



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
State Fire Training Division
P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 568-2911
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: July 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:

Imperial Valley College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Imperial Valley 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 June 7, 2022, at the Imperial Valley College (IVC) Fire Academy training facility at 380 East Aten Road in Imperial, CA. The accreditation visit was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training. The College's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed with Dean of Health and Public Safety Gail Warner, Imperial County Fire Department Fire Chief and Academy Coordinator Alfredo Estrada, Deputy Chief Salvador Flores, Fire Technology Coordinator Robert Malek, and administrative staffmember Tricia Jones. Supplemental 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 facility complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. Imperial Valley College utilize

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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 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:

- 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.
- For curriculum compliance and self-sufficiency, it is recommended that the College explore avenues for procurement of a wildland-specific apparatus.
- 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 Full PPE for applicable instructors
 - o Materials for rebuild/retrofits of existing props (roof, vent over fire)
 - o Exploration of grounds enhancement to include technical rescue facilities, expanded storage, and props.

Established in 2005, the Imperial Valley College ARTP Fire Academy was established to meet the needs of Imperial Valley for standardized fire and EMS training while remaining mindful of the specific demographics of the region. The College provides a diverse student population with an affordable, robust, and well-rounded training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. IVC is the only community college within a 100-mile radius and has successfully provided many of its Academy graduates gainful employment in their home community. IVC maintains a steadfast focus on providing higher education and learning opportunities to a region/county that reports low literacy and high unemployment rates. The College maintains cooperative relationships founded on producing strong, well-rounded fire service professionals.

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