



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Attachment 3

Date: August 22, 2019

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM: Berkeley Fire Department
Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Re-Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Berkeley Fire Department remain an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the re-accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on May 23, 2019, at the Berkeley Fire Department training station located at 887 Cedar Street in Berkeley, California. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with agency hosts Fire Chief David Brannigan, Training Chief David Sprague, Operations Deputy Fire Chief Abe Roman, and Captain Dave McPartland present throughout.

A review of the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed with agency representatives present, 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 review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, and equipment to accommodate a fire academy training program as supplemented by satellite and partnered training sites and locations. The Berkeley Fire Department successfully adheres to the 2013 Fire Fighter I curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification testing.

The training facility presents an appropriate academy classroom 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 the agency participate in the Academy delivery and the Department will continue hosting additional State Fire Training courses at the facility in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner.

The Berkeley Fire Department is an accomplished organization serving a diverse community with a focus on exceptional customer service. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with an ever-adapting focus on serving the needs of this growing area. The Department trains cooperatively with its neighboring agencies and facilities to provide comprehensive training evolutions for participants. The Berkeley Fire Department continues to be a staple in the State Fire Training system via member participation in curriculum development cadres, feedback provision, and stakeholder involvement. Given its progressive nature, the Department possesses a strong need for a significantly larger training space and increased training staff to support the training and development of its personnel.

The Berkeley Fire Department has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to fire training, safety, and standardization, efforts reliably demonstrative of this forward-thinking, innovative leader of the California fire service. It is recommended that Berkeley Fire Department continue to be designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system.