Date: January 3, 2017

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Dennis Mathisen, Division Chief

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Company Officer Rank Requirement for Certification

Recommended Actions:
I recommend support of the work group's recommendation to STEAC. See attached issue paper.

Background Information:
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 (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. Although the request was specific to the Company Officer certification, the same issue would apply to all certifications with a similar requirement.

Based on Mr. Paulson’s request, the SBFS referred the matter back to STEAC for consideration. The matter was discussed at the October 14, 2016, STEAC meeting. A work group was formed to conduct the evaluation of this requirement and bring back a recommendation to STEAC. Members of the work group included John Binaski (League of California Cities), Taral Brideau (CFFJAC), Robert Briare (CPF), Mark Romer (SFT) and Joe Bunn (SFT). Kris Rose (SFT) was also included in the process to determine any potential impacts to SFT business operations.

The work group conducted the necessary research to reach the conclusion as outlined in their issue paper, which is attached. Their recommendation would apply to all affected certifications.
Issue
The Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) was asked by the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) to reevaluate the new rank requirement for State Fire Training Company Officer certification. A working group was formed to analyze the issue and make a recommendation to STEAC. The working group consists of three STEAC members and two State Fire Training personnel: John Binaski, Fire Chief, Clovis Fire Department; Bob Briare, President, Local 1775; Taral Brideau, Education and Training Director, Cal-JAC; Joe Bunn, State Fire Training; Mark Romer, State Fire Training.

Background
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 numerous members of the fire service. After receiving emails and phone calls from agencies and individuals, CPF did a survey and out of those agencies that responded, 34 were negatively impacted by this change. Based on Mr. Paulson’s request, the SBFS referred the matter back to STEAC for consideration.

Analysis
The rank requirement was introduced by State Fire Training staff as a way to make sure that individuals seeking certification could perform the duties of the corresponding rank. It is not a requirement of NFPA, and in the research of this working group, we found that it was not required by other states that are IFSAC or ProBoard accredited.

This action should not have any impact on State Fire Training, and we have not heard from any agencies that would be negatively impacted by removing the rank requirement.

Recommendation
Although the subject at hand is Company Officer certification, the working group acknowledges that the rank requirement is not required by NFPA for any of the certification tracks. The recommendation from the working group is to remove the rank requirement from all certification tracks.

Additional Note
The three STEAC members on the working group would also like to request a review of all task books. The task books were never brought to STEAC or SBFS for approval, and there are a number of mandatory tasks for a given occupation that are not applicable to all California fire departments. Chief Binaski, Bob Briare and Taral Brideau would like to request a committee be formed that represents a cross-section of all California fire agencies to review the task books for relevancy.