



California State Fire Training

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Monterey Peninsula College Accredited Regional Training Program Site Visit Report

December 12, 2008

Accreditation Team

Kevin Olson, Representing STEAC
John Sola, Representing Fire Technology Directors Association
Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training

Executive Summary

The accreditation team recommends that Monterey Peninsula College becomes approved as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) within the State Fire Training System. This initial accreditation will be good for three years from the date of the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee's (STEAC) recommended approval.

Program Review

Accreditation team members were provided an electronic copy of the Monterey Peninsula College's self-assessment report. The above site team met with Stewart Roth, Fire Academy Program Coordinator, Natalie Rodda Fire Academy, Technology Program Director, Dr. Laura Franklin, Dean of Instruction and Economic Development, Dr. John Gonzales, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Douglas Garrison, Superintendent/President of Monterey Peninsula College (MPC). Local Fire officials from Cal Fire, Salinas, Carmel Valley, Marina, Pacific Grove and North County were also represented.

The site visit began with an introductory meeting of the accreditation site team with the above dignitaries, along with former Fire Fighter I Academy graduates. The meeting allowed the site team to get an idea of the level of local fire department support for the programs offered at MPC. The question of looming budget crisis and the effect on college programs was answered by Dr. Garrison, who stated that the college was in good shape financially and that he doesn't expect to cut any programs. Bonds are financing the current infrastructure (office



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and classrooms) expansion of the Fire Academy and he is looking forward to continued growth in public safety education and training.

The site team reviewed student and class records which are kept in a locked and secure location, along with certification exams and certificates. The record keeping system was complete and meets the requirements of State Fire Trainings Procedures Manual. Copies of State Fire Training Curriculum including the Fire Fighter I curriculum is current.

The site team visited local area fire departments and training areas offered at the former Fort Ord military base, which provide storage, props and equipment for the fire academy. The site team agrees that the college has enough tools, equipment, apparatus, self-contained breathing apparatus, and personal protective equipment to support the program. The main campus Library offers computer labs and library resources for faculty and students.

Best Practices

The site team was not surprised that, as the first California Fire Academy, MPC provides an exemplary model as a regional training program. Each academy class participates in local community projects as volunteers reminding students of their commitment to the community they serve in and out of uniform.

The planned expansion of the Parker Flats area to include a drill tower, burn building, and emergency vehicle operations course in the area of the former Fort Ord Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) training area, will increase capacity to serve public safety training and a welcomed addition to fire-related training in California and a credit to Monterey Peninsula College.