



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

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Date: July 17, 2015

Attachment 3

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Michael A. Garcia, Deputy State Fire Marshal III

Subject/Agenda Action Item: San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions: Reaccredit San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department as a State Fire Training Accredited Local Academy (ALA)

Background Information:

A reaccreditation site visit was conducted on March 24, 2015 at the San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department (SPRFD), in Valley Center, San Diego County. The re accreditation evaluation was conducted by Michael A. Garcia, Deputy State Fire Marshal-State Fire Training, James Yazloff, ALA Battalion Chief/Academy Coordinator, and academy administrative assistant Dory Villalobos. After initial introductions and a review of the self-assessment report, a tour of the classrooms and training facilities was conducted along with an opportunity to review course records.

It is noted that the SPRFD is currently under accreditation probation until November 2015. Although all issues associated with the probationary letter, were within guidelines at the time of this evaluation, the probationary status will remain in effect as noted.

In 2008, the SPRFD was accredited as an ALA in the SFT system. This is the first reaccreditation, and SPRFD continues to provide a fire academy as well as in-service training for the north eastern portion of San Diego County. The SPRFD does compete with other accredited academies, the closest is the academy located at Palomar College (ARTP); Palomar has indicated that they do not object to SPRFD. As a tribal entity, the SPRFD is also accredited by IFSAC for their firefighter 1 academy.

During the exit interview, I was able to meet with Mark Schultz, Chief Operating Officer of the Reservation and Reservation Council member Steve Cope, to discuss and review SFT findings.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities, located at SPRFD, and at the Pala Reservation training center (the two tribes have written agreements), revealed new classroom spaces with several state of the art classrooms and fully functioning drill tower. I was also able to interview several academy students directly.

The SPRFD enjoys a great relationship with local fire agencies as evident by the number of students attending this academy. The SPRFD has enough tools and equipment and staff, to conduct a Firefighter I Academy. The current academy location is sited with an active emergency response fire department. A project is under development to expand the academy and relocate to a site that has adequate space and support resources. There is no specific timetable for completion at this time, although during the exit interview this was a major topic of discussion. The management of the Reservation is committed to expanding academy facilities as financial conditions improve at the earliest possible date.

Local demographics are consistent with the most recent census. Native American's represented 4% of the academy population and females also were represented at 4% of the total academy enrollment. The SPRFD actively participates in recruiting under represented students and female candidates from local colleges and high schools and other tribes in the region for the program.

The SPRFD does not meet the SFT definition of an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) and technically does not meet the definition of an ALA, as it permits open enrollment of non-department students. However, as a Tribal entity, they actively seek minority, female and especially Native American's from various tribes into the program, and is a unit of an active fire department.

I am confident that the SPRFD will continue to make strides in meeting SFT requirements, and recommend approval of the SPRFD continuing as an ALA.