



State Board of Fire Services MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento, California



Chair/Ex-Officio

Kate Dargan

State Fire Marshal

Co-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

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

Fire Service Labor (vacant)

California Labor
Federation

Ex-Officios:

Ken Pimlott

CAL FIRE

Matthew Bettenhausen

California Emergency
Management Agency

Dan Terry

California Fire Fighter
Joint Apprenticeship
Committee

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kate Dargan, State Fire Marshal

Mike Esparza, California State Firefighters Association

Richard Blanco, Fire District

Steve Brown, California Fire Chiefs Association*

Jerry Davies, Insurance Industry

P. Michael Freeman, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association*

Robert Magee, City Government* #

Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters

Ken Pimlott, Deputy Director of Fire Protection, CAL FIRE

Mike S. Williams, California State Firefighters Association

Glenn Ziemer, Fire Districts Association of California

* attended via telephone conference call

Left the meeting at 1300 hours

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Matthew Bettenhausen, California Emergency Management Agency

David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters

Michael Nelson, County Government

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

John Winder, California Department of Forestry Firefighters

STAFF:

Dave Hillman, Retired Annuitant

Mike Richwine, Division Chief, State Fire Training

Christy Owen, Staff Services Manager, Support Services/State Fire Training

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

Alicia Hamilton, Fire Service Training Specialist III, State Fire Training

Diane Seiple, Staff Services Analyst, Support Services

Judy Bankert, Management Services Technician, Support Services

GUESTS:

Yvonne de la Pena, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Dale Evenson, Riverside County Fire Department

Vern Losh, Sonoma County Emergency Services Coordinator, Retired

Scott Vail, California Emergency Management Agency

Kim Zagaris, California Emergency Management Agency

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chief Kate Dargan, State Fire Marshal (SFM), called the meeting to order at 1000 hours at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Headquarters, 1131 S Street, Sacramento, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call of the SBFS was conducted, and a quorum was established.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In the last paragraph on page 5 of the minutes from February 25, 2009, *Michael Nelson* needs to be changed to *Michael Williams*. With that change,

Glenn Ziemer moved the minutes be approved, and Mike Esparza seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. State Fire Training (SFT)

(1) Blueprint 20/20 – Update on SFT's progress

Mike Richwine told the group significant progress is being made in a number of areas with different curriculum and standard work groups and working with the State Training and Advisory Committee (STEAC) subcommittees as well. Blueprint 20/20 contains five primary goals:

- Quality Improvement
- National Professional Development Model
- Capstone Testing
- Business Process and Data Systems
- Public Safety Training Institute

In the Quality Improvement area, all positions have been staffed in the field. The standards for Chief Officer, Fire Officer, Training Officer, Fire Arson Investigator, and Community Risk Officer have all been updated and will serve as the backbone for new curriculum. Course outlines are now being developed. No progress to report at this time on the National Professional Development Model. A workgroup has been established and will be meeting shortly to look at the overall Capstone Testing process. Capstone Testing should be in place for the Training Instructor this fall. Concerning the Business Process and Data Systems, the Beta test was recently completed and the Fire Officer courses can now be offered in an online hybrid format. The community colleges will be responsible for training and approving instructors for online delivery. Some of those community colleges courses will hopefully start this fall. SFT has submitted a Budget Change Proposal (which was accepted) to fund a feasibility study to develop an online web-based data base with the goal of students and their instructors being able to access their records here in SFT. No progress to report at this time on the Public Safety Training Institute.

(2) Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee Update

a. Certification:

- **Fire-Arson Investigator Certification Training Standards**

Alicia Hamilton addressed the group to seek approval of the Fire-Arson Investigator Certification Training Standards (CTS). Those training standards were developed using the NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, 2009 Edition, as the base document. There are two certification levels in the standards: Fire Investigator (formerly Fire Investigator I) and Fire-Arson Investigator (formerly Fire Investigator II). The certificates would be valid for three years, and there is an experience requirement of 10 fires while working in California. There was some discussion among the group concerning the difficulty some of the smaller fire districts might have with meeting the 10-fires requirement. Also, Mike Esparza expressed concern about the limited number of groups that were listed as continuing education providers. During the discussion the members realized they had not received copies of the draft procedures that detail the certification requirements. ***Mike Richwine said he would see that the members all received those draft procedures and suggested they put off this agenda item (recertification standards) until the next board meeting.***

Mike Esparza moved the board adopt the certification standards at this time—as opposed to the continuing education standards—and Lou Paulsen seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Chief Officer Certification Training Standards

At the last board meeting, Kate Dargan had asked that the full Chief Officer components be included in the next agenda packet. Mike Richwine passed the standards among the members for their perusal.

c. Delivery Issues

- **EMT-I Certification**

Christy Owen briefed the group regarding the legal interpretation from the State Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) which will now limit the issuance of SFT EMT-I course completion certificates to fire safety personnel. Fire safety personnel are individuals who are employed by a fire department, fire district, special district, or volunteer fire fighters performing suppression/prevention duties. Pre-fire service students attending a fire academy would not be recognized as being fire service personnel. This new policy is effective July 1, 2009. This will cause a negative fiscal impact to the basic course deliveries since SFT has been allowed in the past to train any student. The change appears to be caused by a challenge the EMSA received regarding vagueness in statute. All EMT-I instructors were

notified via letter of this change. State Fire Marshal staff is working cooperatively with CAL FIRE Fire Protection staff to consider options for restructuring the program.

- **Accredited Academies and Training Programs**

At the February 25, 2009, board meeting, Mike Esparza suggested a list of all accredited academies be provided at the next board meeting, so Rodney Slaughter handed out that list to the members. Rodney answered a few questions from the board about the accreditation process.

- **“Higher Education for the Fire Service”**

Mike Richwine passed out an article from the Firehouse magazine written by Younes Mouchid, Ph.D. He is an associate professor and the director of the Degrees at a Distance Program—Fire Science at Cogswell Polytechnical College in Sunnyvale, California. The article was titled *Where Public Safety Policy Meets Higher Education*.

(3) State Fire Training Staff Changes

Mike Richwine briefed the members on the recent staff changes in SFT.

B. Codes and Regulations

(1) 2010 California Building Standards Codes

Kevin Reinertson gave the group an overview of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's role in developing an adoption package for the new edition of the California Building Standards Code. He also passed out a chart showing the various stages of the 2009 annual code adoption cycle.

(2) WUI Building Standards Task Force, Chapter 7A

Kevin Reinertson also gave an update on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)—Chapter 7A Task Force Committee. The emphasis of the committee was to make 7A more enforceable and usable by the end user—whether a home owner, designer, builder, or an official. The committee is also including provisions of the fire code into Chapter 49 where the Wildland Urban Interface Standards are—provisions that will further assist the user in finding the vegetation management requirements.

Kevin Reinertson also briefly described the recent work of the Residential Fire Sprinkler Task Forces and their code recommendations for inclusion in the California Residential Code.

C. Arson/Fireworks

Dave Hillman gave the update on the SFM Law Enforcement Division's arson-bomb investigation and fireworks programs. He said we are getting a lot of calls from local jurisdictions to pick up the fireworks confiscated last year. Some jurisdictions are considering setting up their own disposal programs. He also told of jurisdictions not having public displays this year and banning the sale of safe and sane fireworks due to the fire danger involved. Agencies expect to have even more fireworks confiscated this year than last. He also described some of the environmental problems involved in the disposal process.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Insurance—Prevention/Training

(1) Insurance Overview

Jerry Davies gave a report on Firebreak, defensible space, and fire prevention workshops. He described the process by which a few insurance companies have trucks go into areas threatened by fire and spray gel on certain homes (and the adjacent vegetation) insured by the insurance company. There are two types of gel used by insurance companies and some fire departments (some use foam). There was general discussion among the group on the whole issue of pre-fire treatment/prevention by private companies.

Senate Bill 1595 says that if an insurance company is going to require defensible space in excess of 100 feet, they need to get together with the local fire chief regarding whether the company can and should have that requirement. However, the insurance company holds the right to write the policy or not—regardless of the defensible space requirement allowed. Some insurance companies will not even write policies in some of the high fire danger areas. Those decisions are sometimes based on their own research and maps of the fire danger in the area. Jerry Davies asserted that the insurance companies in the state are very much in favor of working with the fire service on this issue of defensible space, and he would like to see some joint meetings between the two groups.

Jerry Davies reported on some fire prevention workshops with the Fire Safe Councils of California.

Kate Dargan made some comments regarding the insurance industry and fire service working together. Michael Freeman suggested FIRESCOPE as the avenue for the insurance industry to use to communicate with the fire service. Mike Esparza asserted the fire prevention officers need to be involved in this conversation also—especially in light of the WUI code and the mapping that the SFM's office is doing. Jerry Davies added that bringing the insurance trade associations together would be an effective way to reach the entire fire insurance industry. Kate Dargan suggested Jerry Davies might want to let FIRESCOPE know he is available for an outreach presentation at one of their meetings.

B. Status of Housing Community Development 2001 Requirements

Kate Dargan reported Housing and Community Development (HCD) is revamping mobile home standards and guidelines for mobile home parks which will include water supply requirements. She also told the group that all manufactured housing sold in California beginning in 2011 will have to be built to ignition resistant standards.

C. California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) Strategic Plan for Volunteers in California.

Michael Williams gave a brief overview of the California State Firefighters Association Volunteer Committee Five-Year Strategic Plan. He related that the plan contains the goals, objectives, challenges, and opportunities CFSA committee has set for themselves. CSFA would like comments on the plan—preferably in writing through the committee chair, Vern Losh. Michael Williams noted that Appendix A--Listing of Mostly Paid & Mostly Volunteer (Combination) Volunteer Fire Agencies in California—was not complete. However CSFA hopes to eventually have a uniform data base that identifies all the volunteer fire agencies in the state.

Vern Losh gave some background on the contributions leading to the publication of the Strategic Plan. He stressed the importance of training and education for volunteers and the establishment of a training baseline for all volunteers.

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

Scott Vail reported the CICCS Task Force has been very active since February 2009. There was a teleconference on March 30, a combined PACE V Committee and CICCS Task Force meeting held the first week in June, and five regional workshops have been held to present the current and future work of the Task Force and solicit suggestions for improvements. The Northern California Training Officers had a CICCS workshop in February which was well attended and well received. Based on that success, four other workshops were held.

The Task Force will be focusing on the following in the near future:

- Continue to monitor the activities of FEMA and NIMS so that the CICCS qualifications guide can be successfully integrated with the NIMS Qualifications Process Guide.
- Develop the CICCS qualifications guide to take the place of the Federal 310-1.
- Integrate the NWCG Field Managers Course Guide into the CICCS process particularly in the area of instructor qualification and agency authority to issue NWCG certificates.
- Develop a new historical recognition process for new positions coming on line—such as structure protection specialist.
- Make the Qualifications Guide all-risk.
- Establishing a physical fitness committee to fully research physical fitness and present viable alternates to the California Fire Service.
- Revise the Equivalency Guide.
- Keep the Fire Service aware of changes in the NWCG 310-1, IQS and ROSS.
- Establish more direct and frequent communications with Peer Review Committees.
- Maintain more frequent updates to the website and better linkage to the SFT website.
- Manage the transition of federal and state retirees or transferees into the CICCS peer review process.

The next meeting of the CICCS Task Force is a teleconference meeting scheduled for June 30.

E. SB828 Accelerant Detecting K9 Standards Development Task Group

Dave Hillman related there were two varying philosophies on using K9s in accelerant detecting. He commended Mike Esparza on the great job he did in heading up this task group which produced The Accelerant Detecting K9 Standards Report. All public comments received on this issue were addressed by the task force. Dave Hillman said he has heard some comments from federal sources and other states that they consider this to be a really good document which some states will use when adopting their standards. Mike Esparza said there were no states that he knows of that have adopted any standards for accelerant detecting K9s. The standards developed by this task force are voluntary ones. Mike Esparza fielded some questions from the members and there was some discussion about the possibility of certification in the future.

Richard Blanco moved the board adopt the voluntary standard for accelerant detecting K9s. Lou Paulsen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

F. SBFS Future Goals

Discussion regarding the OSFM work plan and the top five priorities was tabled to the next meeting of the board.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Residential Fire Sprinkler Adoption Update

Kate Dargan briefly updated the group about the three task force groups addressing the pending adoption of the International Residential Code requiring fire sprinklers in all new residential construction. It has been a multi-year process which is now entering its last phase with the third task force which will be co-chaired by Mike Richwine and Gene Paolini (a building official from Roseville). The vote on residential fire sprinklers is expected to be before the Building Standards Commission on January 10, 2010.

B. Assembly Bill 635

AB635 is aimed at prohibiting state and local fire agencies from prohibiting the use of air purifying devices by firefighters during wildland firefighting operations. There was some brief discussion on this issue, but Tonya Hoover was not there to present the report scheduled in the agenda.

7. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Jerry Davies reiterated that he would be happy to help spearhead any joint meetings between the fire service and the fire insurance industry. He also thanked Kate Dargan for all her past work on the board and in her position as State Fire Marshal. Others on the board expressed the same sentiment, and Mike Esparza presented Kate with a plaque in the shape of a flame engraved with all the names of the board members on it. Kate Dargan made some parting comments to the board regarding her retirement from the fire service.

8. SET MEETING DATES

Future meeting dates will be announced at a later date.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.