



**State Board of Fire Services  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 4, 2009  
Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento, California**



Chair/Ex-Officio

**Tonya L. Hoover**  
Acting 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:**

Tonya Hoover, Acting State Fire Marshal  
Mike Esparza, California State Firefighters Association\*  
Richard Blanco, Fire District  
Steve Brown, California Fire Chiefs Association  
Jerry Davies, Insurance Industry  
David Gillotte, International Association of Fire Fighters\*  
Robert Magee, City Government\*#  
Michael Nelson, County Government\*  
Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters\*  
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 1205 hours

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Matthew Bettenhausen, California Emergency Management Agency  
P. Michael Freeman, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association  
Ken Pimlott, Deputy Director of Fire Protection, CAL FIRE  
John Winder, California Department of Forestry Firefighters

**STAFF:**

Mike Richwine, Division Chief, State Fire Training  
Mary Wilshire, Staff Services Manager, 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  
Ian Lyman, Office Technician, Support Services

**GUESTS:**

Tennis Tollefson, Sierra College  
Bill Vandevort, Retired Annuitant  
Kim Zagaris, California Emergency Management Agency

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chief Tonya Hoover, Acting 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**

One change of the minutes from June 24, 2009 was requested; David Gillotte made the correction that he joined the conference call late at 10:30 AM.

**Michael S. Williams motioned to approve the corrected minutes. Glenn Ziemer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. PROGRAM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

###### **(1) Rescue Systems (RS) Course**

Rodney Slaughter presented the updates to the Rescue Systems 1 and 2 courses that are underway due to a grant from the Office of Homeland Security. An overview of materials was made which included the pertinent section of the Course Information and Required Materials and SFT Procedures Manuals. The instructor requirement to start a Task Book within two years was revised to the Task Book having to be completed within two years. Syllabus designs now follow the current Department of Homeland Security format. Rescue Systems 2 closely follows FEMA's 80-hour Structural Collapse Technician (SCT) class, but is 40 hours long. A combined version of the class could be offered, if desired, but SFT will only recognize and provide course certificates for the 40-hour RS 2. SCT is a FEMA class available through California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Mike Richwine added that the partnership between the California Department of Homeland Security, Cal EMA, and OSFM has seen positive development; the goal of this program is to build rescue capacity and capability for the state and nation.

###### **(2) Emergency Response to Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

Rodney Slaughter made a presentation about this subject. He noted that the attachment provided for review still needed to be approved by the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) before action by the Board could be taken. He relayed that this is an emerging area for emergency response, including crossover effects as the Toyota Prius has roof solar panels. Elements of the Photovoltaic (PV) program will enter this planned program due to this innovation. Currently the Auto Extrication program is a 16-hour course. The new program would include Auto Extrication and Emergency Response to Alternative Fuel Vehicles which will have vehicles on site. The two courses would be intended to take place together when possible. The Training Division has a number of videos on biodiesel, ethanol, hydrogen, hybrid, natural gas, and electric vehicles that would be available for instructors. Auto extrication instructors are being sought for teaching courses. The program explains the varying technologies and provides a framework and background for emergency response.

###### **(3) Company Officer CTS and Fire Officer CTS**

Chief Mike Richwine introduced Bill Vandevort, who was hired to lead the cadre for the program change. Bill Vandevort introduced ten cadre members located throughout the state:

- Mark Romer; Division Chief, Roseville Fire Dept.
- Wolfgang Knabe; Fire Chief, Fullerton Fire Dept.
- Brett Davidson; Battalion Chief, Rancho Santa Fe Fire District
- Ron Martin; Division Chief, Contra Costa Fire Protection District
- Steve Brassfield; Captain, Napa Fire Dept.
- Gary Lane; Battalion Chief, North County (San Diego) Fire Protection District
- Steve Horner; Captain, Santa Ana Fire Dept.
- Kevin Spellman; Captain, San Rafael Fire Dept.
- Kevin Conant; Battalion Chief, San Jose Fire Dept.
- Mike Bryant; Deputy Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Dept.

Bill Vandevort noted the cadre's task was to look at the Fire Officer and Chief Officer certification training standards and make sure the developed course outlines met the training standards to assure curriculum is standards based. NFPA 1021 Professional Qualifications for Officers was referred to and incorporated into the effort. This was the first time that Fire Officer and Chief Officer curriculum was fully reviewed in twenty-five years.

The cadre is recommending splitting the Chief Officer certification. The program split was made to focus on two general groups: 1) Line Battalion Chief or program managers, and 2) executive positions that are responsible for Human Resources and budgeting duties. The request for the split was a STEAC recommendation for SBFS consideration and support in concept. The name change to "Company Officer" was made to better reflect duties of the position. This split is similar to the Fire Marshal series. Curriculum is being standards based. Capstone testing would be implemented. Consideration concerning impact upon promotional practices on certification was given by the cadre. Final approval for these changes will be sought in approximately eighteen months.

**The name change and program split were approved in concept. A motion was made by Steve Brown; Michael S. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**(4) Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee Update**

**a. Certification:**

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

Due to the Board not having materials at their last meeting, a follow-up presentation was made by Alicia Hamilton regarding the Fire Investigator certification track. Currently there are two levels of certification – Fire Investigator I and Fire Investigator II. The proposed change would rename these to Fire Investigator and Fire-Arson Investigator to better reflect the responsibility levels. The Board had approved the Certification Training Standards (CTS) for this concept change and curriculum is being developed.

A question was posed about the number of required fires that was added to Experience Option 1 for Fire Investigator (25 fires) and Fire-Arson Investigator (50 fires). The number of fires required for Experience Option 2 did not change.

Alicia Hamilton explained that the previous experience requirement simply required years of service with the responsibility of investigations. However, that language could allow someone with the responsibility to become certified even though they may never have actually performed an investigation. By adding a minimum number, this loophole would be closed. Further clarification to the language was requested so the types of fires and investigations that would meet this criteria for each level of certification was clearly described.

Concern was expressed by several Board members that this minimum number of fires would adversely impact rural fire services' ability to meet the certification requirements. Especially since Fire-Arson Investigator has the potential of becoming a de facto expert witness level with implications stemming from that. Outcome of the proposed changes was the biggest dilemma for the Board, while still understanding the need of having a high level of experience attached to the certification.

Alicia Hamilton suggested that the Board develop a list of concerns/questions and she will take them back to the cadre for action. She would then submit the responses back to the Board.

**b. Curricula Update**

New Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics (RICT), Firefighter Survival, Command and Control pilot courses are due in January, 2010. New Training Instructor, Training Specialist, and Training Officer programs are being finished. A grant to develop course outlines based upon certification level training standards for Fire Marshal is in progress; it is an eighteen month project and includes Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), Chapter 7A defensible space, and fire safety planning components. The State Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) didn't meet in October, 2009, but will reconvene in January, 2010.

**c. Delivery Issues**

There were no delivery issues to report.

**B. Codes and Regulations**

**(1) 2010 California Building Standards Codes**

Tonya Hoover provided a summary of her visit to the ICC Conference in Baltimore. She explained that ICC left existing residential sprinkler proposals in the ICC residential code for the next cycle. Individual states having problems adopting this part of the code can be addressed at the state level. California is currently in a forty-five day public comment period for the last set for fire building and residential codes; the period is to end November 16, 2009. Minor comment has been received. Things are on track for adoption of code proposals at the state level on January 12 and 13, 2010 with the Buildings Standards Commission for requirements for residential sprinklers in all new residential construction with a tentative effective date of January 1, 2011. Two task forces concerning residential sprinklers have completed with the third training and education component task force, chaired by Chief Mike Richwine, scheduled to close out in December. Findings and fact won't be needed for residential sprinklers statewide.

High fire severity zone mapping efforts were stalled temporarily due to Federal Farm bill's risk assessment mandates. All California counties should be done by end of November. Riverside, Ventura, and Los Angeles counties should be done by end of November. Orange County requires some specialty work, which will take till the end of the year. Local

Response Area (LRA) portions require individual jurisdictions to adopt their local maps. Counties don't need to wait for other counties to adopt their maps. Implications of local jurisdictions not approving the maps are unknown at this time.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Previous meeting items**

Glenn Ziemer noted that in the last minutes a short report to be provided by the State Fire Marshal on AB 635. Chief Hoover said she will provide the report at the next Board meeting. As well, information concerning the Housing and Community development status with mobile home parks will be included in the next Board meeting.

### **B. Miscellaneous, including current topics.**

No changes in provisions concerning high tension wires. Sean DeCrane of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has been working with the building industry concerning lightweight construction. California photovoltaic guidelines were picked up by the National Association of State Fire Marshals; it wasn't approved due to language issues. Landscaped roofs are also being discussed at the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. General challenges of OSFM, stakeholders.**

Ideas discussed included: Kim Zagaris recommending the Board support the Governor's Response Initiative funding. It has impact upon response times and long term issues, including Blueprint 2020, training funding, code issues, and fuel modification. Tonya Hoover urges dialogue concerning any issue that should be tackled together. Discussion took place concerning funding and resource dilemmas for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Some projects target special funding for project completion within the Two Year Plan. Tonya Hoover emphasized that the Two Year plan has been the focus and noted the Office's great flexibility. Jerry Davies related the insurance industry's own struggles. He noted the industry wants to be more involved in fire issues at the local level. Michael S. Williams suggested that a marketing campaign along the lines of, "Ready, Set, Go" may benefit the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

## **7. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Kim Zagaris noted mutual aid issues have been experienced at California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). For example, it was estimated that one-third of expected resources didn't turn up in Region Two in August; Region Two covers the coastal area between Monterey and the Oregon border. This equated to ten missing strike teams (50 engines) when normally thirty-five strike teams are at the ready.

## **8. SET MEETING DATES**

Two meeting dates, along with their locations were established:

- Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at the Burbank Fire Department
- Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento

Diane Seiple will issue the next two tentative quarterly meeting dates for 2010.

## **9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Steve Brown motioned to adjourn; Michael S. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.