



# STEAC Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2021 – Teleconference Meeting

## I. Introductions and Welcome

### Members Present

John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters  
David Baldwin, FIRESCOPE  
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities  
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
John Binaski, STEAC Committee Chair  
Taral Brideau, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee  
Tom Carlisle, California State Fire Fighters Association  
Bret Davidson, Co-Chair, So Cal Training Officers  
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE Training Center  
Stephen Gutierrez, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs  
Darren Hall, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Gareth Harris, Fire District Association of California  
Andrew Kibby, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South) (alternate)  
Javier Lara, Cal OES (alternate)  
Brian Marshall, CAL OES  
Kirk Noffsinger, Nor Cal Training Officer  
Gaudenz Panholzer, California Fire Chiefs Association  
Ken Sebastiani, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Brent Stangeland, CAL FIRE  
Rich Thomas, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)  
Gail Warner, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
David Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association

### Members Absent

Sam Hoffman, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)  
Donavan Lacy, Nor Cal Training Officers (alternate)  
Ann Rosales, CAL FIRE Training Center (alternate)  
Rob Wheatley, CAL FIRE (alternate)

### State Fire Training Staff

Mark Bisbee, SFT, Training Specialist  
Brandon Erickson, SFT  
Kristahna Fiattarone, SFT  
Chris Fowler, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal Supervisor

Andrew Henning, SFT Division Chief  
Derek Lueth, SFT  
Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)  
Kris Rose, Staff Services Manager I

## **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by John Binaski.

## **Roll Call/Quorum Established**

A quorum was established during introductions.

## **Member Appointment/Reappointment**

John Bagala – CPF – Member Reappointment

Rich Thomas – CPF – Alternate Reappointment

## **II. Agenda Review**

**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

Chris Fowler stated that Mark Bisbee asked to move up his presentation, Item VII B.

John Binaski approved.

## **III. Approval of the January 8, 2021 Minutes**

**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Gaudenz Panholzer moved to accept the minutes from January 8, 2021. Gail Warner seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

## **IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

Chris Fowler stated that SBFS met on March 4, 2021. There were two new Accredited Learning Academies and five academy reaccreditations approved, as well as the State Fire Training (SFT) updates for the Skills Coach recommended ratios and the Fire Investigator corequisite.

## V. Consent Items

### **A. Glendale Fire Department (ALA) Reaccreditation**

**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

**Attachment: 1**

Caryn Petty stated that the site visit took place on April 1, 2021. She stated that they are up for their first reaccreditation. They serve a uniquely diverse community in the Southern region and provide a robust training program bolstered by active recruitment and outreach. She advised that there is a recommendation for facility expansion. They offer comprehensive training focused on relevant and timely techniques. They are a reliable SFT participant with eager intention to increase their participation and have a great training cadre in place. SFT recommends reaccreditation for 5 years.

Ed Foster stated that it is great to partner with the state to provide a formatted curriculum to the individuals in their fire department in a responsible way. He stated that it has been nice to partner with Burbank and Pasadena Fire Department and the Verdugo Fire Academy to create a more regional approach to what they do. He is looking forward to working with C. Petty. She provided accessibility and a process to follow. He thanked C. Petty.

### **B. Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy (ARTP) Reaccreditation**

**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

**Attachment: 2**

Caryn Petty stated that a site visit took place on September 18, 2020. They were provided a 6-month accreditation extension for delivery of a purchased training tower, which is a requirement of an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP). They provide an affordable and well-rounded training program. They serve the needs of the region by providing various SFT courses and have a strong devotion to student development. They have an innovative statewide leadership role as an ARTP and are an excellent SFT partner. They worked closely with SFT during the Covid-19 pandemic to seamlessly deliver courses online. SFT recommends a reaccreditation period of 4 ½ years.

Brad Deeds thanked SFT and C. Petty. He stated that the reaccreditation process was helpful for them to address areas of growth for their academy. They appreciate the 6-month extension, as construction and delivery of their training tower took longer than expected due to Covid-19. He thanked their current and former coordinators for setting up such a tremendous program and academy.

Kileigh Labrado thanked C. Petty for all her help and guidance. She stated that her passion and professionalism made it easier to complete the reaccreditation.

Chief Terry Hughes advised that without C. Petty, and the path that she helped them get, they wouldn't be where they are now. It has helped them tremendously to move forward.

**C. Solano Community College (ARTP) Reaccreditation**

**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

**Attachment: 3**

Caryn Petty stated that a site visit took place on November 20, 2020. They provide a well-rounded training program focused on serving the community, with outstanding focus on outreach and recruitment for the underserved populations. They are an excellent neighboring partner attending to the regional students and agencies. They worked closely with SFT during Covid-19 and are an excellent correspondent with SFT. SFT recommends a reaccreditation period of 5 years.

Brian Preciado thanked C. Petty for her assistance and responsiveness. He stated that they had a unique year; they had changed to another local department for partnership and it worked seamlessly. They are happy with this partnership and being able to move with C. Petty's assistance.

**Motion:** *Gareth Harris moved to accept consent items A-C. Gaudenz Panholzer seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

**D. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Course Updates**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

**Attachment: 4**

Chris Fowler stated that SFT identified several NWCG courses that had either been retired or had not been delivered by SFT since 2015. She advised that SFT made several updates to the Course Information and Required Materials Manual (CIRM), and those proposed courses and retirements are listed in the staff report and will be implemented on July 1, 2021.

Stephen Gutierrez requested that the retirement of S-420 be put on hold because his agency uses it.

C. Fowler advised that the course can still be delivered, it just won't be provided with a SFT diploma.

John Binaski asked if we want to maintain it as an SFT course, since it has not been registered with SFT since 2014.

Andrew Henning advised that he is more than happy to keep it, since there is no added cost to SFT.

**Motion:** *Stephen Gutierrez moved to accept the motion, with the exclusion of the S-420 retirement. Gail Warner seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

## VI. Curriculum Development & Delivery

### A. Fire Fighter Certification Exam Simulation Provision

**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

**Attachment: 5**

Caryn Petty stated that the certification exam processes have been expanded to allow the simulation of select skills. In July 2020, SFT staff introduced the Alternate Psychomotor Skill Evaluation, intended to alleviate costs associated with personnel scheduling and additional equipment acquisition, by allowing for the delivery of certain skills at the completion of a Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) course. She advised that the instructor of record shall not be the evaluator for the certification exam, so the intent for this alternate delivery failed to reduce costs. They decided to extend the simulation provision in place for Fire Control 3 to include Fire Fighter 2A skills 3-1, 3-2, and 4-1. She advised that you must complete the FSTEP course to be provided the availability of simulation on exam day. She thanked Rod Temple for participating free of charge as a support to SFT. She thanked the CAL FIRE Training Center for serving as a gracious host.

Stephen Gutierrez voiced concerns that the provisional changes to the Fire Fighter 1 (FF1) and Fire Fighter 2 (FF2) curriculum impact the Accredited Local Academies (ALA) significantly, especially Metro departments. He advised that although they can be beneficial, there should be further discussion vetting out the impacts on ALAs before being carried out. He advised that staffing and budget make it difficult to implement some changes.

C. Petty clarified that the three additional skills serve as FF2A random skills, and the mandatory skills that exist on every FF2 exam will remain. This prevents incurring excess costs if the random skill is drawn.

S. Gutierrez stated that it is written as a full course delivery. They have discussed challenges at a Metropolitan Fire Chiefs meeting, and they want to be FF1 and FF2 certified at academies but changes are challenging.

C. Petty clarified that you don't need to deliver it as a full course. It can be delivered as a standalone skill.

Andrew Henning offered to bring the steering committee together to discuss these thoughts.

John Binaski reiterated that this was brought about by SFT to help reduce costs. For Pro Board and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) certification they must complete and test those skills, so there isn't much flexibility on how they draw or test the skills. He asked S. Gutierrez for a memo to provide to SFT regarding the concerns of the LA Metros and how economic relief can be accommodated while maintaining IFSAC/Pro Board.

A. Henning stated that the certification is a requirement for IFSAC/Pro Board and meets the capstone testing recommended in Blueprint 2020. He stated that SFT must be able to test all the skills portions listed in the JPRs. The cadre determined the required and random skills, and number of random skills, for the FF2 testing. He stated that we don't need to test every skill but we must have the ability. This agenda item will be brought back to the July 2021

**B. Rope Rescue/Rescue Systems/River & Flood Rescue/Structural Collapse Update**

**Presenter: Chris Fowler**

**Attachment: 6**

Chris Fowler stated that the cadre was delayed due to Covid-19 and they are seeing unintended consequences from the Rope Rescue December 2021 retirement of modules 1 and 3. Due to the course complexities of Structural Collapse, the cadre leads and technical editors have recommended that the cadre meet in person. She advised that their intent is to meet in May/June and then again in October/November. An updated implementation plan has been attached with the staff report, adjusting the retirement date for module 1 and 3 to a future date yet to be determined.

Ken Sebastiani asked if this will affect Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (LARRO).

Andrew Henning answered that LARRO will be staying in the SFT catalog as a Legacy course. There is the option to teach LARRO or the new curriculum, but the instructors need to become a registered instructor for the new course.

Mike Richwine thanked John Binaski and the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) members for their participation. He acknowledged great progress on FESHE and national accreditation. He stated that they have made tremendous progress on the goals and objectives in Blueprint 2020, so it may be time to start thinking of a rewrite. He thanked A. Henning, Chris Fowler, Kris Rose, and Caryn Petty for their assistance and guidance in keeping things moving forward.

## **VII. State Fire Training Updates**

**A. Title 19 Update**

**Presenter: Caryn Petty**

Caryn Petty stated that the Burn Boss Title 19 procedure manual update has been finalized and is now in effect. The procedures manual and Title 19 for 2021 are currently under revision following the stakeholder workshop earlier this year. There was great input received from stakeholders statewide and this was an opportunity for them to view intended changes and provide feedback. The procedures manual and Title 19 are both moving forward and there should be an E-News blast this summer inviting participation in the public comment period. She encouraged everyone to view it and give feedback during the public comment period.

Chris Fowler advised that SFT will be requiring payment prior to processing courses for non-Accredited Local Academy (ALA) and Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) stakeholders. This language will be included in the procedures manual update. She explained that this will allow SFT to function with maximum efficiency and maintain budget resources and operational needs. As the implementation draws closer SFT will be very forthcoming with information on how that will work.

John Binaski stated that there is still a tremendous amount of money on the books that SFT is trying to collect, which uses staff time and resources. He advised there is difficulty collecting from some hosts, but ALAs and ARTPs want to stay accredited so there is less difficulty collecting from them. He stated that this will keep things efficient.

## **B. Fire & Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Update**

**Presenter: Mark Bisbee**

**Attachment: 7**

Mark Bisbee stated that the Pathways program guidance is based on Blueprint 2020. He stated that the California Fire Tech Directors Association (CFTDA) has approved a Company Officer AS degree through the Chancellor's Office. Phase 1 for the higher education piece was completed in 2019 when the Chief Fire Officer Courses were bundled and embedded into Humboldt State's Bachelors of Leadership Studies online program, with those courses being the only in-person classes. He advised that they are currently working on Phase 2, which is to take the Executive Chief Fire Officer curriculum from SFT and run it through the American Council on Education, who uses a mutual 3<sup>rd</sup> party to evaluate the curriculum to determine if it meets the academic rigor needed for a graduate level course. They have been working with Cal State Dominguez Hills South to attach those as electives to their existing online Masters of Public Administration program. He stated that they are working with the CAL FIRE Training Center as a joint operation. He stated that Phase 3 would consist of forming a virtual or brick-and-mortar center of excellence, which is currently represented through the California FESHE Consortium involved with CFTDA and 8 California State University (CSU) campuses through the Chancellor's Office of Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE). The CSU FESHE Consortium has developed four subgroups; one is to look at modeled standardized curriculum for higher education so that there is consistency and standardization throughout any CSU campus that may offer those courses.

The second subcommittee is a credit for prior learning and a prior learning assessment subcommittee. This pertains to those who may have taken many courses that want to petition for upper division or graduate credit. The third subcommittee is focused on a center of excellence for the CA fire service, as well as funding and advocacy for the CA fire service in terms of higher education programs. He advised that they have identified a broad group constituents for this program, including professional in-service people. The second group is pre-service who are seeking a career in the fire service. The third group is to develop the fire scientists' research. He proposed that STEAC form a subcommittee to focus on FESHE, look at current workforce needs, forecast future workforce needs, and determine what national FESHE curriculum needs to be adopted or modified to meet California's needs. He stated that the community colleges have

already done this at the lower level, but this hasn't been done at the bachelor's or master's level.

John Binaski stated that the pandemic has shown that online learning can occur quite well. He mentioned that Bi-City has a lucrative tuition reimbursement program that he would love to see CSUs participate in. He advised that a subcommittee of maybe 5 people can easily be done.

Taral Brideau asked if the blue college names on Attachment 7 are existing or proposed. M. Bisbee answered that the colleges listed are existing programs.

Bret Davidson acknowledged that this is a great new step. He asked if there is resistance from the CSU's chancellor's office because of the money being spent. M. Bisbee answered that this is part of the university and under their self-support system. It would be supported through student fees and stand on its own.

John Binaski asked who would like to be on the ad hoc committee.

Taral Brideau, Richard Beckman, Gareth Harris, Cat Frazer, Gaudenz Panholzer, and Kirk Noffsinger volunteered.

Darren Hall asked about FESHE structure.

M. Bisbee recommended looking at their latest iteration and then how California can model.

### **C. NFPA Update**

**Presenter: Andrew Henning**

Andrew Henning introduced Ray Bizal, the director of the regional operations for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He stated that he will be giving a presentation on how the NFPA development process works, as well as how the CA fire service can participate. He advised that this is the back bone for everything SFT does with the California Fire Service Training and Education System track. They use the NFPA professional qualifications and standards to set the baseline for their curriculum training standards and merge those with their course plans. They then use the professional qualification standards to develop the certification task books and cognitive certification exam bank, as well as the skills exam. He stated that they don't have much CA representation in the technical committees or to propose changes to the standards. R. Bizal thanked A. Henning for the opportunity to meet with STEAC. He advised that there is much that STEAC and SFT need to be aware of, including knowing how to get involved with these national standards. He gave a background on NFPA. Today NFPA is a global not-for-profit organization with membership of around 70,000 people worldwide. They self-fund the development of their codes and standards. He shared their vision: "We are the leading global advocate for the elimination of death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards." They are a mission driven organization, with their mission being that they help save lives and reduce loss with information, knowledge, and passion. He explained that there is 3 or 5-year basis for updating standards, audited by the American National Standards Institute.



He reviewed the NFPA Process and technical committees. He provided an overview of the 5 groups of NFPA standards to be consolidated, found on [www.NFPA.org/ERRS](http://www.NFPA.org/ERRS). He explained that every NFPA standard has its own webpage.

## **VIII. Future Meeting Dates**

### **A. July 9, 2021 & October 8, 2021**

**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

## **IX. Roundtable**

**Presenter: Chief John Binaski**

Gail Warner asked if there has been a consideration of offering Zoom to participants as in-person meetings return. John Binaski stated that he is cost conscious and he hopes we can provide the opportunity to participate either in-person or through Zoom to avoid long travel. Andrew Henning stated that he thinks the virtual meetings will be here to stay, but we will need to verify. He advised that the state is adjusting from an office centric employee to a telework centric employee. He asked if there are concerns transitioning from Zoom to Teams.

John Bagala shared that in 2014 the National Labor College closed their doors and never reopened. He advised that they are trying to pull together a labor consortium with the advanced education that is out there. They are hoping to put together a meeting to increase conversation between the Harvard training program, UC Berkeley Labor Studies program, Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, Cornell University Industrial and Labor Relations program, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst Labor Center. He shared that he is working with those agencies to streamline curriculum and get everyone working cooperatively.

## **X. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.