



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

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ATTACHMENT 3

Date: August 25, 2016

To: **State Board of Fire Services**

From: Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist
State Fire Training

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Santa Monica Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA)

Recommended Actions:

Recommend that Santa Monica Fire Department becomes an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training (SFT) System.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on June 13, 2016 at the Santa Monica Fire Department Division of Training located at 2500 Michigan Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403. The site visit was conducted by Dan Stefano, Chief Costa Mesa Fire Department and STEAC Member, Sam Di Giovanna, Verdugo Fire Academy, Glendale Community College and Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training. The Santa Monica Fire Department was represented by Carl Bjerke, Chief of Training and the instructor cohort. On July 15, 2016, STEAC voted to recommend accreditation of the Berkeley Fire Department as an ALA.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities reveals ample classroom and training ground spaces for the size of the fire academy. The Santa Monica Fire Department maintains a classroom, along with ample tools, equipment, props, and apparatus that can easily accommodate the number of cadets going through the Fire Fighter I (2013) training program. The department is developing protocol to maintain course records along with summative test and answer keys that are kept safely secured. Among the best practices, Santa Monica Fire Department keeps a 4-1 student instructor ratio for its academy, they provide a family orientation that helps families network in support of the fire recruits. The department maintains a number of training towers and burn rooms for the size of the department and the training grounds.

The site visit team is unequivocal about their recommendation to accredit the Santa Monica Fire Department into the SFT training system as an ALA.