



THE FIRELINE

State Fire Training Division

National Fire Academy Grant Allows for Rural RIC Training

*Rapid
Intervention
Crew Tactics*

State Fire Training (SFT) was pleased to have been awarded a grant from the National Fire Academy (NFA) to deliver the **Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics (RIC)** course to rural areas in California. The intent of the grant is to provide experienced instructors from metropolitan fire departments to teach these classes. SFT conducted a needs analysis and determined that small, rural fire departments may not have the experience, resources or budget to provide this important firefighter safety training program.



RIC Instructor Jeff Clark, Sac City Fire, reviewing the tools in a RIC bag (the RIC bag contains specialized tools for the RIC team).

Seven host agencies were identified for the delivery of the RIC course -- four in Northern California and three in Southern California. The grant will provide for a team of two registered instructors to teach each of the eight classes. Four classes have already been conducted: Weaverville, Calexico, Willits, and Crescent City. The remaining host agencies include:

- Susanville Fire Department
- Twenty-nine Palms Fire Department
- Bishop Volunteer Fire Department

Those firefighters who would like to either initiate the RIC instructor trainee position task book at one of the classes, or those current Assistant Instructors who would like to work towards completing their task book, are encouraged to contact Ken Vollenweider, SFT Training Specialist at (707) 718-2920 or ken.vollenweider@fire.ca.gov There may be openings for assistant instructors to help teach these classes.

State Fire Training thanks the National Fire Academy for providing the opportunity to deliver these potentially life saving classes to California fire fighters.

Fire Control 3 Instructor Update Classes are Underway

With the recent revision to Fire Control 3 (FC-3) having been completed, instructor update classes are now underway. Nine classes were scheduled throughout the state starting in April and continuing through June. The class was developed for currently registered FC-3 instructors



and is required in order to teach the new curriculum. The update class will provide existing FC-3 instructors an opportunity to review the new course content, share their personal training experiences, and network with other instructors to gain information and ideas to improve their future live fire training classes.

FC-3 is one of the original classes that has been the backbone of the State Fire Training's FSTEP program. The class was the model used by Chief Ed Bent to create the first edition of NFPA 1403, the Live-Fire Training Evolutions Standard. The class was split into two parts by the work group during the curriculum update. This was supported by existing FC-3 instructors. FC-3A focuses on live fire training in acquired structures; whereas, FC-3B focuses on live fire training conducted in burn simulators. It was felt that the skill-set and experience needed to effectively and safely conduct live fire training in a burn simulator were not necessarily the same skills needed to safely prepare and conduct live fire training in an acquired structure.

The implementation date for the new curriculum will be **July 1, 2009**. All SFT FC-3 classes after that date must follow the updated curriculum and must be taught by an instructor who attended an update class.

*Check back
next month
for news on
our new
Student ID
Cards!*

All registered FC-3 instructors were mailed a letter providing information on the update classes. If you are a registered FC-3 instructor in good standing and you did *not* receive this notice, you may review it on our website. While you're there, please take a moment to update your contact information with us to avoid missing future communications.

If there are any questions regarding FC-3, please contact Ken Vollenweider, SFT Training Specialist at ken.vollenweider@fire.ca.gov or (707) 718-2920.

Message from the Manager

This month marks change for State Fire Training with the promotion of a long-time, dedicated staff member. Sandy Margullis, Instructor Registration and EMT-I Program Coordinator was recently appointed as a Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Fire and Life Safety Division. Though we recognize this is a loss for our division, Sandy has put years of hard work into this transition of her career path, so we are proud to see her advance and wish her all the best.

The recruitment process to find her replacement is well underway and I anticipate being able to select an appropriate candidate soon. In the mean time, you may contact Laine Schendel (Laine.schendel@fire.ca.gov) with any EMT-I related questions, and can contact me (christy.owen@fire.ca.gov) with any instructor registration issues.

In addition to Sandy's departure, I have also accepted a position in the Support Services Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. We have established a plan for gradual transition while my replacement is selected. I know that we will find an excellent candidate to continue to foster and develop the program enhancements we've begun. It's a relief to me to know that I will be close by to provide assistance to SFT staff in whatever way is needed until the transition is complete.

I consider it an honor to have been a part of State Fire Training and I continue to be excited about the changes that have been made and those that are coming. I am also proud of the team we've built. They are devoted to providing excellent service and support to our constituents even in this time of adjustment.

All my best,

Christy Owen
Manager of Certification and Registration

Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC)

The Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) had their second quarterly meeting of 2009 on April 10th. A variety of topics were covered including new courses, new standards and delivery of Fire Officer Courses in on-line and hybrid delivery formats. If you're interested in more information, check out the minutes which are posted to our website in the STEAC section.

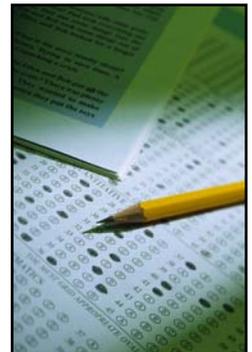
The next meeting is scheduled for July 17th. The agenda is placed on our website in advance of the meeting for all those who are interested in attending. We ask that you R.S.V.P. if you're planning to attend and are not a committee member to Monica Miller (monica.miller@fire.ca.gov) due to limited space.

Friendly Reminders from SFT Support Staff

Occasionally we like to remind those of you who are registered instructors of some of the small details that help to keep things running smoothly for all of us. This month, we'd like to focus on a few small but important items:

First, please remember that we do not accept checks with course returns. Because our invoicing is coordinated through CAL FIRE Headquarters Accounting Office, it is critical that you hold off on payment until you receive the invoice in the mail. This cuts down on a substantial amount of work and confusion since often times the checks submitted with course returns are for the incorrect amount.

Second, and we can't stress this enough, please remind your students to carefully complete the Scantron forms with a Number 2 pencil. Hours upon hours are wasted when SFT staff have to correct bubbling errors made by students in the name and address sections. The **Scantron** readers are unforgiving and will print and store information exactly as it's bubbled in. What takes an individual student minutes to do correctly, equates to a lot of time wasted by staff when done incorrectly. This results in longer turn around times for receiving course completion certificates, duplicate records in the database, and the list of impacts goes on and on. Your assistance in stressing the importance of completing the form accurately with your students will go a long way in improving the service we can provide.



*Reminder:
Always mail
forms to the
address
provided on
the form
you're using!*

Last but certainly not least, the Course Information and Required Materials Manual, available on our website (<http://sft.fire.ca.gov>) and adopted by regulation lists all of the requirements for each SFT course including the maximum number of students. We require all of our instructors to adhere to these guidelines. Please be aware that exceeding student maximums (even by 1 or 2 students), delivering a class in less than the minimum number of hours, and/or using other than adopted texts makes an instructor subject to disciplinary action. If you are going to exceed student maximums or plan to deliver a course in an alternate format (still meeting minimum hours), you are required to submit a written request to the Chief of State Fire Training in advance of the class.

We value our instructors and appreciate the legacy of knowledge you are leaving the fire service in California, and we thank you for your cooperation in these areas!



<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>



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