

**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICE**

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**Date:** January 3, 2013

**To:** State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal

**Subject/Agenda Action Item:** Course Approval: Fire-Rescue Vessel Operation

**Recommended Actions:**

Staff recommends that the SBFS approve a new course, Fire-Rescue Vessel Operation as an FSTEP course. This recommended action was approved by STEAC on April 20, 2012.

**Background Information:**

The Los Angeles City Fire Department has submitted the first, of what will be many training programs, relative to marine fire and rescue. The "Fire-Rescue Vessel Operations" class was submitted to SFT to be considered as an additional FSTEP course. This course covers the operation and navigation of large fire/rescue vessels. This class is unlike the current Rescue Boat Operations class, approved as an FSTEP program in 1998 which focuses on smaller boat operations.

The emphasis of Fire-Rescue Vessel Operations course is on boating safety, regulations, navigation, piloting and vessel operations. The class requires the access and use of a vessel fully equipped with electronic navigation systems, radio and radar, as well as personal floatation devices for all hands.

The course has also been submitted to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through California Emergency Management Agency (CAL EMA) to be added to the Federal Compendium of approved classes as port security is a priority against the threat of terrorism.

The ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Humboldt, West Sacramento, and Stockton each have varying levels of need for this specialized training. The Los Angeles City Fire Department has an operational need for specialized marine training with target hazards that include; tank farms, container ships, cruise ships, luxury yachts and the built environment that supports and surrounds the port.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

In keeping with the strategy for a comprehensive statewide training program relative to the marine fire and rescue environment, recommended for approval by STEAC, this course should be approved to meet the immediate operational need for the Fire Departments that operate fire/rescue vessels.