



State Board of Fire Services
MINUTES
Thursday, July 22, 2010
Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento, 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*

David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters*

Robert Magee, City Government*#

Patrick McOsker, California Labor Federation

Michael Nelson, County Government*

Ken Pimlott, Deputy Director of Fire Protection, CAL FIRE

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

Michael S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association

John Winder, California Department of Forestry Firefighters

Glenn Ziemer, Fire Districts Association of California

* attended via telephone conference call

Left the meeting at 1215 hours

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Matthew Bettenhausen, California Emergency Management Agency

Jerry Davies, Insurance Industry

Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters

STAFF:

Dean Cromwell, CEA, Planning and Risk Analysis

Phyllis Banducci, FFPA, CAIRS and Fire Plan

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

Mary Wilshire, Staff Services Manager I, State Fire Training

Diane Seiple, Staff Services Analyst, Support Services

Ian Lyman, Office Technician, Support Services

GUESTS:

Carl Palmer, CAL FIRE Information Technology

Yvonne de la Pena, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Dan Terry, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Scott Vail, California Emergency Management Agency

Kim Zagaris, California Emergency Management Agency

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chief Tonya Hoover, Acting State Fire Marshal (SFM), called the meeting to order at 1100 hours at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1131 S St., Sacramento, CA. Patrick McOsker was sworn in as a new member of the Board by Chief Tonya Hoover.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established. Introductions were made, including over the phone.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dan Terry moved to approve the minutes. Glenn Ziemer 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 (STEAC) Update

a. Certification

(1) Fire Arson Investigator (Update/Information)

This item was tabled until the next meeting as there is no update at this time.

b. Curricula Update

No updates to provide at this time.

c. Delivery Issues

Fire Fighter Survival, Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics (RIC), and Command & Control courses were approved at the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) meeting on July 16, 2010. They will be presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting. RIC operations have been moving forward. Chief Mike Richwine authorized SFT to move forward the Fire Fighter Survival component. He will continue to make efforts to seek input from the IAFF in regards to their Fire Fighter Survival course.

Rodney Slaughter informed the Board that a group supporting volunteer fire fighter training standards, based at the Santa Rosa Junior College, is proposing a volunteer fire fighting program that reduces required training by half. Information and material about this program is currently posted on State Fire Training's website under the Training Resources section. Feedback is requested.

In regards to upcoming and ongoing projects, Rodney Slaughter advised that Fire Fighter I Certification Training Standards will likely be presented to the Board at the December 2010 meeting and noted that State Fire Training (SFT) staff is in the process of updating the Two-Year Plan. Currently there are thirty curriculum projects planned.

A Safety Awareness for Equipment Operators course is being developed. STEAC approved the addition to the Course Information Required Materials Manual. The course is intended for hired equipment operators that have required annual training, such as for bulldozer and water tender operators. The United States Forest Service (USFS) and CAL FIRE Academy are actively participating in the workgroup. Ken Pimlott indicated that the fire agency community has expressed the interest for State Fire Training to take over the course. Structured qualifications and training materials have yet to be developed. This course will fall under the Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP). A course completion card or certificate would be issued vs. a qualifications card.

Rodney Slaughter informed the Board that STEAC approved the Chief Officer/Executive program. It is planned to be brought to the Board at the December 2010 meeting. SFT was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant to redevelop the Fire Marshal certification track, which goes from Fire Inspector to Fire Marshal. The workgroup has sent STEAC a number of training standards and outlines. Behavioral objectives will include Department of Homeland Security (DHS) standards to identify terminal objectives. The program is expected to be ready for the December 2010 Board meeting.

Work continues on Command 1A/1B. It is unknown if they will be ready for the presentation at the December 2010 Board meeting.

The Fire Mechanics course is becoming Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT). It has been added to SFT's Two-Year Plan, including updating training standards and curriculum. The workgroup has recently commenced.

Kim Zagaris voiced the need to approve the RIC safety package before the December 2010 Board meeting to allow curriculum to be released as soon as possible. The Board supported the idea of putting it to a vote via a teleconference meeting in August or September 2010.

Action: Diane Seiple will coordinate a teleconference meeting date and time to be held in August or September 2010 for the Board to hold a vote for the RIC safety package.

B. Fire Plan/CAIRS (Information)

1. California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS) [Attachments 2, 2A, 2B, 2C]

Phyllis Banducci, who oversees both Fire Plan and California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS) programs, introduced analyst Kirsti Fong. Kirsti provided a presentation about CAIRS. CAIRS is a statewide emergency incident data program that collects, compiles, analyzes and distributes statistical information reported by the California Fire Service. Kirsti explained that CAIRS is California's interface program for the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Statistics that are provided to CAIRS by local reporting agencies are then imported into NFIRS on a quarterly basis. CAIRS is tailored for California and tracks additional statistical categories that NFIRS does not. Data that is collected is reviewed by analysts and policy makers. In recent history approximately 40% of California fire districts report data to CAIRS. A large number of districts in California are volunteer departments who have limited resources and have low rates of reporting. Though reporting is voluntary, statistical reporting has benefits, particularly when it comes to grant applications.

Kirsti Fong noted that there are training and other resources available for agencies to assist in their abilities to report incidents, which is now done strictly electronically. A property calculator software tool by FEMA provides estimates on property loss. There is a Program Manager course by the US Fire Administration that is 7-8 days in length which takes place on the East Coast. Grants are available to cover most costs associated with such training. There is an online self-study program, a free "Data Entry Tool" that enables agencies to report statistics electronically to CAIRS, and some training and valuable referrals for agencies provided through CAIRS.

Prior to 2002, California fire incident data was found in two databases, Emergency Activity Reporting System (EARS) and California Fire Incident Reporting System (CFIRS) that are no longer used. Reports from these databases can be provided by CAIRS. There are no plans underway to merge these databases with CAIRS due to resource constraints.

Several SBFS members discussed their interest in increasing the percentage of California fire agencies that report to CAIRS. A significant challenge has been that there isn't currently a master list or database of all California fire agencies. Currently, OSFM is collaborating working with the California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) to help improve their list. Kim Zagaris estimated that Cal EMA's database holds about 98% of agencies. Dan Terry commented that California Professional Firefighters (CPF) has a comprehensive list posted on their website as well.

The topic of tribal fire departments was briefly discussed. Kim Zagaris explained that tribal fire departments are required to report to CAIRS/NFIRS if they receive AFG grants.

Action: Mike Esparza requested that CAIRS provide a report at the next SBFS meeting that lists reporting and non reporting agencies.

C. Fire Engineering (Information)

1. Fraudulent Fire Extinguishing Companies

James Parsegian, Program Coordinator for the Fire Extinguisher and Automatic Extinguisher Systems programs, provided a presentation concerning fraudulent fire extinguishing companies. He noted that numerous known incidents of fraudulent extinguisher inspection activities have take place recently. James noted minority businesses and corporate locations are highly targeted due to language, cultural, and organizational reasons. In many instances a signature was obtained and electronically inserted onto a fraudulent order. Billings range from hundreds to thousands of dollars. OSFM is working with law enforcement agencies and hosting an advisory committee. OSFM is employing a multi-pronged approach: 1) Public Education – distribution of OSFM fliers to law enforcement agencies and business associations, 2) Training – fire service technicians undergo training every four years, 3) Fire Extinguisher Certification Testing – the bank of fire extinguisher certification test questions is being changed frequently, 4) Engine company training - development of web training to assist engine companies in what signs to look for. Education efforts are targeted for completion within the next year.

Patrick McOsker questioned whether or not adequate regulations are in place concerning such misrepresentation of fire departments and agencies. James Parsegian responded that the OSFM is looking at improved regulations and reported that in many instances such fraudulent companies represent themselves as belonging to the fire service and/or wear uniforms that give that appearance. The task force would like to require fire service vehicles to be marked; the California State Firefighters Association supports this measure. Individual licenses have been revoked. James Parsegian stated that spot inspections with local fire departments are planned to catch illegal activities during fire extinguisher inspections.

Mike Esparza affirmed that education efforts are working, citing a specific example he was aware of. James Parsegian welcomed any additional questions from the Board in the future.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

Rodney Slaughter introduced Scott Vail of Cal EMA, who provided an update from the CICCS Task Force.

Scott Vail reiterated to the Board that CICCS is an updated version for California of the National Wildlife Coordinating Group (NWCG) 310-1. The objectives for the document include fire fighter safety through standardized certification qualifications. Mutual aid agencies may benefit by reduced liability. The document's purpose was to be an all-hazard document inclusive of wildlands. Scott Vail stated that all proposed documents were posted to FIRESCOPE and Cal EMA's websites before July 1, 2010 per the request of the Board. They were also distributed to CAL FIRE, federal wildland agencies, in team meetings, and peer review committees.

Scott Vail talked about the CICCS document's highlights. It thoroughly covers course equivalencies and provides minimum training standards; these equivalencies are listed in the appendices. Also, there is a question and answer section for quick reference purposes. The document includes National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, required of the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It is to be a flexible document that can be updated as needed. As well, a few states have shown interest in adopting the CICCS document as a template for their uses.

According to Scott Vail, CICCS has been well received by interested parties. Only three response letters were received at SFT. Face-to-face meetings have been made with those parties. Most concerns have been over why trainees shall go through peer review committees. Intentions of this feature is to reduce agencies' liability and serve as another set of eyes for fire chiefs to assure competency, especially for specialized positions that aren't highly staffed.

Michael S. Williams made a motion for SBFS to approve the CICCS document. Mike Esparza seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Water Systems Standards for Mobile Home Parks (Information)

Chief Tonya Hoover provided a report on the state Health and Community Development's (HCD) new water supply requirements for mobile home parks that fall under its jurisdiction. HCD's regulations and implementation are outside of OSFM's jurisdiction. HCD has a formal application method for local agencies to enforce local regulations 30 days in advance. This can be done pursuant to California Health and Safety Code 18691. Applicable local requirements may include water supply, fire hydrants, vegetation management, access, and other items that are deemed a distinct hazard. Local fire code requirements are allowed to be more restrictive as outlined in Title 25, Chapter 2. According to Tonya Hoover, fire agency jurisdictions can require park owners to update their water systems if fire hydrant tests don't meet HCD's 500 gallon per minute requirement. Statute allows for alternate water supply solutions, such as water tanks. Title 24's Section 1300 covers fire protection standards for mobile home parks. New local fire codes for HCD's authorized local jurisdiction can be applied to new mobile home parks; issues arise over how to work with existing parks.

Glenn Ziemer articulated his familiarity with situations in Humboldt County that conflict with HCD's policies. He noted that HCD's flow requirements are significantly lower than California Fire Code. On an annual basis, HCD requires flow testing documents. Local fire agencies commonly perform this testing as a courtesy. Glenn Ziemer recounted that in 2002, new HCD regulations had to be brought up to HCD flow requirement code by 2004. He said he's aware of a mobile home park not meeting these requirements, though is still licensed. Inquiries and follow up with HCD haven't been fruitful, Glenn Ziemer noted. Tonya Hoover acknowledged such problems are likely and recommended contact with current local HCD representatives and inspectors.

Tonya Hoover noted that federal minimum standards exist for modular buildings. She added that regulatory modifications can't be made to modular and mobile homes. HCD successfully lobbied for federal standards to allow for additional restrictions for wild urban interface (WUI) environments. Thus far, a requirement for residential sprinklers in modular and mobile homes hasn't been broached. Rodney Slaughter suggested that modular home sale disclosures reveal the local water flow rate.

7. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Michael S. Williams announced that his department received a two-year grant from the California Fire Safe Council. He said that he is able to use the grant money toward putting together PSAs, podcasts, and other media solutions that address fire prevention and WUI topics and said that groups with a media outlet should contact him for possible free professional production. Question and Answer sessions is an example of a possible product.

Steve Brown requested a presentation by OSFM concerning code uniformity and alternative energy. Tonya Hoover noted that the OSFM is collaborating with the International Code Council's (ICC) new fire service and green building cadre. The ICC anticipates it might release a document before the Board's December meeting.

Action: Tonya Hoover said the topic of code uniformity and alternative energy would be reported on at the next Board meeting.

Tonya Hoover stated that residential sprinkler training is now ongoing throughout California under OSFM's direction. Three individuals are doing four-hour training sessions on implementation of residential sprinkler provisions that will be enforceable beginning January 1, 2011. Thus far, good feedback has been received. The training covers the history, regulations involved, the California Residential Code, provisions in the California Code, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and how they've been applied. Training dates and locations have been posted on OSFM's website.

Tonya Hoover announced that Sean DeCrane of International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) recently received a Fire Service Award for his work in the area of code development.

Tonya Hoover also stated that OSFM has posted bulletins on its website concerning recommended removal of the hold-open latch of VST gasoline nozzles and an NFPA safety alert concerning fire sprinkler systems that use antifreeze in cold climates.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

9. SET MEETING DATES

The next meeting time and date was established to be 1000 hours on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at OSFM, Sacramento.

10. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1255 hours.