



Fire Technology Advisory Meeting Notes

Date:

May 29, 2025,

Meeting Place:

Zoom/ In-Person

Called to order: 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Chair(s): Leonard Champion

Note Taker: Justice Miller

Council Members Present: John Ceceña, Leonard Champion, Brad Dandridge (SM), Richard Dykhouse (SBC), AJ Ponce (Cal Fire)

Council Members Absent: Chris Mailes (STB), Mark Hartwig (SBC), Brian Fallon (LCF), Todd Tuggle (SLCF), Daniel McCrain (MBF), David Whitham

Ex-officio Member Present:

Agenda No. 1 Spring & Fall 2025 Academies

- Discussion:**
- Battalion 155: Started with 32, graduated all 32.
 - Battalion 155: 89 applicants total, 32 taken. Battalion 156: 79 application total, 32 taken and currently accepted. New academy starting August 7th. (Fall typically has less demand than Spring semester due to Fire season)
 - Sponsorships of cadets: Need letter from Chief and **will** get into academy. Average cost of academy= \$3,000-3,500. Only requirement is active CPR/First Aid card. Few from Battalion 156 sponsored in upcoming Fall 2025 academy.
 - IFTSA 8th edition: Hoping to make change before new B156 academy.
 - Tattoo Policy: If tattoo is not offensive, thinking of allowing cadets to not have to cover them up. Currently requiring sleeves for arms if tattoos are present. No head, neck, or hand tattoos. Dandridge & Ponce agree that tattoos may be visible if not offensive. Dykehouse states county still must cover tattoos.
 - Application Process: Reviewed current grading rubric. Point based application system, higher the points higher the likely hood of getting in and vice versa.
 - Service Projects: Each Battalion is required to perform a service project throughout the semester. These include and are not limited to: One805; Fill the Boot; Bike Park; Serve SM.
 - Fall Pre-Academy: Next pre-academy (FT 306) held October 23, 24, 25. Currently live and available to register in on our class catalog for Fall 2025. Extremely successful results. Believe last semesters 32 total graduates has direct correlation. Ladders, hose, forced entry, PT, performed on all 3 days of pre-academy, one class per semester.
 - Cuesta Outreach: Currently no fire tech or academy program available at Cuesta college. Leonard Champion went up last semester to discuss our program. Want to make students aware of our program here at AHC.
 - Scholarships/ Donations: SLO Fire Council Scholarship, Metallica Foundation (\$75,000 grants to help students with book fees/PPE/ equipment). Donations from SB county, Montecito, Morro Bay Fire, etc. all GREATLY appreciated.
 - Reaccreditation: 5-year reaccreditation with State Fire Marshall coming up this year. Expecting site visit and formal report.

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility:

Justice

Agenda No. 2 FF1/FF2 Alternate Delivery Firefighters- Champion



- Available to all local Fire Depts.

Action: None

Deadline: None

Responsibility:

None

Agenda No. 6 Round Table

- Discussion:**
- Leonard Champion: Discussed that we have had local chiefs come in and speak to Battalions in the past to discuss with cadets their agency/what they're looking for. Extends invitation to all chiefs to come in and speak. Finds that it greatly inspires the cadets of said Battalion and allows them to see an active duty fire chief.
 - SM Fire: Chief Dandridge explains that contract has been signed with fire fighters. Currently a lot of commercial fires going on in Santa Maria. Suspicion of arson. Encourages local fire fighters to stay safe and rely on their training during these times. Opened engine at station 6 (the airport) that is responding out now. Minimum daily staff is now from 20 to 23. Upped ISO level from 72 to a 83, currently at class 2, 2X.
 - Cecena: Thanks roundtable and local chiefs.
 - Dykhouse: Thanks roundtable and local chiefs.
 - Ponce: Thanks roundtable and local chiefs.

Action: **Next meeting held six months from now. Sometime between October- November.**

Deadline: None

Responsibility:

None