

Office of the California State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Training Division

Implementation of Capstone Certification Examinations for Fire Fighter I Certification  
UPDATE – December 2014

The California State Fire Training and Education Strategic Plan 2008 (Blueprint 2020) addresses the desire of State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders to see implementation of certification (capstone) testing for professional certifications issued by SFT. Furthermore, as SFT pursues national recognition in the form of accreditation by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) a certification examination process must be implemented to satisfy their accreditation requirements.

With the complete rewrite of the Fire Fighter I curriculum to meet the provisions of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) professional qualification standards, and since it is our entry certification, SFT has been developing implementation plans for delivery of both written and skills certification examinations for this level. SFT has prepared a detailed process for implementation of both written and skills certification examinations to be delivered by Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academies (ALA). This process has been discussed in great detail with representatives from both ARTPs and ALAs. Furthermore, SFT has been engaged in on-going dialogue with stakeholder groups, the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) and the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) on implementation. SFT believes that implementing the certification examination process is an important step in strengthening our certification system.

SFT will continue to meet with stakeholders to discuss the implementation of a certification examination process and understand their concerns. To date, SFT has met with the following groups:

- California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA) Board of Directors (February 19, 2014)
- CFCA NorCal Training Officers Board of Directors (April 15, 2014)
- CFCA SoCal Training Officers Board of Directors (April 1, 2014)
- California Fire Training Directors Association (CFTDA) (on-going)
- Accredited Local Academies (ALAs) (April 29, 2014)
- California State Fire Fighters Association (CSFA) Board of Directors (May 1, 2014)
- Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association, Regional Training Group (April 2, 2014)
- FIRESCOPE Board of Directors (July 9, 2014)
- California Metro Fire Chiefs Association (July 10, 2014)
- STEAC (January 17, 2014)
- SBFS (September 21, 2014)
- San Bernardino County Fire Chiefs Assoc. (August 28, 2014)
- Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association (October 22, 2014)
- Cosumnes FD (September 10, 2014)
- Stanislaus County Fire Chiefs Assoc. (December 4, 2014)
- Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Assoc. (December 11, 2014)

- South Bay Regional Training Consortium (November 24 & 25, 2014)
- East Bay Fire Chiefs & Training Officers (December 5, 2014)

Presentations to the following stakeholder groups are pending:

- Fresno Area Training Officers (January 8, 2015)
- San Diego County Fire Training Officers (February 18, 2014)

The reaction has been positive from the stakeholder groups so far. There have not been any new concerns raised that require further analysis or modifications to the proposed implementation plans. However, SFT will continue to engage stakeholder groups in discussion on this important initiative.

Unless a major concern surfaces from the stakeholder groups, SFT is planning to bring this proposed Fire Fighter I certification examination process back to STEAC for approval at the January 16, 2015 meeting, and to the SBFS at the February 19, 2015 meeting.

Questions on the proposed certification examination process or requests for stakeholder presentations should be addressed to Ken Wagner (916) 425-2995 or [ken-wagner@comcast.net](mailto:ken-wagner@comcast.net).