



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: April 8, 2022

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

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

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Rio Hondo College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Rio Hondo College be provided Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on March 8, 2022, at the Rio Hondo College (RHC) Fire Academy training facility at 11400 Greenstone Avenue in Santa Fe Springs, CA. The accreditation visit was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training. Introductions were facilitated by Fire Technology Director/Chief Andy Grzywa which included Dean of the Department of Public Safety Mark Yokoyama, Fire Academy Coordinator DC Richard Beckman, EMT Program Director BC Scott Jaeggi, Senior Drillmaster Felix Valle, Fire Technology Division Counselor Diana Valladares, Fire Technology/Academy Clerk Typist Lisa Lozano.

The College's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. 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 tour of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to assess training course records and equipment complement.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. Rio Hondo College utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful and complete Certification Examination delivery.

The College campus exhibits 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 participate in the Academy delivery with members from regional partners complementing the need for Registered Instructors and Evaluators.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- The current training grounds and classrooms are operating at capacity with some existing structures in need of renovation and/or replacement. The on-site portable classroom has documented structural integrity and materials exposure issues that warrant removal and replacement. An updated mobile classroom will provide for expanded training and course delivery while ensuring student and instructor safety.
- Continued Fire Advisory Committee/Board meetings are recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region. This Committee should include varied members from the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, decontamination stations, and multiple 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 apparatus used by the Academy requires parking at a neighboring agency location due to the lack of proper coverage and protection from the elements. It is recommended that an apparatus cover or other bay be procured for ease of access and Academy use. Such a structure may also serve to provide the additional storage needs.
- It is recommended that procurement exploration be conducted for the following:
 - o Mobile devices (tablets) for supplementation of instructional delivery and Certification Exam participation
 - o Updates to existing electronic devices and EMS learning aides
 - o Full PPE for applicable instructors
 - o Materials for rebuild/retrofits of existing props (roof, vent over fire, burn containers, vehicle fire)
 - o Materials to outfit Type 6 Engine
 - o Tools cache surplus (hand tools, fittings, SCBA bottles)
 - o Expendable supplies surplus (fuel, oil, chains)

Since 1997, Rio Hondo College ARTP Fire Academy has maintained steady and robust Fire Science Technology Certification and Associate of Science degree programs. RHC has been an active, exemplary regional training and academy host. Its unparalleled level of excellence has been exemplified through its delivery of Fire Fighter 1 and 2 Academies, regional Truck Academies, and the vast array of SFT courses delivered to serve the needs of its region. The College is a statewide ARTP leader, continually demonstrating cooperative partnership facilitation and innovation. RHC continues to provide career advancement training, higher education preparation, skills maintenance, and a focus on wellness for first responders. Rio Hondo College proactively constructs cooperative relationships founded on producing strong, well-rounded fire service professionals.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Rio Hondo College as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.