

June 22, 2009

TO: CHRISTY OWEN,
CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE TRAINING

FROM: FIRE CAPTAIN SCOTT MAHAN,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: APPARATUS OPERATOR 1C PROGRAM

In recent years, the Los Angeles County Fire Department was recognized as an accredited local academy program. This distinction has allowed our Training Services Section the ability to provide several State Fire Training programs and receive vital support from State Fire Training not previously available

One series of programs in particular have seen a drastic increase in their availability and response from our student or employee base; Apparatus Operator 1A & 1B. The cadre responsible for these programs is understandably proud of the response and feedback for each program, not to mention the improved skill base in our fire stations realize on a day to day basis.

This cadre has indicated and is committed to going further. It has become clear that a specific program designed around aerial fire apparatus is needed. It is in this spirit that I would like to seek the support of the California State Fire Marshal's Office, Training Division, to develop and implement: Apparatus Operator 1C: Ariel Truck Driver / Operator. This program should also become a permanent component of the future Driver Operator 1 certification track as well. In a broad sense, 2 fundamental goals can be achieved:

- An accredited CFSTES program designed specifically for the Los Angeles County Fire Department local accreditation program
- A foundational template that can be amended to meet the goals of State Fire Training for the California Fire Service as a whole

The California Fire Service relies on "Truck", "Ariel", and "Quintuple" companies almost routinely. Despite their frequency, they are a specialized piece of equipment and require specialized Operators. They are heavier, longer and have many unique on board systems inconsistent with triple combination vehicles. Some characterizations could revolve around these tools as a "high risk, low frequency" use vehicle. If the premise contains some merit, a recognized training program must be available and this course will close a gap in the Driver Operator series!

PROPOSAL

Please consider the following additional goals for Apparatus Operator 1C: Ariel Truck Driver / Operator:

- The course would be delivered in 40 hours
- Successful completion will yield State Fire Training recognition through the certificate distribution process
- Place this program third in the series of 1A & 1B in the CFSTES Driver Operator certification track.

Primary Instructor shall have successfully completed:

- Apparatus Operator 1A
- Apparatus Operator 1B
- Apparatus Operator 1C
- Ethics and Leadership Course
- Training Instructor 1A
- Training Instructor 1B
- Training Instructor 1C

Assistant Instructor(s) shall have successfully completed

- Apparatus Operator 1A
- Apparatus Operator 1B
- Apparatus Operator 1C (When it becomes more readily available)
- Training Instructor 1A
- Training Instructor 1B

With your approval, the Driver / Operator cadre from the Los Angeles County Fire Department would request to be the primary organizational group to develop this program along side representatives of State Fire Training. Once the Los Angeles County Fire Department program is approved, we would like to make all materials available to State Fire Training for wider distribution and amendments consistent with the needs of State Fire Training for California Fire Agencies.

Thank you in advance for your review of this matter. I may be reached by cell 714 336-8870 or email smahan@fire.lacounty.gov