a lot of courts being built or remodeled. The national codes do not address these facilities that have large holding facilities, court room docks, so we are writing regulations to address this without turning a high-rise B occupancy into a I-3.

Smoke Alarms: There are six recommendations that directly effect regulation or legislation. We will be rolling those into our regulatory package for this cycle. SB 1394 (Lowenthal) is progressing and deals with smoke alarms, placement, battery power, long life battery, marking issues.

PV: We have been working with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research on Photovoltaic. Permitting and Installation Guidelines will be coming out to address fire related issues, whether it be ground mounted panels or roof mounted. Draft regulations are also being developed; we anticipate moving these regulations through our normal code adoption process and including provisions from our solar PV guidelines that made its way in to the International Fire Code. Most of those provisions are geared toward firefighter safety.

Another Assembly Bill, AB 2135 may give us (the state agency) the opportunity to do these regulations on an emergency bases, with out having to declare emergency clause that hinges on “peril to Life”, speeding the process.

Some of the things we will be addressing this code cycle include:

- Incorporating some of the Title 19 provisions into the fire code as well as removing some provisions from Title 19, California Code of Regulations.
- Fire Apparatus Access Roads – Currently information in Title 14 and the Fire Code are in conflict.
- 400 foot exit access travel distance in very large factory and storage buildings.

Chief Reinertson covered the handout “[2012 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle](#)” (click on title to view)

The OSFM is continuing to work closely with those in operations to connect our codes with the boots on the ground and fire behavior. We have setup what has been called the “Delta Force” to bring together training, fire operations and fire prevention organizations so we move together to help each other.

#### Questions / Comments

Glenn Ziemer – In Minnesota there was a push to repeal residential sprinklers system. Do you see any of that here in the west?

Chief Hoover – We were asked questions by the Governor’s office and we provided background information. We have worked closely with our stakeholders (the building industry, CBIA) for before deciding to move residential sprinklers forward, that decision was over seven years ago. We were not relying on code adoption at a national level; South Carolina, Maryland, Minnesota’s repealed their repeal. Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii are all moving forward with their process.

### **C. Fire Engineering Division**

**Ben Ho / Mike Richwine**

#### **1. Fireworks/Disposal of Fireworks Update**

Most California communities are encountering sizable amounts of illegal fireworks being sold and/or used in their community. These illegal devices are being brought in from neighboring states by both the end users as well as individuals who intend to resell the items here in California. Health and Safety Code 12726, delegates the responsibility to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for the destruction of dangerous and illegal fireworks once they are seized by local fire departments and law enforcement agencies.

In 2003, we had a stockpile of hundreds of thousands of illegal fireworks in our possession. With limited funding, staffing and more restrictions to the burning operation, the amount of fireworks in our possession are continuing to increase. Another statewide disposal operation was conducted in 2010, disposing of 45 tons at a cost of \$350,000. The disposal cost continues to grow. Today, we currently have another stockpile of 150,000 lbs. This year we will ship 40,000 lbs. out of state using a hazardous waste contractor and the rest will be disposed of in an emergency burn with a permit from DTSC. The forecast for next year is unclear since we are running out of funding. We are working with Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal’s staff, Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), the fireworks industry and local government agencies on a long term solution.

#### Group Discussion

The State Fire Marshal and the Director of DTSC have made a commitment that this is a high priority. The DTSC has served the OSFM with a consent agreement that indicates that we are in violation of

the law and directs us to come up with a short/long term solution to mitigate a potential hazard to public health and safety.

All questions regarding this issue should be directed to Chief Ben Ho.

#### **D. Fire Plan/CAIRS**

**Phyllis Banducci / Kirsti Fong**

##### **1. California Fire Statistics for 2009 and 2010**

In the Previous year questions were raised by Board members about who is and isn't reporting to CAIRS. We have some numbers for 2011, but numbers will continue to come in all through 2012. The best way to give solid numbers is always from the previous year.

1,166 Fire Department Identification Numbers (FDID) Assigned by the OSFM

Between 2009 and 2010 there is a 4% decrease in reporting departments and an 8% decrease in incidents reported

- 2009 - 543 Fire Departments Reported 86,000 Fires and 1.7 Million EMS
- 2010 - 520 Fire Departments Reported 70,000 Fires and 1.6 Million EMS
- 2011 - 470 Fire Departments Reported 59,000 Fires and 1.2 Million EMS (incomplete)

Method Used to Obtain Results

- Query CAIRS Database for List of Reporting Fire Departments and their Incident Counts for 2009-2011
- Query FDID database for List of Assigned NFIRS Reporting Numbers
- Compare FDID Assignments to Reporting Fire Departments
- Compare 2009-2010 reporting statistics since 2011 dataset is not complete

In 2010 there were a number of calls from smaller departments. 2011 was the year the larger departments calling to get back on board. Once we see the numbers for 2011, I anticipate a 12% increase. Some departments, because of the requirement of their grant, have been contacted by FEMA to get their reporting in order. We continue to remind people of the importance of reporting and that we can help. Other than the grant requirement there is nothing forcing them to report. California is leading in departments reporting and providing statistics and incidents. We are a little behind Florida and we expect that once we get all of our numbers for 2011 we will be leading the nation.

#### **E. Pipeline Safety Division**

**Bob Gorham**

##### **1. Pipeline Safety Advisory Committee**

The OSFM program regulates hazardous liquid pipelines under the Pipeline Safety Act of 1981. The Gail Avenue pipeline rupture in Long Beach created Legislation that put the liquid program under the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and created the Pipeline Safety Advisory Committee of eight members consisting of 2 pipeline operators, 1 Fire Chief, 3 local agency representatives, and 2 members from the public. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to advise the State Fire Marshal of new legislation and regulatory proposals.

The San Bruno gas pipeline incident has sparked significant interest in not only our state, but from other states and the federal government. From the incident a number of stronger federal regulations have been proposed for the gas pipelines. We have been involved by providing technical assistance; they will be adopting some of the testing and inspection methods we use on the liquid side. The committee meets twice a year to discuss current events, new regulations and new legislative proposals. At the last two meetings we discussed emergency responder training. How to ensure the local fire service knows what pipelines are under their streets, who operate the lines, what their emergency contact numbers are, and how to access the information. Despite State law that requires

companies to provide that information, often times communication breaks down. We are looking into putting our mapping information onto an internet site called Calmapper; this site would give local fire service 24 hour access.

#### Questions/Comments

Is there a role for insurance?

One problem pipelines have is third party damage often caused by contractors that don't call before they dig. Maybe the insurance companies can apply financial pressure for contractors to follow the rules.

### III. **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business

### IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

#### SBFS Member Appointments and Meeting Quorum

Chief Hoover - There is a roster in your packets showing a number of vacancies and term conclusions. These appointments are from the Governor's Office. We will be sending out a letter from the Co-chairs (Chief Esparza and Chief Hoover) letting the organizations know who is currently representing them, the terms and if they would like that person to continue to serve they will have to send that representative's information to the Governor's Office. For vacancies the letter will go to the organizations, reminding them they need to submit a name and information to the Governor's Office for appointment. For those with terms ending, you can continue to serve until someone is appointed in your place.

A Quorum of the SBFS is made from total membership (including vacancies) and is specified as a minimum of nine (9) members in the Health and Safety Code. Quorums are harder to maintain with vacancies.

### V. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**SBFS Members**

#### Fire Chief Positions

Group Discussion – There is a concern that Fire Chief positions are being filled by unqualified individuals. Chief Zagaris has spoken to CalChiefs Association and stated that the fire service should be concerned. Chiefs deal with operations, prevention and enforcement, and we need to be careful with the trend we are staring to see, we need to look at the long range. Steve Brown did some calling around and except for Chico he couldn't find a single department that had Certified Fire Chief as a desirable qualification.

#### State Responsibility Area Fees

Group Discussion - The fire Districts are waiting for the SRA fee issue to be settled. Some northern departments have proposed to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) that there be an expedited process for the review including SRA; this would also aid in dealing with areas of rapid growth. We will possibly see two things: 1) CAL FIRE not meeting their statutory mandate for review, and 2) there need to be a method that lands are legitimately included in SRA or are they only being included for administrative and revenue purposes. In addition to the tax/fee issue you are going to see an emerging issue about the applicability based on the definition of SRA as stated in the Public Resource Code.

Rucker Couplings

Jerry Davies - Presented a brochure marketing the Rucker Couplings. These couplings connect to each end of the hose for quick release. For more information go to [Ruckercouplings.com](http://Ruckercouplings.com)

Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC)

Yvonne de la Peña – JAC has developed some Terrorism Consequences Management (TCM) courses. We have partnered with Kaplan University to develop some web based continuing education modules; two of the modules are up and running, three more will be launched in the next few months. These courses are available to everyone in the fire service.

Also, JAC will be hosting two Career Expos to recruit women in to the fire service, one on April 14 in Orange, and the other on April 21 in Livermore.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Tonya Hoover**

Chief Hoover opened to floor to public comment.  
No public comments.

**VII. SET MEETING DATES**

**Tonya Hoover**

Next meeting is June 21, if you have any problem with the schedule let Diane Seiple know.  
Other prospective dates are September 20, 2012 and February 21, 2013.

**VIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Tonya Hoover**

Michael Williams moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mike Esparza.  
The motion to adjournment was unanimously approved by the members.

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 at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

For information concerning the Board meeting, please contact Diane Seiple, (916) 445-8214, or [diane.seiple@fire.ca.gov](mailto:diane.seiple@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. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five working days prior to the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents in alternative formats, please contact Diane Seiple.