



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee**

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**Date:** December 9, 2019

**To:** State Board of Fire Service

**From:** Mark Bisbee, Battalion Chief

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**  
Mid-Career Course Prerequisites

**Recommended Actions:**

Approve revised changes to Mid-Career CFSTES Course Prerequisites

**Background Information:**

Most of the State Fire Training (SFT) mid-career CFSTES courses have prerequisites to take each course. Typically, these prerequisites are the course work for the certification track below (i.e. for Company Officer, the prerequisite is: meet the educational requirement for Fire Fighter II). These prerequisites were designed to help ensure that the students have the required minimum knowledge to be successful in the course.

Several departments who did not participate in the SFT system are now opting into the program. The system currently would require them to start at the beginning (i.e. Fire Fighter I and II), before they can start taking higher level courses (i.e. Chief Fire Officer).

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

The following are the changes that should be made for each course prerequisite:

*Company Officer 2A: Human Resource Management for Company Officers*

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Fire Fighter II or four (4) years as a career fire fighter or six (6) years as a volunteer fire fighter.

*Company Officer 2B: General Administrative Functions*

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Fire Fighter II or four (4) years as a career fire fighter, or six (6) years as a volunteer fire fighter

*Company Officer 2C: Fire Inspections and Investigation*

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Fire Fighter II or four (4) years as a career fire fighter, or six (6) years as a volunteer fire fighter

*Company Officer 2D: All-Risk Command Operations*

*"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."*

Prerequisites:

Meet the educational requirements for Fire Fighter II or four (4) years as a career fire fighter, or six (6) years as a volunteer fire fighter

ICS-200: Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents  
Hazardous Material Incident Commander (as offered by the California Specialized Training Institute)

Company Officer 2E: Wildland Incident Operations

Prerequisites:

Meet the educational requirements for Fire Fighter II or four (4) years as a career fire fighter, or six (6) years as a volunteer fire fighter

Company Officer 2D: All Risk Command Operations for Company Officers  
S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior (classroom delivery only)

Chief Fire Officer 3A: Human Resource Management for Chief Fire Officers

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Company Officer, or five (5) years as a career officer (Lieutenant or higher), or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer (Lieutenant or higher), or five (5) years CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer, or seeking Fire Marshal Certification

Chief Fire Officer 3B: Budget and Fiscal Responsibilities for Chief Fire Officers

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Company Officer, or five (5) years as a career officer (Lieutenant or higher), or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer (Lieutenant or higher) or five (5) years CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer

Chief Fire Officer 3C: General Administration Functions for Chief Fire Officers

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Company Officer, or five (5) years as a career officer (Lieutenant or higher), or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer (Lieutenant or higher) or five (5) years CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer

Chief Fire Officer 3D: Emergency Service Delivery Responsibilities for Chief Fire Officers

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Company Officer, or five (5) years as a career officer (Lieutenant or higher), or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer (Lieutenant or higher) or five (5) years CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer

Executive Chief Fire Officer 4A: Human Resources Management

Prerequisites: Meet educational requirements for Chief Fire Officer or five (5) years as career chief officer, or seven (7) years as a volunteer chief officer

Executive Chief Fire Officer 4B: Community and Government Relations

Prerequisites: Meet educational requirements for Chief Fire Officer or five (5) years as career chief officer, or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer

Executive Chief Fire Officer 4C: Administration Prerequisites: Meet educational requirements for Chief Fire Officer or five (5) years as career chief officer, or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer

Executive Chief Fire Officer 4D: Emergency Services Delivery

Prerequisites: Meet educational requirements for Chief Fire Officer or five (5) years as career chief officer, or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer

Executive Chief Fire Officer 4E: Health and Safety

Prerequisites: Meet educational requirements for Chief Fire Officer or five (5) years as career chief officer, or seven (7) years as a volunteer officer

Fire Inspector 2A: Fire Prevention Administration

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Fire Inspector I or five (5) years as fire inspector

Fire Inspector 2B: Fire and Life Safety Requirements

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Fire Inspector I or five (5) years as fire inspector

Fire Inspector 2C: Inspecting New and Existing Fire & Life Safety Systems and Equipment

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Fire Inspector I or five (5) years as fire inspector

Fire Inspector 2D: Hazardous Materials, Operations, and Processes

Prerequisites: Meet the educational requirements for Fire Inspector I or five (5) years as fire inspector

Other Employees

There are times when agencies may wish to send an employee to a SFT course who does not meet the course prerequisites (i.e. sending a Budget Administrator to Chief Fire Officer 3B course). In these situations, the agency or student can send a written petition for Alternative Application to Methods and Procedures to SFT in accordance with Title 19, California Code of Regulation Section 1980.06. SFT will review petitions on a case by case basis.

These changes will allow persons who did not participate in the SFT system from entry level to enter the SFT system at an appropriate training level. These changes do not waive the certification prerequisites.

Once approved by the State Board of Fire Service (SBFS), SFT Staff will begin updating Course Plans. If approved at the November 2019 SBFS meeting, SFT will implement this on or before July 1, 2020. If approved, these provisions will sunset on December 31, 2024.

There are still some agencies who currently do not participate in the SFT system, but may opt-in after the sunset date. If so, they may petition using the Alternative Application to Methods and Procedures (as listed above) mid-career course prerequisite transition period on a case-by-case basis.