



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

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 445-8200  
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



**Date:** November 7, 2016

**To:** State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Dennis Mathisen, Division Chief  
State Fire Training

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**  
Certification in Rank Workgroup Update

**Background Information:**

The State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) asked the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) to reevaluate the new rank requirement for State Fire Training Company Officer certification while insuring that candidates who receive certification are qualified to perform in the capacity.

As the California State Fire Training and Education professional certification program has been updated a new rank requirement has been established for certain tracks. The affected certification tracks include the following:

- Company Officer
- Chief Fire Officer
- Executive Chief Fire Officer
- Fire Investigator
- Fire Inspector I
- Fire Inspector II
- Plan Examiner
- Fire Marshal (currently being updated)

Lou Paulson, member of the State Board of Fire Services representing California Professional Firefighters (CPF), requested that the new rank requirement for Company Officer certification be reevaluated. This request was a result of CPF receiving negative feedback from several members of the fire service. Based on Mr. Paulson's request, the SBFS referred the matter back to STEAC for consideration.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

This item was discussed at the October 14, 2016, STEAC meeting. Taral Brideau, representing the CFFJAC Program, provided an overview of the concern. She also provided a handout with the results of an informal impact study that included over 30 fire agencies. A work group was formed by Ron Coleman, Chair. Members of the work group include Taral Brideau (CFFJAC), Robert Briare (CPF), John Binaski (League of CA Cities), Kris Rose (SFT), Mark Romer (SFT) and Joe Bunn (SFT). The group was given direction to reevaluate the rank requirement for all impacted certification tracks as approved previously by STEAC and the SBFS. A report from the group, with a recommendation is expected at the January, 2017, STEAC meeting.