



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
State Fire Training Division

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 445-8444
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: October 20, 2011

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee

From: Rodney Slaughter

Subject/Agenda Action Item: CAL EMA Grant Application

Recommended Actions: Information only, no action required

Background Information:

SFT applied for two projects under this years grant application. The first is to fund the development of a Rescue Systems Certification Training Standard workgroup and the second is to fund two more video scenarios for the AAIM project. The following is a description of both grant funded projects.

Rescue Certification Training Standard (\$41,812)

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) has become more complicated with the magnitude and nature of emergencies the fire service is asked to respond to. Skill training for rescue workers has in turn become much more critical as rescue workers try to retain their job skills in an ever uncertain disaster environment.

Through the support and funding from CAL EMA (formerly Office of Homeland Security), State Fire Training has updated the Low Angle Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, along with Rescue Systems 1 and Rescue Systems 2 training programs. Currently, the Fire & Rescue Branch, Special Operations at CAL EMA is in the process completing an Advanced Rope Rescue training program. At the same time, State Fire Training is finalizing the Trench Rescue training program. With the addition of these two new classes, the question of how all of these training programs tie together and if all of the rescue training meets the operational need for CAL EMA, comes into question.

The concept of a Rescue Systems Certification Track was introduced to the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) in February 2006 (see STEAC minutes located at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/advisorycommittees/pdf/steac/Minutes02-17-06.pdf>). The proposal would tie each of the training programs together as prerequisites to one another and/or as elective classes.

Each of the these training programs are predicated on the Standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), regulations adopted and enforced by CAL OSHA as well as standardized training developed and delivered by FEMA. Over time these standards and regulations have been updated and/or have changed. The California rescue training programs now also need to be re-evaluated to reflect current and accurate information.

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To build an effective Rescue Certification Track would require a committee of each of the rescue disciplines to convene and review the NFPA, FEMA and CAL OSHA regulations, training programs and standards. The committee would be comprised of at least one representative from each rescue discipline along with a CAL EMA Fire and Rescue Branch, Special Operations representative and a representative from State Fire Training.

This proposal requests that CAL EMA continue to fund the coordination and development of a Rescue Systems Certification Track for the estimated amount of \$32,000. The funds will be used to write an interagency agreement with the conference and training services of the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). The funds will be used to pay for the travel and per diem expenses of the cadre volunteers. It is estimated that this project will require a minimum of 6 Senior Rescue Instructors along with a representative from State Fire Training and CAL EMA. These 8 people will meet for 4-days each month for 5-months to review and evaluate the standards and regulations governing the rescue discipline. A paid subject matter expert will be retained under the CSUS contract to facilitate the work as a representative of State Fire Training. CSUS will also provide for one staff member from the University to record, document, and post the final draft of the Rescue Certification Training Standard.

AAIM

The AAIM curriculum is intended to strengthen the Incident Management capabilities of all public safety agencies including fire, law enforcement and emergency medical agencies in collaboration with local government, public health, public works, transportation, utility, and business organizations. The AAIM training program will strengthen catastrophic emergency management capabilities through the use of video simulations of significant disasters that require a multi-disciplinary approach to several emergencies within the context of a major catastrophic event.

This training will prepare public safety and non-public safety organizations for their role within the National Incident Management System and their role within the Incident Command System in response to a catastrophic incident. CAL FIRE has identified the need to strengthen its own capabilities with the anticipated retirement of experienced incident commanders and the need to have equally trained and experienced partners in public safety, local government, and non-public safety agencies that may be involved on catastrophic emergencies.

With funding already provided by CAL EMA, the AAIM workgroup has developed a training program that includes: student manual, instructor guide, Powerpoint slide show, along with video scenarios that provide real world disaster information for a transportation, health, and natural disaster (earthquake and flood) emergency. All course materials will be available to instructors nationally via an AAIM Website. The AAIM website is under development with current CAL EMA support and funding through CSU, Chico Instructional Media Center.

The additional video scenarios will be developed with the current interagency agreement State Fire Training has with CSU, Chico Instructional Media Center. The cost of the additional video scenarios will include assistance on script writing, graphic design, on-air talent, editing, some in-state travel and posting to the AAIM web-site. The expense is estimated on a flat rate of \$2,000 a minute for a final edited video of 20 minutes for a total of \$40,000 per video multiplied by two videos for a total estimate of \$80,000.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

This grant and these projects are currently being evaluated by CAL EMA notification of funding is not expected until late spring of 2012. If approved the grant would be effective until January of 2014.