

## **STEAC 1\15, 2009 Meeting Report for CFTDA 2\17-18, 2009 Meeting**

(State Training & Education Advisory Committee)

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/Training/training.php>

[http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/advisorycommittees/advisorycommittees\\_steac.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/advisorycommittees/advisorycommittees_steac.php)

**Training Instructor 1A & 1B** – several members requested that STEAC re-consider the Instructor-Student ratio that recently changed from 25-1 to 25-1 for Lecture and two instructors for applied sections of the class when the number of students exceed 16. The additional cost for the second instructor and cap of 25 students in the class makes it difficult for some community colleges to afford to put these classes on. It was suggested that the cap on the class be raised to 32 to allow them to be affordable.

While STEAC did not take any action on this request, several observations and recommendations were made:

First, these standards have been fully vetted and adopted reflecting the input made by parties interested in these standards. While the previous policy only identified a cap of 25 students in these classes, Staff stated that the Instructor-Student Ratio of 16-1 for applied portions of these classes have previously been the requirement in practice. Thus there has not been a change in this aspect of the requirements.

While it was acknowledged that the impact of change, such as the Instructor-Student Ratios, often does not reveal itself until the change is implemented. Because these changes were adopted when policies and procedures were administrative rather than regulation, identifying changes were more difficult. As regulations, changes in the future will provide the *strikeout*italics required by the Office of Administrative Law for all proposed changes in regulation.

- **STEAC recommends that input is most effectively reflected in the development\ change in policies and procedures during the comment period.**
- **STEAC agreed to reconsider the issue and recommendation to increase the class to a Cap of 32 with supporting documentation of the fiscal impact on the community colleges. STEAC asked that the Community Colleges with a negative fiscal impact provide due to this change, provide a fiscal analysis of its impact supporting their assertion.**

Another issue was the change in the Instructor series that moved the content historically in Fire Instructor 1A to Training Instructor 1B and the content historically in Fire Instructor 1B to Training Instructor 1A. For an explanation on how to accommodate this change for students who have already taken either Fire Instructor 1A and Fire Instructor 1B see *Important Changes to Fire Instructor Certification & Master Instructor Registration* below.

### **Important Changes to Fire Instructor Certification & Master Instructor Registration**

Fireline Fall 2008 (Special Notice) - <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/Training/pdf/Firelinefall2008.pdf>

**Q: Who is affected?**

**A: Anyone currently attending or planning to attend instructor training, especially for the purposes of Fire Instructor, Training Instructor, or Fire Officer Certification and/or anyone applying to teach the Instructor series of courses.**

State Fire Training (SFT) is in the process of an update to the Level 1 Fire Instructor curriculum. New curriculum will be released in January of 2009 and the title will be changed to Training Instructor. Existing Fire Instructor curriculum will be available for delivery through June of 2009.

This will have an impact on anyone attending Fire Instructor/Training Instructor courses for the purposes of certification. The application period for Fire Instructor I Certification will close December 31, 2008. Anyone who submits an application and payment postmarked prior to this date will have until December 31, 2009 to complete the requirements for certification. If certification requirements are not completed by this date, the new requirements (successful completion of Training Instructor 1A, 1B, and 1C) will be required.

We will begin accepting applications for Training Instructor Certification beginning January 1, 2009.

Please pay close attention to the attached chart which shows the combinations of classes that will be accepted for Fire Instructor I, Training Instructor, and Fire Officer Certifications as well as for instructor registration to teach the Instructor series of courses. This is especially important if you're currently in the process of taking courses but have not yet finished.

**Please Note: There have been no changes to the number of courses required for Fire Officer Certification. This change does not affect anyone who has already received their Fire Instructor I and/or Fire Officer Certification.**

Questions? Please contact Kirsten Fonseca (kirsten.fonseca@fire.ca.gov) for certification issues or Sandy Margullis (sandy.margullis@fire.ca.gov) for instructor registration issues.

TRANSITION TIMELINE																														
	2008					2009					2010					2011														
	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Instructor Certification	Fire Instructor I applications close 12/31/08					Training Instructor applications open 1/1/09					Capstone Testing begins Fall of 2009																			
	Instructor I Certification retires 12/31/09																													
Fire Officer Certification	Fire Officer applications can use a combination of instructor classes until new Fire Officer certification standards are released																													
Course Delivery	Instructor 1A and 1B deliveries stop 6/30/09																													
						Training Instructor 1A, 1B, and 1C deliveries start 1/1/09																								
Instructor Registration	Registered Instructor Applications can use a combination of instructor classes until 6/30/11																									Only Training Instructor 1A, 1B, and 1C accepted 7/1/11				
	Master Instructor Applications can use the same combination of classes until 12/31/09										Only Training Instructor 1A, 1B, and 1C accepted starting 1/1/10																			

- 1) Fire Instructor 1A and Fire Instructor 1B
- 2) Fire Instructor 1A and Training Instructor 1A
- 3) Fire Instructor 1B and Training Instructor 1B
- 4) Training Instructor 1A and Training Instructor 1B
- ▶ 1) Fire Instructor 1A and Fire Instructor 1B
- 2) Fire Instructor 1A, Training Instructor 1A, and Training Instructor 1C
- 3) Fire Instructor 1B, Training Instructor 1B, and Training Instructor 1C
- 4) Training Instructor 1A, Training Instructor 1B, and Training Instructor 1C

12/1/2008

**Presentation by ProBoard** – In keeping with Blueprint 20\20 “Goal # 2 – National Professional Development Model” <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/pdf/BP2020finaldraft0108.pdf> to adopt or adhere to national professional development standards, STEAC has adopted the Fire and Emergency Services Higher education (FESHE) National Model of fire service training and education.

In addition, it is considering affiliation with an organization to allow students the benefit of national recognition for reciprocity and interoperability with other states. To this end, both the ProBoard and IFSAC have been invited to make presentations. ProBoard made a presentation at this meeting. Essentially, they would accredit the State Fire Marshal to assure compliance with NFPA Professional Qualifications Standards and provide students meeting these standards with ProBoard Certification. While the CFSTES system and its parts would need to comply with ProBoard requirements, the requirements of the CFSTES program would continue to be used for instruction and assessment.

FYI, the goal of STEAC is to get all California Fire Service Professional (CFSTES) Standards in compliance with NFPA Standards. STEAC has either completed or is in the process of assuring that the CFSTES Certification Training Standards for each position comply with the NFPA Standards for those positions.

STEAC will have a presentation by IFSAC at its April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

After hearing from both national organizations, STEAC will be looking for input on these standards and organizations, and which to affiliate with to best meet the Stakeholders needs. This does not preclude adopting or affiliating with both standards\organizations if deemed appropriate.

For information on the ProBoard go to: <http://www.theproboard.org/default.htm>

For information on the IFSAC go to: <http://www.ifsac.org/>

**On-line Hybrid Delivery Issues\Next Steps** – The On-line\Hybrid Fire Officer classes approved by STEAC at its October 17, 2008 meeting is pending approval by the California State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) and State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan.

In addition, STEAC has formed a sub-committee to develop a policy on how to facilitate the delivery and identify instructor and institution requirements for delivery of online\hybrid classes. Look for a proposed policy (regulation). When a draft of the policy is developed, you will be notified. Your input is essential.

The On-line\Hybrid delivery of the CFSTES Fire Officer classes will NOT be allowed until this policy is implemented.

**Blueprint 20\20 Goal # 1 Quality Improvement** – a STEAC Committee was formed and Retired Fire Chief Jeff Meston has developed draft of a proposed Quality Improvement Program for State Fire Training. The Quality Improvement - October 2008 (Draft) can be downloaded at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/advisorycommittees/pdf/steac/qualityimp1008.pdf> . It is currently seeking input.

**Blueprint 20\20 Goal # 3 Capstone Testing** – a STEAC Committee was formed to develop a standard approach to capstone testing for the various CFSTES positions. While a standard approach to capstone testing is needed, the needs and requirements for each position will be developed by committees specifically dealing with each individual position certifications, e.g. Fire Officer, Chief Officer, Fire Instructor, etc.. For example, the committee that just completed the Fire Instructor Certification standards are developing draft Capstone Testing requirements for each of those positions. When these drafts are developed, your input will be solicited.

**Other Issues** – With Blueprint 20\20 and the change that is inevitable in training and education, several other initiatives are currently underway. In addition to the Capstone Committee and the Online Procedures Committee, some of the other STEAC sub-committees your representatives are involved in include: The Chief Officer Management Course Rewrite Committee and the Fire Officer Course Rewrite Committee.

**The issues involving the recent adoption of the Training Instructor 1A & 1B illustrate a need for greater input on these types of changes and a mechanism for facilitating this input. This topic will be discussed at the next CFTDA Meeting in San Diego 2\17-18, 2009 and a plan developed to facilitate this input.**

Dan Coffman, CFTDA Southern Representative  
David Senior, CFTDA Northern Representative