



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

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ATTACHMENT 6

Date: May 21, 2015

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Ken Wagner, Fire Service Training Specialist III

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Approval of Implementation of IFSAC/Pro Board Certification

Recommended Actions:

Discussion/Action

Seeking SBFS approval for implementation of IFSAC/Pro Board Certification.

Background Information:

At the August 21, 2014 SBFS meeting staff presented a detailed staff report proposing that State Fire Training seek accreditation from IFSAC and Pro Board for Fire Fighter I certification. Staff has discussed this proposal at numerous STEAC meetings over the past two years. At their meeting of January 16, 2014, STEAC unanimously approved implementation of IFSAC/Pro Board Certification.

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.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

In response to STEAC's concerns, staff recommends and is preparing 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

- Candidates will be required to pay an additional fee.
- This fee is estimated to be \$40.00

SFT has continued to move forward with internal work in preparation for accreditation by IFSAC and Pro Board. The following items are either well underway or have been completed:

- Development of procedures manual to implement certification examinations and certification issuance meeting IFSAC/Pro Board requirements
- Development of internal procedures and forms to aid implementation
- Implementation of an agreement with Performance Training Systems (PTS) for on-line written examination delivery
- Development of an on-line examination application with PTS
- Development of written certification examinations for Fire Fighter I
- Attendance at annual Pro Board and IFSAC Training Conferences
- 2013 Fire Fighter I curriculum approved
- Delivery of on-line written certification exam during beta test of Fire Fighter I curriculum at Sierra College
- Delivery of skills examination during beta test of Fire Fighter I curriculum at Sierra College
- Briefings for Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academies (ALA).
- On-going briefings for statewide and local stakeholder groups.

Staff recommends that the SBFS approve implementation of voluntary application of IFSAC/Pro Board certification.

Once this proposal is approved, staff will begin the formal application and self-study process with IFSAC and Pro Board. The goal of SFT is to achieve accreditation from both organizations prior to the end of calendar year 2015. Additionally, staff will continue to meet with stakeholder groups at both the statewide and local levels to insure that they understand how this program will be implemented. During calendar year 2016 SFT will begin statewide program implementation to coincide with the Fire Fighter I certification examination process.