

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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**ATTACHMENT 5**

**Date:** August 21, 2014

**To:** State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Ken Wagner, Fire Service Training Specialist III

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Implementation of IFSAC/Pro Board Certification

**Recommended Actions:**

Information/discussion only

Report on the proposed implementation of IFSAC and Pro Board Fire Fighter I Certification

**Background Information:**

While delivering reports to the SBFS on updated curriculum projects and reports concerning State Fire Training (SFT) Mission Alignment, staff has been discussing on-going efforts to obtain accreditation for the California certification system from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board). Our initial effort is to achieve accreditation for our Fire Fighter I certification program.

During the July 19, 2013 STEAC meeting staff presented a proposal to make participation in IFSAC and Pro Board certification a requirement for all candidates seeking California certification. STEAC expressed concerns regarding this proposal. Furthermore, the California Professional Fire Fighters (CPF) expressed direct opposition to the proposal in a letter addressed to the State Fire Marshal dated June 20, 2013. A copy of this letter is included with this staff report. Staff has been refining the implementation plan.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

In response to concerns from STEAC and CPF, staff is preparing for a process that will be implemented as follows:

**California Fire Fighter I Certification – Required**

- As in the past, all candidates will be required to pay the current certification fee and obtain California certification.
- The current Fire Fighter I certification fee is \$40.00.

### IFSAC/Pro Board Certification - **Voluntary**

- IFSAC/Pro Board certification will be voluntary. Candidates will be required to pay an additional fee.
- This fee is estimated to be \$40.00

Considering IFSAC and Pro Board certification to be voluntary, candidates seeking Fire Fighter I certification would be required to complete the following steps:

- Complete training as set forth in the Fire Fighter I (2013) curriculum.
- Successfully pass both a written and skills certification examination.
- Complete a comprehensive task book.
- Complete the required occupational experience (6 months career, 12 months volunteer)
- Submit an application for certification along with appropriate fees to SFT for California certification.
- *If desired, request IFSAC/Pro Board certification and submit appropriate fees to SFT.*



State Council of the International Association of Fire Fighters • California Labor Federation • AFL-CIO

June 20, 2013

Tonya Hoover, State Fire Marshal  
Cal Fire/Office of the State Fire Marshal  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Tonya,

It has come to my attention that a current staff report on Capstone Testing and IFSAC/Pro Board Certification will be on the agenda for the upcoming STEAC meeting on July 19, 2013. I'm aware that State Fire Training has been working on national recognition for some time, and it has always been my understanding that national certification would be voluntary for California firefighters preparing for state certification.

I'm concerned to read that the current report now recommends that national certification become mandatory for anyone working toward certification in California. The result of this change will be increased requirements and fees, which are unnecessary and provide no benefit for most of our membership. I'm writing to let you know that I am adamantly opposed to this recommendation, and it is my opinion that those who choose to pursue national certification do so on an individual basis and bear any additional costs that may ensue.

I know through STEAC and SBFS meetings we will have an opportunity to discuss these issues; however, I wanted to give you a "heads up" on our position. As always, if you have questions or wish to discuss further, I would be happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Lou Paulson  
President

c: Dan Terry, Chair, CFFJAC  
Yvonne de la Peña, Program Director, CFFJAC  
Bob Brier, Member, STEAC  
Mary Jennings, Member, STEAC

