



State Board of Fire Services
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
Burbank Fire Department, Burbank, California



Chair/Ex-Officio

Tonya Hoover

Acting State Fire Marshal

Vice Chair

Mike Esparza

California State Firefighters Association

Members:

Richard Blanco

Fire District

Steve Brown

California Fire Chiefs Association

Jerry Davies

Insurance Industry

P. Michael Freeman

California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association

David Gillotte

International Association of Fire Fighters

Robert Magee

City Government

Patrick McOsker

California Labor Federation

Michael Nelson

County Government

Lou Paulson

California Professional Firefighters

Michael S. Williams

California State Firefighters Association

John Winder

CDF Firefighters

Glenn Ziemer

Fire Districts Association of California

Ex-Officios:

Matthew Bettenhausen

California Emergency Management Agency

Ken Pimlott

CAL FIRE

Dan Terry

California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tonya Hoover, Acting State Fire Marshal

Mike Esparza, California State Firefighters Association

Richard Blanco, Fire District

Steve Brown, California Fire Chiefs Association*

P. Michael Freeman, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association*

Robert Magee, City Government*

Dan Terry, Chair of the California Fire Fighters Joint Apprenticeship Committee*#

Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association

Glenn Ziemer, Fire Districts Association of California*

* attended via telephone conference call

Left the meeting at 1113 hours

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Matthew Bettenhausen, California Emergency Management Agency

Jerry Davies, Insurance Industry

David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters

Patrick McOsker, California Labor Federation

Michael Nelson, County Government

Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters

Ken Pimlott, Deputy Director of Fire Protection, CAL FIRE

John Winder, California Department of Forestry Firefighters

STAFF:

Mike Richwine, Division Chief, State Fire Training

Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal III, State Fire Training

Ramiro Rodriguez, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist, State Fire Training

Sherry Habon, Administrative Assistant, Executive

Christy Owen, Office Technician, Support Services

GUESTS:

Nick Duvally, Los Angeles County Fire Department

TJ Welch, Alameda County Fire Department

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chief Tonya Hoover, Acting State Fire Marshal (SFM), called the meeting to order at 1003 hours at the Burbank Fire Training Center, 1845 N. Ontario Street, Burbank, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call of the State Board of Fire Services was conducted, and a quorum was established.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Richwine indicated a change to the November 4, 2009 minutes was needed in the Round Table section to state that "mutual aid issues have been experienced at California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)", not CAL FIRE.

Mike Esparza motioned to approve the corrected minutes. Michael S. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. State Fire Training (SFT)

1. Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee Update

a. Certification:

(1) Fire Officer Certification Training Standards (CTS)

Mike Richwine presented the Fire Officer Certification Training Standards for the Board's approval. Acknowledgment of time and efforts by SFT and the cadre was shared by Board members. Mike Richwine added that curriculum and course outlines for Company Officers should be ready soon.

Motion to approve was made by Mike Esparza and seconded by Steve Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) Fire Arson Investigator

Mike Richwine reported that the Fire Arson Investigator Cadre responded to submitted questions from Board members. Many recommendations were implemented, including changes to the Procedures Manual. Glenn Ziemer expressed concerns the proposal may still negatively impact smaller agencies, including the disqualification of arson task force and local agency arson investigators as expert witnesses in court cases. Mike Esparza said the proposed certification may be acceptable as it is expected that metro areas would have higher professional levels. He added that investigators did note there were several organizations used for training that weren't listed as training organizations that qualify for recertification credit, including Public Agency Training Council, National Association of Arson Investigators, and Fire Services Training Institute (FSTI). Mike Richwine noted language which states, "Other fire arson explosion investigation training provided by local, state, and federal fire and law agencies qualify".

A motion was made by Mike Esparza to accept the proposal, which was seconded by Michael S. Williams.

Glenn Ziemer expressed that this may be putting a burden on smaller agencies to meet the proposed certification level. P. Michael Freeman suggested that further consultation by the Board take place with local attorneys to vet for any concern about enacting the proposal; he suggested the Board postpone the proposal to the next meeting for this review. Glenn Ziemer thought the best way to balance interests might be to split the Fire Arson Investigator into a basic and advanced tier. Steve Brown said he did a survey of Cal EMA Region 3; he said that approximately seven departments could meet the proposed Fire Arson Investigator level. He also received suggestions for two tiers. Glenn Ziemer said he supports the existing proposal language as a whole, but suggested that language be recrafted in Section D, page 7 to reflect a two tier system, along with grammar changes that reflected such a change.

Mike Esparza amended his motion to request a delay of the vote until next meeting and asked that a cadre member attend to be available for questions; Michael S. Williams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mike Richwine requested ideas and questions from Board members for cadre review; he added that he would appreciate any feedback from local attorneys.

b. Curricula Update

(1) Company Officer Course Outlines

Mike Richwine advised that SFT is beginning to shape course outlines that will make new certification levels already addressed. A cadre has established standards for Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer, and Executive Chief Officer; work for Training Instructor standards were completed by another cadre. Command 1A/1B/1C will have a new leadership module, along with an updated management and a new prevention course. This includes a proposal to take out Prevention 1A and 1B to be replaced with a fire prevention and safety course, focused on system status, building occupancy, building construction, and a company inspection program. Mike Richwine affirmed there would be a transition period for those that already have started certification, allowing them to complete the process under the current requirements.

Richard Blanco motioned to approve the course outlines for Company Officer Level 1; Michael S. Williams seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) Rescue Systems Course Updates

Rodney Slaughter introduced Rescue Systems (RS) 1 & 2 updates approved by the State Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC). RS 1 changes included modified site requirements that call for less needed consumable equipment for training. RS 2 incorporates Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Structural Collapse class content; new site and instructor requirements are included. Update classes to register instructors for RS 1 & 2 have been ongoing. More instructor update classes are planned in May.

Mike Richwine and Rodney Slaughter commented that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approved the existing courses and that they are grant funded; the approved updates will be submitted to DHS for approval.

A motion by Michael S. Williams was made to approve the course updates; Richard Blanco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Delivery Issues

(1) Fire Fighter Survival (FSTEP Course)

Mike Richwine explained this new Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) class recommended for approval by STEAC is composed of a sixteen-hour survival, twenty-four hour Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics (RICT), and an eight-hour command and control operation module.

A motion was made by Mike Esparza to approve the new course and seconded by P. Michael Freeman.

Mike Richwine reported that California Professional Firefighters (CPF) requested that the new International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) fire fighter survival class be considered an equivalency. The SFT class couldn't be developed jointly due to mission requirements per grants from the IAFF and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Dan Terry suggested reconciliation of the two classes take place.

Action: Dan Terry said that he would look into whether curriculum from the IAFF and IAFC was available.

Dan Terry made a motion to table the proposal, P. Michael Freeman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Codes and Regulations

(1) Proposed Code Adoption and Approvals – Title 24, 2010, California Building Standards Codes.

Tonya Hoover provided a summary of approved updates by the State Building Standards Commission, including screen size and location modifications in the wildland urban interface; tightened Title 25 requirements concerning tire storage; and adoption of current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards regarding fire alarms. NFPA 13 standards were modified to address dry cleaning businesses. This allows such businesses to operate outside the sprinkler requirement. Air Resource Board changes regarding equipment and hazardous materials caused a glitch in the Code. Cleanup language of "L" (Laboratory) occupancies was implemented.

Adoption of new Residential Code will require residential sprinklers in all new one and two family residences, including townhouses after January 1, 2011. July 1, 2010 is the anticipated publication date of these changes; local agencies will have 180 days to respond before final adoption. Task force work has taken place for this transition, including on-going training, and is posted on the OSFM website. Tonya Hoover stated that Division Chief of Codes and Regulations, Kevin Reinertson at OSFM is available concerning code modifications.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Task Force Update

Mike Esparza reported that a task force was developed to address minimum standards for crews being sent to wildland urban interface incidents which included Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIRESCOPE), Cal EMA, and SBFS. The task force has looked at qualifications for fire agencies. The document is presented as a California equivalency to the National Wildlife Coordinating Group (NWCG) 310-1, though primarily wildland specific, it is hoped to be an all risk application for mutual aid.

Nick Duvally provided background information on the draft CICCS document. STEAC recommended the document for approval unanimously. He noted it is a product of 2.5 years of work by a committee of twenty-five fire service members. It merged requirements from the federal 310-1 and CAL FIRE 4039 documents, along with other federal requirements that have been re-written twice in the same period. It has been formed to be a functional document for all departments. Nick Duvally was hopeful the document would be adopted this May for use in the field by June or July, 2010.

Steve Brown observed that there was language discussing issuance of task books by peer review committees. Mike Esparza said that the language about task books will be stricken. Discussion affirmed the document says either the federal 310-1 or the CICCS can be followed by local agencies. Mike Esparza thought that targeting a July 1, 2010 implementation date would provide better feedback prior to its implementation and adoption.

Mike Esparza motioned to accept the draft document to allow for public comment, including stakeholders. P. Michael Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Assembly Bill 635

Tonya Hoover provided a status update concerning AB 635. She explained it was aimed at preventing state and local fire agencies from prohibiting the use of air purifying devices by fire fighters during wildland fire fighting operations. As of July 8, 2009 it was in committee. The second hearing was cancelled by the author. CAL FIRE Legislation staff was consulted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Ziemer inquired about the status concerning a new set of guidelines by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, in concerns to having a set of guidelines for water systems standards for mobile home parks.

Action: Tonya Hoover stated that the issue of water systems standards for mobile home parks would be reported on at the next Board meeting.

Michael S. Williams reported back on his attendance of the two Legislative Rural Caucus Fire Protection Working Group meetings held on December 9, 2009 in Temecula and on January 14, 2010 at the State Capitol. He reported on three issues of interest to the State Board of Fire Services, including driver's license reconsiderations, emergency gel foam application services, and volunteer fire service training standards.

Michael S. Williams announced that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), California Highway Patrol (CHP), and various fire departments have a strong interest in dropping the Class B commercial driver license requirement for fire fighters; this exemption is anticipated soon. Instead DMV may call for drivers to have a training requirement while just holding a Class C license. It's anticipated that there will be new federal requirements in the next two to three years regarding commercial licenses.

Michael S. Williams communicated that the insurance industry and their subsequent vendors expressed interest in providing emergency gel foam application services at the two meetings. Two issues of concern were evident, including insurers using their own resources to protect their insured and their contractors wanting to get into mutual aid and fire response areas. It was noted that FIRESCOPE was paying close attention to these developments.

Michael S. Williams said there was discussion regarding volunteer fire service training certification standards. Concerns were expressed by smaller rural departments, including internet bandwidth challenges as it pertains to online communications, reporting and training. Access to training is a major challenge for such districts, due to factors such as

costs, time, travel distance, and resources. Robert McIntyre and Vern Losh are involved in submitting a proposal to STEAC to update volunteer training credentials. Tonya Hoover added that the Board will have an opportunity to review a draft document after STEAC's review.

Mike Esparza brought up the issue of statistics reporting to the California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS) by fire districts. There have been many cases of non reporting and such data is vital for public decision making. Rodney Slaughter commented that the data is also important for grant writing purposes.

Action: Mike Esparza requested a presentation by OSFM at the next Board meeting about CAIRS reporting, which includes a comparison of how the state fares against the nation, in terms of number of fires and where they are occurring.

Mike Esparza announced that there have been recent cases of fire extinguishing companies illegally representing other companies and/or the fire service. The cities of Torrance, Orange, and CAL FIRE have been taking the lead to track the issue.

Action: Mike Esparza requested that OSFM's Fire Engineering Division make a presentation concerning such activity at the next Board meeting.

7. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Tonya Hoover commented there has been a growing trend by local governments to move fire prevention activities to planning departments. She stated that the Health and Safety Code Section 13145 and 13146 is clear that the jurisdiction of fire prevention is held with fire chiefs. A formal interpretation by the SFM and an Attorney General opinion, 97-516, issued in 1997 are found on their respective websites. Bob Magee stated that local government is being put into positions of having to consolidate due to the state raiding their budgets; he asked for the SFM's support in this matter. Tonya Hoover remarked she had meetings scheduled with California Local Building Officials (CALBO) and California League of Fire Chiefs that address such issues. Tonya Hoover reiterated that she doesn't want to see the fire service lose its voice in the arena of fire prevention, training, operations, building and fire code.

Rodney Slaughter announced that OSFM has submitted an application for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) grant. SFT is reviewing the Fire Prevention series for anticipated changes and new syllabuses for Board approval in Fall 2010.

Mike Esparza requested status on high fire severity zone mapping. Tonya Hoover reported that Riverside and Los Angeles counties have received their draft maps. Ventura County's response is due soon. She said that Orange County should have their draft map now or very shortly; it was noted that OSFM is doing a special pilot project with Orange County; and all other counties should have draft maps for local adoption or possible amendments by CAL FIRE.

Mike Esparza announced that there will be a Medal of Valor Award dinner held by the California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) on October 15, 2010 in Sacramento. There will also be a ceremony at the California Firefighters Memorial in Capitol Park the next day.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

9. SET MEETING DATES

Due to scheduling conflicts, a request was made to schedule future meetings from the third Wednesday to the third Thursday for the quarterly meetings. It was requested that any known conflicts to this change be reported to Diane Seiple. The next meeting time and date was established to be 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at OSFM, Sacramento.

Action: Diane Seiple will issue the remaining quarterly meeting dates for 2010 reflecting the change in dates.

10. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Richard Blanco motioned to adjourn; Michael S. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed at 1143 hours.