



**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 3

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: Accreditation of Santa Monica Fire Department as a Local Accredited Academy

Recommended Actions: Recommend that Santa Monica Fire Department become an Accredited Local Fire Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training System

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on June 13, 2016 at the Santa Monica Fire Department Division of Training located at 2500 Michigan Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403. The site visit was conducted by Dan Stefano, Chief Costa Mesa Fire Department and STEAC Member, Sam Di Giovanna, Verdugo Fire Academy, Glendale Community College and Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training. The Santa Monica Fire Department was represented by Carl Bjerke, Chief of Training and the instructor cohort.

Santa Monica Fire Department has provided fire protection in Los Angeles County for 127 years. The application for accreditation is the first for the department. They are positioning themselves to be able to participate in the certification exam process. Santa Monica Fire Department is driven by their ability to provide excellent customer service. The Santa Monica Fire Department maintains an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 rating.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities reveals ample classroom and training ground spaces for the size of the fire academy. The Santa Monica Fire Department maintains a classroom, along with ample tools, equipment, props, and apparatus that can easily accommodate the number of cadets going through the Firefighter I (2013) training program. The department is developing protocol to maintain course records along with summative test and answer keys that are kept safely secured. Among the best practices, Santa Monica Fire Department keeps a 4-1 student instructor ratio for its academy, they provide a family orientation that helps families network in support of the fire recruits. The department maintains a number of training towers and burn rooms for the size of the department and the training grounds.

The site visit team is unequivocal about their recommendation to accredit the Santa Monica Fire Department into the SFT training system as an ALA.