



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Date: July 16, 2012

**To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
c/o State Fire Training
1131 S. Street,
Sacramento, California 95811**

From: Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item: College of the Desert Accreditation

Recommended Actions: Approve as an Accredited Regional Training Program

Background Information: The accreditation site team, Chuck Knapp, STEAC Representative, Tomas Turner, Fire Technology Directors and Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training, interviewed college administrators and members of the fire technology advisory committee regarding the colleges application and self-assessment report for accreditation. The site team toured the campus facilities then reconvened at the fire training center to tour the facility, classrooms, training tower, training props, tools, and equipment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue: There is a lot of support among the college administrators for the fire technology and fire academy training programs at College of the desert. This support is bolstered by an active fire advisory committee and support from the local fire community in terms of resources such as donated equipment and the a supply of qualified SFT instructors. The site team agrees that this facility and meets the State Fire Training standard for accreditation.



California State Fire Training



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College of the Desert Accredited Regional Training Program Site Visit Report

May 9, 2012

Accreditation Team

Chuck Knapp, STEAC Representative
Tomas Turner, Fire Technology Directors
Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training

Executive Summary

The accreditation team recommends that College of the Desert become accredited as a Regional Training Program within the State Fire Training System. The site team met with the college administrators and the Fire Advisory Board on the College of the Desert campus located at 43-500 Monterey Avenue Palm Desert, Ca 92260. The campus serves the Coachella Valley in Riverside County. College of the Desert does not compete with other colleges or campuses in this region.

Program Review

Accreditation team members were provided a copy of the College of the Desert self-assessment report prior to the site visit for review. The site team met with:

Jerry Patton, President College of the Desert,
Farley Herzek, Vice President Academic Affairs,
John Jaramillo, Dean Division of Applied Science and Business,
Chris Madigan, Director Public Safety Academy,
Fire Advisory Committee Members;
Deputy Chief Dorian Cooley, Riverside County Fire,
Chief Scott Ventura, Palm Springs Fire Department,
Chief Bill Soqui, Cathedral City Fire Department,



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Battalion Chief Joel Vela, Riverside County Fire, Training Bureau

The site team was impressed with the level of commitment to the fire academy and fire science programs by the college administration. The program is strengthened even further with the commitment of the local fire agencies in the Palm Desert area along with a strong commitment of resources and instructors from Cal Fire Riverside Unit.

After the site team discussed the application for accreditation with college administrators and members of the fire advisory board they then reconvened at the Roy Wilson Training Fire Training Center located at 72564 Ramon Road in Thousand Palms, CA 92276.

The site team toured the training center facilities and classrooms and observed training evolutions in progress. The training center has an adequate number of training resources, training props, tools and equipment to support staff and students. No deficiencies or recommendations for improvement were noted. The site accreditation team recommends that the College of the Desert become an accredited regional training program.