



California State Fire Training



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San Jose Fire Department Accredited Local Academy Site Visit Report

October 28, 2008

Accreditation Team

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Executive Summary

The accreditation team recommends that the San Jose Fire Department becomes conditionally approved as an Accredited Local Academy within the State Fire Training System. This recommendation is conditional for one year with the specific conditions provided in this report.

Program Review

Accreditation team members were provided an electronic and hard copies of the San Jose Fire Department self-assessment report. The above site team met with Philip Croyle, Training Chief and Scott Boucher, Training Specialist. The team was introduced to the San Jose Fire Chief Darryl Von Raesfelb. The site team was provided a tour of the San Jose training facility, classrooms, storage facilities and resources.

The site team recognizes that the San Jose Fire Department has the capacity for training and education of its members including: video production, fully equipped classrooms, tools, equipment, props and apparatus all dedicated to the training mission. Training is supported by an adequate number of administrative staff and instructors.

Student and class records are kept in a secure location and accessible through the departments intranet, per individual and accessible to select supervisors. It was noted that



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San Jose Fire Department does not offer State Fire Training classes on a regular basis. The site team therefore did not review SFT class records. The department currently does not participate in state fire training classes on a regular basis nor process classes locally. The Fire Fighter 1 recruit academy is a 720 hour program which includes EMT training.

Best Practices

Like many large fire departments, the San Jose Fire Department has its own video production staff and associated equipment. The department produces high quality video training programs to its members and to requesting departments and agencies.

Many fire departments rely on operational staff to rotate through the training division every two years. Loss of institutional memory and program continuity is a result of this practice. The San Jose Fire Department has solved this dilemma by hiring a civilian training specialist who can maintain the continuity and integrity of the training division. This is a best practice that can be replicated by many other fire departments.

Conditional Approval:

The site team recognizes that the San Jose Fire Department can be an important partner with State Fire Training, once it begins to fully participate in the State Fire Training classes and certification. The site team recommends conditional approval based on the San Jose Fire Departments ability to:

1. Develop and initiate a business process that identifies how the organization will integrate State Fire Training processes and local processing into their current training program.
2. Provide a copy of the current San Jose Fire Departments Fire Fighter 1 Curriculum demonstrating how it is equivalent to or exceeds the minimum standards established by State Fire Trainings "Course Information and Required Materials Manual" and "Fire Fighter 1" curriculum.