



# California State Fire Training

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## **South Lake Tahoe Community College Accredited Regional Training Program Site Visit Report**

November 20, 2008

### **Accreditation Team**

David Senior, Representing both STEAC and Fire Technology Directors Association

Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training

Ken Vollenweider, State Fire Training

### **Executive Summary**

The accreditation team recommends that the South Lake Tahoe Community College becomes conditionally approved as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) 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 electronic and hard copies of the South Lake Tahoe Community College self-assessment report. The above site team met with Leona Allen, Program Coordinator and Virginia Boyar, Dean of Vocational Education. The site visit began with a meeting of the Fire Science Advisory Committee who represent the fire service agencies around the lake and who support the application for accreditation. The meeting allowed the site team to get an idea of community support for the program ranging from; local towing agencies for auto extrication classes to local hotels offering residential rooms for cadets.

The main campus offers new media connected classrooms, computer labs and library resources for students and faculty. Off-site locations offer a training/burn tower, apparatus, tools, equipment and personal protective gear for students. Building plans were shown to the site team on the remodel of the current burn tower to include a third floor and fourth floor training platform. Student and class records are kept in a locked and secure location. The



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site team recognizes that the South Lake Tahoe has the capacity and requisite tools and equipment for training and education of its members.

## **Best Practices**

Because of the location of the academy, several classes not ordinarily offered by other academies include ice and swift water rescue training. Sexual harassment and job interview training are also added to the basic fire academy. Graduates return to the academy and work as instructional assistants.

## **Conditional Approval:**

The site team believes that the South Lake Tahoe Accredited Regional Training Program will be a welcomed addition to State Fire Training with the compliance to the following conditions:

1. The South Lake Tahoe Community College adopts the California Community College Chancellor's Office, Standard Fire Technology Degree Program including the six core fire science classes.
2. Appoint a Regional Academy Training Program Coordinator who has the required minimum of five years of firefighting experience.
3. Provide fit testing for students if they are expected to train in an IDLH environment.
4. Demonstrate the State Fire Training Fire Fighter 1 curriculum is established as a minimum standard for the Fire Fighter 1 Academy.
5. Add Company Officer certification classes (currently offered as selected classes) to the course catalog.
6. Establish local processing of State Fire Training classes and certificates.