



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

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Date: July 15, 2016

Attachment 1

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

From: Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal III

Subject/Agenda Action Item: CAL FIRE Academy re-accreditation (ALA)

Recommended Actions: To concurrently reaccredit the CAL FIRE Academy at Lone and the Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside as an ALA in the State Fire Training System.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on May 23, 2016 at the CAL FIRE Academy in Lone, CA. The site visit was conducted by Chief Ronny Coleman, STEAC Chairmen, Larry Savage, Training Chief Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department, Tim Palmer, Fire Technology Director Sierra College, Leona Allen, Fiore Academy Coordinator Lake Tahoe Community College, and Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training. Attendees included Chief Mike Richwine, Assistant State Fire Marshal, and Dennis Mathisen, Chief of State Fire Training. The CAL FIRE Academy was represented by Phyllis Banducci, Assistant Deputy Director of Co-Op Fire, Training & Safety, Brent Stangeland, Department Training Chief, and Steve Spinharney, Academy Director of Fire Training.

A tour of the administrative offices allowed for a records review followed by a tour of the facilities classrooms, dormitories, and training grounds. The CAL FIRE Academy was established in 1967 and originally accredited in 1998. The Academy campus and fire training grounds sits on 66 acres. The WUI village and off road course are on an additional 354 acres.

The CAL FIRE Academy has, in the recent past, been the subject of an investigation. As a result of the investigation there has been a wholesale change in personnel, practices, and procedures. A complete overhaul of the organizational structure and culture has taken place and is an on-going effort among management and staff. The pride in the organization is observable in both staff demeanor and the upkeep of the buildings and grounds. This accreditation site visit validates that all of the personnel changes and processes at the Fire Academy in Lone have been positive.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The tour of the facilities reveals a vast array of training props that allow real-life training scenarios. The training facilities include not only modern classroom space but also a cafeteria and housing for students and instructors. The facility has all the tools and equipment to not only run a firefighter academy in Lone, but also run concurrent academies at the Ben Clark Training Facility in Riverside. Unlike other accredited fire academies, the CAL FIRE Academy has a wide range of staff in administration, curriculum

development and design, instructors, and maintenance staff. Firefighting tools and equipment are plentiful as one would expect for a statewide training program. A number of best practices were observed by the OSFM site team that included:

Improved test security measures	Diversity of training
Long term succession planning	WUI village structure protection training
Housing for students and instructors	Off road driving course
Pride shown in facility maintenance	Heavy Equipment Operators Academy

The accreditation of the CAL FIRE Academy includes concurrent accreditation for conducting a fire academy at the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center (BCPSTC). This facility is shared among a number of agencies including Moreno Valley Community College who was reaccredited by the SBFS on April 6, 2015. The accreditation of the firefighter academy at both Lone and Riverside recognizes that the CAL FIRE Fire Fighter I program is a statewide training program. As such certificates from either facility will be accepted as they come from an accredited fire academy.

The site team was unequivocal in the decision to recommend The CAL FIRE Academy (Lone and Riverside) for reaccreditation.