



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
State Fire Training Division

P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Phone: (916) 902-9738
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: January 13, 2023

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

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

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Chabot College
Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

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

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 30, 2022, at the Chabot College training facility and adjacent regional training center in Hayward, CA. The accreditation visit was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire Technology Program Coordinator William Robert (Bob) Buell facilitating introductions that included Chabot College President Dr. Susan Sperling, Vice President of Academic Services Dr. Jamal Cooks, Dean of Applied Technology and Business Dr. Tracy Coleman, CAL FIRE-SCU Battalion Chief Nicole Benty, CAL FIRE-SCU Captain Shawn Walczak, CAL FIRE-SCU Firefighter John Hales, and Academy instructors John Torres and Melvin Ken Lewis. A review of the program's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed with 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 review of all classrooms and training facilities with introduction by Hayward Fire Chief Garrett Contreras.

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. Chabot College utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019)

curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful and complete Certification Examination delivery.

The College campus and training center exhibit appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy cadets 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:

- Although the program has sufficient staff allotment, several roles/positions have remained vacant for extended periods of time. The current staffing is at its capacity with staff working well beyond the typical work schedule and hours, a condition tasking existing staff with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. Focused fulfillment of positions will lessen the workload of existing staff and enhance the Academy and fire technology course deliveries.
- 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 decontamination stations/showers will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of additional facilities be explored to ensure student safety.

Chabot College is a statewide leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. Program coordinators recognize the underserved student and agency populations in the region and have an expressed desire to bridge the regional fire service training and education gap. This focus on providing education for all students is indicative of the training devotion serving as the foundation of the program. Academy personnel possess an energetic and innovative approach to program development with a strong focus on maintaining diversified student populations while adhering to the standards set forth by State Fire Training. The College is proactively building cooperative relationships founded on producing strong, well-rounded fire service professionals. The students and staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery, advisory committee participation, academy enhancement, and instructor development.

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