

Office of the State Fire Marshal

National Recognition Update

June 17, 2016

Background

On November 3-4, 2015 The International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and on December 2-3, 2015 the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) conducted peer review site visits at State Fire Training (SFT). These two site visits were conducted by IFSAC and Pro Board to evaluate SFT's application for accreditation and proposed implementation of a Fire Fighter I certification examination process. Both site visits were successful, resulting in both teams recommending full accreditation with no corrective action required on the part of SFT.

As a result of the site team recommendations, both IFSAC and Pro Board accredited SFT for Fire Fighter I at their respective annual conferences; Pro Board on January 15, 2016 and IFSAC on April 30, 2016.

Implementation

After the successful peer review site visits, SFT began moving forward with plans to implement the Fire Fighter I certification examination process on a statewide basis. All Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academies (ALA) were contacted and asked to assist SFT in determining how many lead and skills evaluators would be necessary to implement this program on a statewide basis. Subsequently, SFT began scheduling and delivering the Evaluator Training Course on a statewide basis. To date, approximately 700 fire service professionals have been trained to serve as certification examination evaluators. Additionally, during this time 11 ARTPs and ALAs have begun delivering the Fire Fighter I certification examination to their fire academy participants.

SFT will continue to deliver the Evaluator Training Course throughout 2016 with the goal of having all ARTPs and ALAs delivering the examination process by a yet to be determined date in 2017.

Next Steps

Clearly, there is still work to be accomplished to achieve full implementation of this new program. Two key items that SFT is currently working on are:

1. A reciprocity process for out-of-state fire fighters and DoD fire fighters holding Fire Fighter I Certification with IFSAC and/or Pro Board seals
2. An upgrade process to allow legacy California Fire Fighter I Certification holders to participate in the IFSAC and Pro Board certification programs

SFT is working on these two initiatives, with plans to have both in place by the end of 2016. Information on how these two processes are expected to function can be found in the following FAQ document: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/pdf/Candidate-FAQ.pdf>

Future Program Expansion

SFT recognizes that current California, out-of-state and DoD candidates desire SFT accreditation by IFSAC and Pro Board for more advanced levels of certification. No immediate work plan has been initiated to address this desire. SFT will pursue development of a work plan after the Fire Fighter I certification examination process is fully implemented on a statewide basis.

Questions

Questions on National Recognition should be directed to:

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