



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
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**Date:** October 8, 2021

**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:**

Oakland Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend Oakland Fire Department continue as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

**Background Information:**

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on May 22, 2021, at the Oakland Fire Department Training Tower located at 250 Victory Court in Oakland, California. The evaluation was conducted with Battalion Chief of Training Demond Simmons and included a review of the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR), 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 an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

A review of the training facility 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. The Oakland Fire Department (OFD) utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for certification testing for its Training Academies.

The training facility presents appropriate 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. Several Registered Instructors within the agency participate in the Academy delivery and the Department will continue hosting additional State Fire Training courses at their facility in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with State Fire Training requirements.

- The current staffing is at its capacity having tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. There is an identified need for additional full-time faculty staff members and clerical personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- The OFD training grounds possess some aging structures and props in need of renovation and/or replacement.
- SFT recommends additional stationary locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended cleansing stations and shower facilities be expanded to ensure student and instructor safety. As this is an off-shared space for regional partner, this measure would increase safety for all visitors and partners.

The Oakland Fire Department provides a robust, well-rounded training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. OFD is an accomplished organization serving a uniquely diverse community with well-rounded and experienced personnel providing for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the needs of the region. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely techniques. The staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT curriculum delivery, advisory committee participation, and feedback provision.

The Oakland Fire Department has demonstrated a genuine devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud and professional organization. State Fire Training recommends the Oakland Fire Department continue its designation as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Accreditation period of five (5) years.