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**Date:** January 12, 2024

**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:**

Alameda County Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend Alameda County Fire Department be provided Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of five (5) years.

**Background Information:**

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on October 17, 2023, at the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) training facility at 890 Lola Street in San Leandro, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty and introductions were facilitated by Captain Katharine Erhardt that included Division Chief Jeffrey Luepke and Captains Dave Nguyen, John McInnis, and Scott Fitzgerald.

The ACFD 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 the training facilities with opportunity to assess equipment complement.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training facility complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. ACFD utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate a 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 and Evaluators participate in the Academy and Certification Exam delivery making the agency self-sustaining.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Consistent participation at training officer and ALA meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Academy has identified a specific need for additional administrative support personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties. Allocation of staffing hours and support with additionally lend toward the offset of workload.
- Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, and decontamination stations with extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of additional facilities be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- Training is conducted at various sites in the region with student and equipment transport identifying a need for procurement of an agency-specific training center to centralize structures, equipment, and apparatus. Focused effort on secured funding for an upgraded and designated training site will provide for safety and sustainability of academy and course delivery.
- Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversifications efforts.
- Explored procurement of extrication and flammable liquids/gases props are recommended for exclusive training use.

The Alameda County Fire Department is a model fire agency that strives to represent the diverse community it serves. Experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the community. Exceptional efforts at camps and outreach events promote ongoing recruitment, and the agency's diverse workforce is provided career-long training and development. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment. Eager to meet the needs of the region, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system having participated in cadres and other SFT cooperative groups since Initial Accreditation was granted.

The agency has demonstrated an ambitious and exemplary devotion to training that is indicative of a proud and professional organization. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Alameda County Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.