



Fire Technology Program Advisory Meeting – Unadopted Minutes (Monday, December 8, 2025)

Generated by Raechel Otero on Monday, December 8, 2025

1. Call to Order at 12:06 p.m. by Chair, Chief Joseph Bernal

A. Present in Attendance – Roll call

	Mike York	Chief, Brawley Fire Department
X	Juan Contreras	Chief, Calexico Fire Department
	Jesse Llanas	Chief, Calipatria Fire Department
X	Joseph Bernal	Chair, IVC Fire Technology Program Advisory Committee Chief of El Centro Fire Department
	Alex Silva	Chief, Holtville Fire Department
	David Lantzer	Chief, Imperial County Fire Department
	Jose Zaragosa	Acting Chief, Naval Air Station Fire Department
X	Art Yerena	Chief, Calipatria State Prison Fire Department
X	Carlos B. Estrada	Chief, Centinela State Prison Fire Department
	Brandon Walls	American Medical Response
	Justin Pirrie	Present - Fire Academy Student
X	Brett Houser	Interim Dean of Health & Public Safety
X	Robert Malek	Fire Technology & Fire Academy Coordinator
X	Paige Lovitt	Program Counselor
	Tricia Jones	AHA, EMS, FIRE Administrative Assistant *Recorder
X	Esteban Zambrano	PT Instructor, IVC Fire Academy
X	Raechel Otero	Public Safety Administrative Assistant

2. Welcome and Introductions

A. Welcome and Introductions – by Chair, Joseph Bernal

3. Approval of minutes

A. Motion to approve – May 20, 2025

- Motion: Chief Carlos Estrada
- Second: Chief Joseph Bernal
- Motion: Carried

4. Discussion and Information

A. Fire Academy 25-26

- Fire 140 – 29 students completed the course and will move on to Fire 142
- Fire 142 - Orientation for will be on January 5, 2026 (Spring 2026 early start); Chiefs are invited for meet and greet during orientation and can provide speech to students; Malek will send out an email with invite.

B. IVC Course Offerings

- Fire Coordinator, Robert Malek asked for suggestions on courses that can be added to the Fire Academy that would benefit students in the work field; Chief Bernal recommended driver operator course.

- Robert Malek informed the committee that they will be conducting in-house mock interviews with cadets between May-June to better prepare them for future job interviews. He invited the Chiefs and their staff to participate. Chief Bernal and Chief Contreras commended the idea and are interested in participating.
- C. Fire Instructor (CEET Class)
- Robert Malek informed the committee that the Fire Certification Examination Evaluator Training (CEET) Class can be offered here if we can guarantee 25 instructors who would like to be certified.
- D. New Facility Update
- Dean Houser provided update on new facility. The facility will break ground in 2026 and serve as a hub for training.
- E. Donations of equipment or vehicles
- Robert Malek stated any donations of equipment or vehicles from other Fire Departments are welcome that can be used during the Fire Academy.
- F. Student Representative Justine Pirrie
- Student not present; Robert Malek will look into selecting a new student.
5. Next Meeting
- A. Next Meeting – Spring 2026, exact date and time TBA
6. Adjournment at 12:38 p.m. by Chair, Chief Joseph Bernal



Fire Technology Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2025

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Agency	Email	Signature
1 Chief Mike York	Brawley Fire Department	myork@brawley.ca.gov	
2 Chief Juan Contreras	Calexico Fire Department	eainza@calexico.ca.gov	
3 Chief Jesse Llanas	Calipatria Fire Department	j_llanas@calipatria.ca.gov	
4 Chief Joseph Bernal	Fire Technology Advisory Chair, El Centro Fire Department	jbernal@cityofelcentro.org	
5 Chief Alex Silva	Holtville Fire Department	asilva@holtville.ca.gov	
6 Chief David Lantzer	Imperial County Fire	davidlantzer@county.imperial.ca.gov	
7 Chief Jose Zaragoza	(NAF) Naval Air Station Fire Dept	jose.zaragoza.viv@us.navy.mil	
8 Chief Art Yerena	(Prison) Calipatria State Fire-CDCR	art.yerena@cdcr.ca.gov	
9 Chief Carlos B. Estrada	(Prison) Centinella State Fire -CDCR	carlos.estrada@cdcr.ca.gov	
10 Brandon Walls	American Medical Response	brandon.walls@amr.net	
11 Brett Houser	Dean of Health & Public Safety	brett.houser@imperial.edu	
12 Robert Malek	IVC Coordinator for Fire Technology & Fire Academy	robert.malek@imperial.edu	
13 Tricia Jones	AHA, EMS, FIRE	tricia.jones@imperial.edu	
14 Paige Lovitt	Program Counselor	paige.lovitt@imperial.edu	

Guests and Alternates

Name	Agency	Email	Signature
Rachel Chen	IVC - Public Safety		
Whillock	IVC - P/S		
YMOSS	I.V.C.		
ESTEBAN ZAMBRANO			

ESTEBAN, ZAMBRANO@IMPERIAL.CA.GOV