



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: January 7, 2022

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

CAL FIRE Training Center Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend CAL FIRE Training Center be reaccredited as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for an accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

Accreditation Site Evaluations were conducted at CAL FIRE Training Center (North) on May 14, 2021, in Lone, CA, and at CAL FIRE Training Center (South) on May 26, 2021, in Riverside, CA. Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, met with Division Chief Rob Wheatley, Battalion Chief Jeff Reyes, Battalion Chief Sea Sunahara, Battalion Chief Nicole Gissell, and Battalion Chief Dave Semple during the course of the visits to review the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) and address requirements for supplemental documentation. Said documentation has since been received and has met the requirements as set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The review of the SAR was followed by a review of all classrooms and training facilities/props.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The training facilities each indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training towers complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate the two fire academy training programs. The CAL FIRE Training Centers utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued successful Certification Examination delivery.

Each site exhibits several appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits are provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors within agency participate in the Academy delivery and the

Department will focus on hosting additional State Fire Training courses at their facilities in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with State Fire Training requirements.

- The current staffing is at its capacity having tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. There is an identified need for additional clerical personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- Consistent training officer and cooperators meeting attendance is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships statewide for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, decontamination stations, and extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of additional facilities be explored to ensure student safety.

The Department has more than 6,000 uniformed personnel devoted to fire, emergency medical, wildland, and swiftwater, and confined space rescue operations with a thriving Training Division concentrated on maintaining innovative and relevant training delivery programs at all levels of fire service education for members statewide. CAL FIRE is a world-renowned model fire agency that has proudly demonstrated great interagency cooperation, discipline, adaptability, and service to the diverse needs of the State. CAL FIRE has a strongly demonstrated devotion to fire service training and employee wellness that is indicative of a progressive organization.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the CAL FIRE Training Center as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.