



STEAC Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2020 – Sacramento, California

I. Introductions and Welcome

Members Present

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters
John Binaski, STEAC Committee Chair
Bret Black, League of California Cities
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee
Peter Cacossa, California Fire Technology Directors Association (North) (alternate)
Ron Coleman, STEAC Chair, Retired
Randy Collins, California Fire Technology Directors Association (North)
Bret Davidson, So Cal Training Officers
Gareth Harris, Fire District Association of California
Kyle Heggstrom, FIRESCOPE
Sam Hoffman, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)
Matthew Jewett, California Fire Technology Directors Association (North) (alternate)
Donavan Lacy, Nor Cal Training Officers (alternate)
Javier Lara, Cal OES (alternate)
Brian Marshall, CAL OES
Richard Rideout, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Inc.
Ann Rosales, CAL FIRE Training Center (alternate)
Brent Stangeland, CAL FIRE
David Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association

Members Absent

David Baldwin, FIRESCOPE (alternate)
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association
Chris Coates, So Cal Training Officers (alternate)
Scott Jaeggi, California Fire Technology Directors Association (South) (alternate)
Jeremy Lawson, CAL FIRE Training Center
Kirk Noffsinger, Nor Cal Training Officer
Gaudenz Panholzer, California Fire Chiefs Association
Rich Thomas, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)
Bertral Washington, League of California Cities (alternate)

State Fire Training Staff

Mark Bisbee, SFT, Battalion Chief
Kevin Conant, SFT, Fire Service Training Specialist III

Jim Eastman, SFT, Fire Service Training Specialist III
Brandon Erickson, SFT, Division Support
Kristahna Fiattarone, SFT, Division Support
Chris Fowler, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal Supervisor
Andrew Henning, State Fire Training Division Chief
Rick Lum, SFT, Fire Captain
Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal I
Marisol Ramos, SFT, Division Support
Kris Rose, Staff Services Manager I
Rene Rose, SFT, Division Support
Frank Vue, SFT, Division Support

Guests

James Altman, Santa Monica Fire Department
Dan Casner, CAL OES/CSTI
Manuel Graves, Fresno Fire Department
Joseph Grupalo, City of El Cerrito
Rich Hoffmann, HFT Fire & Rescue
Darius Luttrupp, City of San Francisco
Mike Massone, Captain, San Diego Federal Firefighters
Jeff Meston, California Fire Chiefs Association
Dan Munsey, County of San Bernardino
Mary Murphy, North County Fire Protection District
Brendan O'Leary, City College of San Francisco
Sean Van Sluis, Santa Monica Fire Department
Jason Solak, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. by Ron Coleman.

Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

Member Appointment/Reappointment

Randy Collins – Member Reappointment - CFTDA
Matthew Jewett – Alternate to Member Reappointment- CFTDA
Scott Jaeggi – Alternate Reappointment - CFTDA
Peter Cacossa – Alternate Appointment - CFTDA
Tom Carlisle – Member Reappointment- CSFA
Sam Hoffman – Alternate Reappointment - CSFA
Bret Black – Appointment – League of California Cities
Bret Davidson – Member Reappointment- CAL Chiefs TO's South
Chris Coates – Alternate Reappointment- CAL Chiefs TO's South
Kirk Noffsinger – Member Appointment – CAL Chiefs TO's North
Don Lacy – Alternate Appointment – CAL Chiefs TO's North
Gareth Harris – Member Reappointment –FDAC
Richard Rideout – Member Reappointment- Metro Fire Chiefs
Jeremy Lawson – Member Reappointment – CAL FIRE Training Center

Brent Stangeland – Member Reappointment – CAL FIRE
Ann Rosales – Alternate Reappointment – CAL FIRE Training Center

John Binaski welcomed the new members.

Past Member Recognition

John Walsh – CAL Chiefs – Training Officers - North
Gail Warner - CFTDA
Bradley Arganbright – Cal Chiefs Training Officers - North
Tony Bowden – FDAC

John Binaski recognized and thanked the members. He advised their letters of appreciation will be sent out.

II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

Chief Ron Coleman introduced John Binaski as the new Committee Chair and presented him with the gavel.

John Binaski thanked Chief Coleman and Chief Richwine. He advised it is an honor and a pleasure, and thanked Chief Coleman again for his hard work and dedication. He asked if anyone would like to make changes to the agenda. There are no changes to the agenda.

John Binaski reminded everyone that an alternate member only gets to vote if the member is not present.

III. Approval of the October 11, 2019 Minutes

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

Randy Collins asked if the flexibility of the 10:1 student to instructor ratio was ever discussed and considered. He advised he had raised the question while discussing Fire Fighter I and II and is awaiting a reply from State Fire Training (SFT).

Andrew Henning advised there is the potential to use the skills coach for the Fire Fighter I and II curriculum for any of the skills portion of the class.

R. Collins advised he is more worried about the lecture portions that do not need those ratios. He wanted to make sure a provision was specifically made for that because Community Colleges are already challenged by budgets and meeting instructor payroll.

A. Henning advised this will be discussed at the next steering committee meeting. He advised some other classes have separate ratios for the lecture and skills portion, and

they may be able to administratively change the curriculum to include that.. He advised they can give an update at the April STEAC meeting.

Motion:	Randy Collins <i>moved to accept the minutes from October 11, 2019. Brent Stangeland seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning stated that SBFS met in November and everything that went forward for approval was approved by SBFS. He advised that they updated the Fire Fighter I 2013 and Fire Fighter2 2013 to align with the new Fire Fighter 1 & 2 2019, which included changing the experience and task book requirements. He advised they are now issuing certifications digitally through the State Fire Training (SFT) user portal, so SFT is no longer mailing paper certificates except for Fire Chief certification.

A. Henning advised that El Camino College and Fremont Fire Department's reaccreditations were approved, and the skills coach was approved for Fire Control 3 and Fire Fighter. The Fire Fighter 1 (2019) and Fire Fighter2 (2019) curriculum and certification was approved and went live on January 1, 2020. He asked everyone to make sure to download the newest skills sheets when starting each academy to accommodate for typos being fixed. A new version of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1051 was released as the standard for wildland firefighter that they use for Fire Fighter1 curriculum. An administrative review was done, and they didn't see any impacts to the curriculum, but one Job Performance Requirement (JPR) was added. Since there is no added time or cost to the curriculum, SFT will do an administrative update to add the new JPR to the task book. He advised SFT offers a combined Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) requires students must pass each level individually at 70%. With the 2019 curriculum, there will be a standalone 10 question Awareness exam and standalone 15 question Operations exam. He advised that with the 2019 curriculum one fee covers all testing so there will be no added cost to the academies for delivering this.

The Fire Inspector 2 qualifications and curriculum update was approved as well as the River and Flood Boat Technician Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) course. He advised the mid-career changes were approved. Under these changes you can use a set amount of experience to enter the SFT system at rank-appropriate level to meet the course prerequisite instead completing the previous certification levels educational requirements

NFPA National reciprocity was also approved and allows people with IFSAC/ProBoard certifications to submit for a course reciprocity. The Fire Service Labor Management Course is a requirement for people seeking reciprocity for Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer so demand for this course will be picking up and we will qualified registered instructors to help start rolling out the course. He advised they are reversing how they

use the terms “reciprocity” and “equivalency” to align with the rest of the country. The two terms will be switched through an administrative change.

V. Consent Items

Santa Monica Fire Department - ALA Reaccreditation

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Attachment: 1

Caryn Petty advised State Fire Training (SFT) that a site evaluation of Santa Monica Fire Department was conducted on June 17, 2019 in accordance with Title 19. The fire department had some staffing and training center changes so SFT approved a 6-month extension to their accreditation period. She advised they serve a uniquely diverse and highly populated area. They are very diverse with their personnel and highly educated. She acknowledged the presence of Chief Sean Van Sluis and Chief James Altman. She advised that SFT recommends reaccreditation of the Santa Monica Fire Department for a period of 4 ½ years.

Chief Sean Van Sluis advised they are trying to have SFT as a priority to their organization. He advised that this second process of reaccreditation was much more detailed and a good learning experience. He thanked C. Petty and acknowledged her as being very helpful and hands-on. He advised they have used this as tool to help their recruitment efforts.

Chief James Altman stated that he appreciates SFT and is thankful to be here. He stated that the SFT curriculum validates what they do and their department training.

Fire Fighter 2 Tenured Path

Presenter: Chris Fowler

Attachment: 2

Chris Fowler advised there is a need within the industry for a path to certification. Many employees in various agencies did not participate early in the State Fire Training (SFT) system so they didn't receive a Fire Fighter 1 or Fire Fighter 2, and now they want to participate in the company officer certification series but there is no entry point at that level of their career. She advised that she and several staff sat with the steering committee and developed the tenured path, which is a set of criteria that uses career experience and education that is vetted by the agency training officer or liaison along with the completion of a task book to show that they have done their due diligence at that point in their career. This will be submitted to SFT for a 2013 Fire Fighter 2. She advised they have built a path in Acadis to accommodate this, and all materials submitted will be digitally uploaded and they will be doing a percentage verification of the information submitted by each agency.

Bret Davidson noticed a typo under the education requirements. He stated that he knows the equivalency for Incident Command System (ICS) 200 and ICS 300. He advised the S-200 is type 4 Incident Commander and S-300 is Extended Attack. He advised they are suppression classes versus ICS, so he thinks they need to be struck. He advised that some of the metro departments have done Confined Space training for

their department without certifying through SFT. He asked if they can they submit that curriculum for credit or equivalency to SFT, because if not it will be a huge expense for some of the larger departments. C. Fowler answered that they can take that under consideration on case by case basis.

Andrew Henning advised he is fine with that. If the training meets California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Government Agency (Cal/OSHA) Hazardous Material training, then they can work with those individually to determine if it will be as basic as a Chief's letter saying that the training provided to the employee met Cal/OSHA. He stated the goal is to get people into SFT and qualified for the certification. If they have documented training that meets Cal/OSHA, then that would meet goal of this project.

A. Henning advised for the task book to be signed off you don't need to re-demonstrate the training. If you have documented training through your department or California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee, then the evaluator can look at the past training and sign off task book. He advised the date you are signing on the task book should be the date you are doing the evaluation, not the date that the training took place.

B. Davison asked how long this period will last for the people that didn't fill out their bubble form. C. Fowler answered December 31, 2021. When Fire Fighter 2 2013 retires, this tenured path will also retire. She advised she spoke with Richard Rideout regarding those that fall in between the experience requirement. If they fall in between the 2016 and current education they would need to seek out capstone testing. There will be a small audience that doesn't meet the experience requirement that would need to go through their agency or a college for the capstone test and take the 2013 exam, or they can complete the new 2019 curriculum and complete and pass that exam.

R. Rideout asked if the capstone testing is for those trying to get their Fire Fighter 1. C. Fowler answered yes, they would go through the capstone testing and enter the system per normal with their 2013 Fire Fighter1 or their 2019 Fire Fighter 1, depending on which exam they choose to take.

R. Rideout asked if people with Fire Fighter1 can still submit for the Fire Fighter II 2013 certification. C. Fowler answered yes, that is not retiring until next December. R. Rideout thanked SFT for listening to them. He advised this was brought up a year ago and several Accredited Local Academies have come onboard, and they don't want people to get left behind.

A. Henning thanked him for bringing it up and stated that the point of the steering committee, STEAC, and State Board of Fire Services is to address issues with the system and improve it. He advised it is important to spread the message that Dec 31, 2021 is the last time you can get your Fire Fighter 2 without a state certification exam. He advised they don't plan to bring back tenured path or a midcareer in the future.

Randy Collins advised that on behalf of many of the Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) he welcomes this effort. Most of the ARTPs have been busy keeping up with certification testing and adopting the new Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 curriculum, and developing a standalone Fire Fighter 1 exam. He advised this gives

them some breathing room. He warned there will be a lot of unintended consequences that pop up but it's good to see the flexibility to respond to this group.

A. Henning advised they will create an informational bulletin that can be sent out. They will also send out e-blasts and post the information on the SFT homepage.

C. Fowler advised that even with these edits they can still hit the March 1, 2020 release date.

River and Flood Water Rescue (1996) Retirement

Presenter: Kevin Conant/Joe Bunn

Attachment: 3

K. Conant advised that this change is simply a procedural issue. When California Governor's Office of Emergency Services approached State Fire Training to develop a National Fire Protection Association and Federal Emergency Management Agency compliant water rescue course they didn't address the retirement of the old 1996 16-hour River and Flood Water Rescue course. Therefore, it is just being brought to STEAC to receive the appropriate approval to retire that course.. He advised there is an error on the first page of the implementation plan, as the course is 40 hours and not 264 hours.

Motion:	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion to approve the consent items. Richard Rideout seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VI. Accredited Academies

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

Presenter: Caryn Petty

Attachment: 4

Caryn Petty advised she conducted a site assessment on October 29, 2019. The self-assessment report was perfect and the site visit went very well. She advised they have an excellent training facility. They are an accomplished and professional department with an exceptional focus on training. They have a strong emphasis on safety and standardization and follow both National Fire Protection Association and State Fire Training (SFT) rules. She introduced Chief Dan Munsey as being in attendance. She advised that SFT recommends initial approval for San Bernardino Fire Protection District as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) for a period of 3 years.

Chief Dan Munsey advised he is honored to be here and represent his fire department. He advised they followed San Francisco's example in becoming an ALA, and that it is important to support the state and make sure their fire fighters are meeting those professional standards. He advised that he would like to recognize Training Captain Bryan James and Captains John Garber and Matthew Anderson.

Andrew Henning advised that for an initial accreditation they need STEAC member as well as one member from California Fire Training Directors Association or training chiefs. He asked that members reach out to Chief Chris Fowler or Deputy Caryn Petty if they are interested in going.

Motion:	<i>Brent Davidson moved to accept the motion. Randy Collins seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery

FSTEP Fire Control 3 Curriculum (2018)

Presenter: Kevin Conant

Attachment: 5

John Binaski advised he received several comments and concerns on skills exercise 4, item 2, which is gas cooling. He advised that most have a combination nozzle and are unsure how to select the required setting. He advised he reached out to some cadre members and they would like to see this item back. They still want to touch base on the rollout courses and surveys and would like to discuss changes before action is taken.

Kevin Conant advised that they try to select subject matter experts that represent the stakeholders to serve on the cadre. He asked members of STEAC to respond with two questions when approached with concerns about the curriculum. He advised to ask if they have spoken to the curriculum cadre lead about the issue, and ask what their response was if they had spoken with them. He advised that members of STEAC had reached out to him when this occurred and let him know who had concerns. He advised he spoke with them and let them know it was a simple fix. He stated that they are the customers and we are the staff and we are here to work for them. He advised if they have a dissenting opinion on the curriculum they should write a letter to the chair and then talk to members of STEAC because they represent them. He advised they ran three pilot courses and would like to wait to receive feedback and make reasonable minor adjustments, which can be adjusted easily and quickly. He advised he would appreciate any feedback if you can locate any peer reviewed research on the concept of gas cooling. He advised there is no definition by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) of what is meant so it's up to the interpretation of the cadre members or the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

Bret Davidson advised that he also received phone calls and concerns regarding the cooling and the feedback that hadn't been received yet. He advised he thinks the subject matter experts that were involved in putting that curriculum together would at least like the last look at making that skill optional and a final look at the curriculum with feedback.

Randy Collins asked if this effects the Peer Assessment for Course Equivalency (PACE) review process in place and if fees for the PACE process are being waived for the time being.

K. Conant answered this does not affect the current PACE process, and the fees are waived until Dec 31, 2020.

J. Binaski asked what the requirement is to teach this if you're a current primary or senior. He understands the PACE review, but would like clarification for option B. He asked if you need to take or teach Live Fire Training Fixed Facility.

K. Conant explained if someone hasn't been doing the terminal learning objectives (TLO) and Essential Learning Objectives (ELO) in the new curriculum then they must take the instructor course. Bret Davidson asked if they must submit for PACE to find out if they've been teaching the TLOs and ELOs.

K. Conant answered they can review the new curriculum and if they have been teaching it then they can apply for PACE. If they have not been teaching it then they need to take Instructor Fixed Facility.

Chief Richwine asked how the PACE committee will evaluate the instructors' profile to ensure they meet the TLOs and ELOs. He asked what documentation they must provide. K. Conant advised they describe what the evaluation criteria would be, but it is up to the AHJ.

R. Collins advised this issue was of great concern to California Fire Technology Directors Association (CFTDA), because having staff take three additional courses to continue instructing is a huge burden. He advised his focus was working with K. Conant on a PACE process to make sure it met all the requirements, Job Performance Requirements, and everything in NFPA and I 300 and S 404 Safety Officer. They worked that process out after the last CFTDA meeting in Fresno and subsequently posted it to the CFTDA website and have been encouraging Accredited Regional Training Programs to reference that to see if their staff meet those requirements to have PACE signed off. Matthew Jewett pulled up the CFTDA website and pointed out the six items that are recommended to submit for the Fire Control 3 PACE process.

Brent Stangeland advised they teach C404, not S404, and asked if we can look at adding this.

J. Binaski advised they will table this, make the corrections, meet with the cadre, and bring it back as an action item next meeting.

Andrew Henning advised because this STEAC meeting was pushed out a month, their turnaround time to finalize this is about 30 days. They will do everything they can to hit the April STEAC meeting but because of the short turnaround time it may be difficult.

K. Conant recapped the action items. This includes the inclusion of the C-404, survey to the three pilot class students, and cadre feedback based on the survey results. Two additional items include the dates and the gas cooling.

FF1A - Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness (2020)

Presenter: Caryn Petty/Kevin Conant

Attachment: 6

Kevin Conant advised that they asked stakeholders that run the Fire Fighter 1 academies what they would like included in the next round. They said we must address behavioral health and cancer awareness since it is not included in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He advised this was a tall order because they are so specific and technical, yet there is no textbook to refer to. He advised they are essentially doing research and development, and put out the call for volunteers to be on the curriculum cadre both for cancer awareness and behavioral health. Fortunately, labor was in front of this and had established a behavioral health task force with California Fire Chiefs Association. They had a great body of knowledge and participation from that group, and there are phenomenal cancer awareness subject matter experts in California. He advised the good news is that there is a bunch of research being done on cancer, but the bad news is that it hasn't reached the field. He advised smoke and soot create DNA damage that can cause cancer, and members of this industry are exposed to these. He advised the CA fire service responds 24/7 365, so they want behavioral health training for their members. He advised the presented curriculum and implementation is for the Fire Fighter 1 portion only, and this course plan can also be used for incumbent members.

Caryn Petty advised the initial intent was to roll out course plan as it stands for the 1A awareness level to both the fire academy and as a standalone Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) course, so that people who are outside of the academy can attend. Given some feedback from stakeholders they found that this is important curriculum and they wanted to be sure they did it right and that they have culturally competent instructors. They wanted to be sure the right person was being handed the course plan. There are the standard academy instructor requirements, and they also added the note requiring the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) recognize that specific academy instructor as the right person to deliver the curriculum in the academy. She advised they wanted to be sure the FSTEP course would have a culturally competent instructor. At the next meeting, they will roll out those instructor requirements which will be specific to behavioral health and cancer, which includes an AHJ recommendation that the instructor is qualified to deliver the curriculum. She advised all they are asking for today is recognition of the academy delivery. Randy Collins asked if the intent is to have established criteria for these instructors in the future. C. Petty advised for the FSTEP course they are building what that would look like. It will require peer support, expertise, participation in a peer support program or an injury/illness prevention program in their agency policy development, attendance and continuing education specific to their topic.

Bret Davison asked if you will need to be a registered instructor to teach this as a standalone course. C. Petty answered yes.

Andrew Henning state that per the procedures manual a guest lecturer can deliver less than 10%, so you can bring in a non-State Fire Training (SFT) instructor who is culturally competent to deliver this specific skill set. C. Petty advised they built a strong encouragement into the implementation plan to bring in subject matter experts.

John Binaski asked if you must fill one of the following instructor qualifications. He advised the wording is confusing because you need to fill two requirements.

C. Petty advised that the SFT Ethics course is required for any of those people, whether it be the old or new curriculum. They need to fulfill one from items 1-4, and one from either 5 or 6. She advised they will rewrite this.

K. Conant acknowledged Mike Massone and Mary Murphy as two members of the cadre that are present.

Mike Massone stated he is very proud of what they have done. They are changing the behavioral health in the fire service, which is a necessary change. He advised it was an amazing group that he is very proud to be a part of, and he learned more about cancer than he ever thought he would. This will start the foundation to change the culture in the fire service. He advised they also built a course curriculum for Company Officers regarding how to deal with fire fighter's behavioral health and cancer awareness, and why it's important to have these programs in place. They are asking for buy-in from across the state. The task force includes California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, SFT, California Professional Firefighters, California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee, and California Fire Chiefs Association.

Garreth Harris advised it's about time. He thanked the cadre for their hard work.

Motion:	<i>Garreth Harris moved to accept the motion. Bret Davidson seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

Randy Collins advised he has heard rumor that the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) is considering adopting NFPA 1851. That plays into this and would have huge and profound implications for how we do things in our business.

Bret Davidson advised the fire service is the only industry not required to report their reportable exposures. In any other industry, are mandated to report when employees are exposed to hazardous materials, but in the fire service it's voluntary. He advised because the fire service can't easily measure the chemicals or always know what they are it has been difficult. There has been a push at the federal OSHA level to force the fire service to become a mandated reporter.

Chief Fire Officer 3D Curriculum Update
Presenter: Mark Bisbee/Kevin Conant
Attachment: 7

Mark Bisbee advised this is the second time this has come before STEAC. Some of the reasons they have updated Chief Fire Officer 3D is that they received stakeholder input

that the number of hours was inadequate. At the Company Officer level, they have two 40 hour courses; one for wildland and one in general commanding incidents. In comparison, the Chief Officer class is only 24 hours so there was simply not enough time for the sets and reps needed to get people incident command practice. There was also lack of clarity on what appropriate level of incident command we were shooting for with that curriculum, and it was a little fuzzy because of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1051 and 1021 that were embedded. He advised they got a cadre together and tackled some of these issues. The cadre recommended going from 21 hours to 40 to allow more time for incident commander practice, and they aligned it for type 3 level incidents. An advantage is that they will be able to cross certify this course to be in align with S-300 Extended Attack Incident Commander. The course also went to an All-Hazards approach. This allows them in the future to create 3-day Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) courses that then would be completely risk specific without repeating the command information again so that you can get into two days of specific tactics and one day of practice.

Bret Davidson asked if they will be moving the old Commander 2C course into a 3-day high rise course. M. Bisbee advised they would require the Chief Fire Officer 3D as prerequisite so that everybody is at that level, so they could truncate and shorten it to give more time for practice.

A. Henning advised they will be updating the Chief Fire Officer track to align with the new addition of NFPA 1021. He advised they have talked about requiring one or two elective courses. It is a thought right now that will get kicked to a cadre, and if they will require these electives you will be able to choose one of these five courses, or they can leave them as optional FSTEP courses.

Motion: *Randy Collins moved to accept the motion. Don Lacy seconded the motion.*

Action: *All members voted unanimously.*

State Certified Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Curriculum
Presenter: Chris Fowler, Mark Bisbee
Attachment: 8

Chris Fowler advised they received direction in Senate Bill 1260 to develop a curriculum and continuing education requirement that results in certification for Prescribed Fire Burn Boss. This was specific to the prescribed fire community and the cooperators groups, so they had to look at this from the perspective of someone that isn't necessarily involved with the fire service as an employee. She advised the curriculum aligns with federal minimum standards but they don't have an National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard to look to, so they looked at CA-219 and the CAL Fire Prescribed Fire Incident Commander Curriculum that's in development and created this 40-hour course plan and an 8-hour continuing education course. She advised it develops the skills for planning and managing prescribed fire on state and private lands. They can bring in non-profit prescribed fire organizations, land owners, and those with a special interest in fire ecology and range improvement. They realized that they must develop a Peer Assessment for Course Equivalency (PACE) review process to bring in instructors, and there is a specific population of persons very experienced in prescribed

fire. She advised that they developed a new PACE 6 specific to Burn Boss that will be reviewed in house by herself and Mark Bisbee, who were co-leads for the cadre. She advised the cadre was a phenomenal group to work with composed of university professors, the nature conservancy, Cal Fire, local government, and independent consultants. She advised that they created the curriculum and taught it to themselves in a small pilot group to get feedback and used this in their validation last September. She advised they received a letter from Patrick Schreffler voicing concerns on allowing S-290 to be taken online. She advised the online course is an option for those not involved in the fire service because the class is for a burn boss position, not someone who is on a firing assignment. The applicant will come to the program with lots of career experience and will understand fuels, weather, and topography. The S-290 course is 40 hours, which is a lot for the prescribed fire community, so they want to provide options for prerequisite education to make this palatable to the non-fire service community.

Bret Black asked if the online S-290 is the same self-paced course they are all familiar with the last few years. C. Fowler answered yes. She advised they recommend the in-person course, but don't see how they can force people to take a 40-hour in-person course that may not be pertinent to their career.

Bret Davidson advised whenever this class has come up as a curriculum or prerequisite they have always struck down the online version. He stated that there is a window of fuel moisture for burning, whether it is prescribed or not. Unless they are getting the hands-on experience in the curriculum directly then they need to get that in the class.

C. Fowler advised there is information on the course plan related to the firing requirements under the prerequisites that states what is required. A qualified firing burn boss through National Wildfire Coordinating Group or equivalent experience and one of the following courses: S-219, CA-219, C-234, or S-234. B. Davidson advised it is very beneficial for them to have an in-person class if they come from the agricultural side and not the fire service.

C. Fowler advised if this is a recommendation STEAC would like to take forward then SFT can require the in-person course.

M. Bisbee mentioned that the burner must pull a permit from CAL Fire before burning, so there are checks and balances.

C. Fowler advised the standard for S-290 could be flexible because of the difficulty in obtaining the education for the private cooperator. The senate bill was created to provide a path for non-fire service personnel, so they used the federal standards as the baseline. She advised in unit 3 of the curriculum they do have weather factors, fuel factors, and fuel moisture which is all covered in the Essential Learning Objectives and Terminal Learning Objectives in that section. In developing the burn plan, they must create all their risk management considerations and their go/no-go checklist as part of the course. She advised they will need the information from S-290, and if they can't apply it appropriately the instructor must give them additional instruction or send them in for an in-person class.

Ann Rosales asked if there are activities in the course plan in which they must “sling” in order to read the weather. C. Fowler answered no, it is up to the instructor. If we want to add this as an activity, we can.

B. Davidson advised other than the wildland portion of Fire Fighter 1 and the S-290 curriculum he knows of no other curriculum in the federal system in which they teach “slinging” the weather. He advised if they don’t get it from one of those two means he would say they must have it as part of the curriculum or must have it as a prerequisite.

B. Black advised it is more than just weather, it is also having a separate set of eyes teaching somebody. This is a civilian that we are teaching to be a fire fighter. The full class validates their experience for this high risk, low frequency curriculum we are teaching.

Don Lacy stated that the S-290 course is huge and contains a lot of information. He would like to stick to the in-person delivery. Kevin Conant advised there is no way to evaluate what someone has learned in terms of the demonstration in an online turnout. John Bagala advised being consistent is important, so being less restrictive is a mistake.

Brent Stangeland stated it sounds like STEAC is in alignment that the online delivery is not a good idea, and a task book may also be a good idea. C. Fowler asked for a show of hands to change the in-person S-290 course from recommended to required. (Yes). Would we like to see it in the task book as well? (Yes).

Andrew Henning advised this must be implemented on or before Jan 1, 2021. SFT will not roll the curriculum out until it has been approved by both STEAC and State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) and has been moved through the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), so the implementation plan will probably be revised to say Jan 1, 2021. If it looks like they will meet the time crunch of July 1, 2020 then they will move it through and make the package which allows them to temporarily implement what STEAC and SBFS has adopted and then go back through the normal OAL process.

VIII. State Fire Training Updates

A. State Fire Training (SFT) Fee Adjustment Update Presenter: Andrew Henning

Andrew Henning advised for the SFT fee adjustment they are still going through the internal CAL Fire approval process for their Office of Administrative Law (OAL) package before it is submitted to OAL. He advised it looks like they can still make the July 1, 2020 date, but there are moving pieces that could delay implementation to the backup date of January 1, 2021.

Matthew Jewett wanted to bring an awareness to the challenges this brings for the community colleges. He advised at his college 70-80% of the students are financially challenged and have trouble paying for the current fees. He advised some of the Vision for Success goals in the state and the college is to increase diversity and access for those populations and increasing the Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) fees over 300% will create a barrier for those students. He advised Randy

Collins is trying to spearhead getting SFT funded. He advised they need support in getting this pushed up. He passed around a resolution that they have created. He stated their mission is to get their communities lifted and supported into careers, and he is worried only students with good financial support will be able to pay for these programs. He advised with the Vision for Success program they are funded based on how many of those students access the program, so it also impacts the funding of the program and their ability to offer these programs.

John Binaski advised many groups have discussed this many times and they have never found anyone at the legislature willing to champion their cause to get general funding. He explained SFT must raise the fees to continue operating, and one of the reasons the fee increase may seem large is because they are not raised fees very often and instead raised in increments of 10 or 12 years.

Chief Richwine voiced his concern about the price point for fire service training. He advised we will reach a point where we are going to lose participants because of the cost, however they have no other choice. In the past SFT could move money around within their program, but with the new accounting system SFT can't. He explained that when SFT moved from the Department of Education (DOE), the funding stayed with the DOE and the direction from the governor was that if the fire service wants a training and education system they must pay for it. He advised we have evolved over these years, and we have a structural deficit in SFT that is now limiting our ability to deliver quality training to the fire service. He advised another concern is that when you discuss using general fund money for SFT is there is a risk that the Legislative Analyst's Office does an analysis of where we're funding training in the state and recognizes they're funding community colleges, an apprenticeship program, and a state agency to deliver training. They may say one or two of these needs to go. He advised he is not undermining any efforts but rather just sharing the risks and his experience.

M. Jewett advised he appreciates the due diligence that Chief Henning and staff have done on the report, and that he realizes the fee increase needs to happen to keep the doors open. He advised they support the fee changes, but also want to help SFT get general funding.

David Sprague asked about the possibility of following the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) model. J. Binaski advised the POST model is not working right now.

Chief Coleman mentioned in the early 1960s a law was created that models the POST program. It allowed a certain percentage of fire code violations that were administered by a local judge to be directed to SFT. In the first year of its existence it made less than \$100 because fire departments historically lack the enforcement arm that generates that kind of revenue. The general format from those early days was that you had to make something self-sustaining.

Don Lacy stated he thinks everyone is doing a great job. This is his first time at one of these meetings and he is pleased with his interactions with everyone.

B. SFT Psychomotor Skills Evaluator

Presenter: Andrew Henning

Attachment: 9

Andrew Henning advised when they rolled out the new January 2019 edition of the Procedures Manual that was implemented on July 1, 2019, one of the requirements for a psychomotor skills evaluator is that you had to be certified for the level at which you are evaluating. When SFT originally rolled out the Fire Fighter 1 skills test they didn't require you to have a Fire Fighter 1 certification. He advised they have delayed the implementation of what the 2019 Procedure Manual said, so starting July 1, 2020 to be a registered skills evaluator for Fire Fighter 1 you will need to have your Fire Fighter 1 certification. They have administratively added anyone who is currently a registered Fire Fighter 1 skills evaluator who has a Fire Fighter II certification in Acadis and issued them their Fire Fighter II skills evaluator.

As of January 1, 2019, SFT currently has 1286 Fire Fighter 1 skills evaluators and 1091 Fire Fighter 2 skills evaluators. As for registered lead evaluators for Fire Fighter 1 they have 640 and for Fire Fighter 2 they have 538.

Randy Collins asked if there will be historical recognition if someone already has a skills evaluator letter and doesn't have Fire Fighter 1 or Fire Fighter 2. A. Henning answered if your registered before July 1, 2020 as a Fire Fighter I skills evaluator you will stay as a Fire Fighter I skills evaluator and to become a Fire Fighter 2 skills evaluator you must show you have your Fire Fighter II certification. For a new person applying to be a Fire Fighter I or Fire Fighter 2 skills evaluator on or after July 1, 2020 they must have the Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 certification.

C. Title 19 Update

Presenter: Andrew Henning

A. Henning advised the small fee package that had the new 2019 Fire Fighter 1 fees moved through the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). This comes with the built-in Fire Fighter 1 certification with International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and online testing for one fee of \$150. He advised there was a change to the disciplinary appeals process, which previously said the Assistant State Fire Marshal (ASFM) is the first level of appeal. The change gives them the ability to delegate the ASFM to someone else if the post was vacated for any reason or if they were unavailable to do the hearing. He advised they will also be able to designate an alternate for the State Fire Marshal if it makes it to the last appeal. This went into effect with OAL in early January.

IX. Announcements/Correspondence

No Report

X. Future Meeting Dates

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020 and October 9, 2020

XI. Roundtable

Presenter: Chief John Binaski

Andrew Henning acknowledged deputy US Fire Administrator Chief Tonya Hoover as being present and asked her to provide a quick update on the National Fire Academy (NFA).

T. Hoover thanked A. Henning and introduced herself as the new deputy United States Fire Administrator and the superintendent of the National Fire Academy in California. She advised that the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has expanded their involvement in raising the level of awareness in America's wildland urban interface challenge. They have engaged with science and technology, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has become fully engaged as well. She advised they will engage in the next America Burning and see where we are, where we've been, and where we're going. She advised it is a statutory informational document so from that report to congress she is sure there will be some engaging across the nation. She advised they also just released the contract for an America Burning WUI report? Which is an awareness level document since it is not statutorily mandated. She advised they have been working with FEMA on the Incident Management Team (IMT) 3 training and information. She advised the IMT Training piece that USFA was involved in developing with FEMA and their State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) partners were sitting within national fire programs. They are now looking at bringing that over to the NFA and having the NFA potentially be the lead on that. She advised she doesn't want to bring on an unfunded mandate or take it on without the appropriate staff levels to be able to support it long term, which is something she learned from STEAC. She advised there is lots of items going on for local fire for SLTT partners in their outreach materials. There is a wide variety of materials that are free to the fire service around the country that can be manipulated to local government needs. She advised if you're interested to contact their national fire programs. She advised they are pushing with everybody to make sure that the fire service is fully engaged with National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and understands what NFIRS is and isn't, and how to use that to better tell the story of the fire nation's fire service. She advised the American Counsel of Education came to visit the NFA end of last year and they are happy to report 43 out of 156 plus courses that they deliver at the NFA went through for their college credit recommendations. She advised about 3 courses get lower level college credits attached to them, and most of the courses at the NFA get upper level college credit recognition. She advised the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program has gone through a complete revision. While it was previously a 4-year program with 4 separate courses delivering papers after each session, it is now a 24-month intensive mediated online and residency program. You will come to the NFA campus twice a year and when you're not on campus you will be engaged with at least two courses of mediated work. During the 24 months, you'll be required to work on a capstone paper. Their first cohort started in December and they

will be on campus in March. She advised the application period for the EFO is now open and will close on April 15, 2020. She advised she was encouraged by the conversation on behavioral health and safety. She advised every piece of their curriculum has a health and safety component in it. In that delivery area, the NFA just saw an increased participation of 300% last year. She advised health and safety is important and it is critical that the fire service recognizes that. She advised their community risk reduction has gone through an update, along with their fire prevention both technical and their management series. She advised they have also seen several changes within their command coordination series. Managing officer will go through a remapping after they have completed the EFO. She advised it is a 2-year program with 4 courses and a paper delivery at the end, and she imagines it may go through a reboot like EFO. She advised SFT grants will be returning. They are about ready to push their notice of information out to allow state training directors to access \$20,000 per state. She advised to do that they had to readjust some of their priorities since they were mandated to provide the required funding but the funding didn't come from that budget. The note will go out and the state training directors will have access to it and will be able to review the reporting requirements and access the money to deliver NFA courses to people in their states. She advised Fire Investigation went through a complete rewrite. They are also looking at other ways of delivering courses, which includes mediated online delivery. They have also started a franchise program, so if a local government or state wants to host a NFA class they can fund the NFA instructors and receive the NFA college recommendation certificate. They will provide a list of instructors that you can hire and the class is taught like it would be on campus, which sounds like the SFT model. She advised they are getting a lot of interest from states around the country, and if your regions are interested please reach out. They have 6 day classes going to 5 day classes, and they also have two national state weekends for people to come into the campus to get a great education and a free place to stay if they buy a meal ticket and find their way there. She advised they tried it for the first time at a national level last year and had 25 states participate. She advised they have now gone to multimedia Coffee Breaks. She advised they just closed the application period for the deputy superintendent. Dr. Keefer was planning to retire sometime the end of the year but will probably retire in March or April instead, as he has offered to stay on until they get the new deputy superintendent. She asked that you go see her if you know anybody interested in being the NFA superintendent. She advised they are also always looking for instructors.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.
