



**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](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



**Date:** January 7, 2022

**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:**

Orange County Fire Authority Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Initial Accreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend Orange County Fire Authority be provided Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Initial Accreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of three (3) years.

**Background Information:**

An Initial Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 30, 2021, at the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) training facility at 1 Fire Authority Road in Irvine, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation Team included Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III Chris Fowler, State Fire Training; Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training; Chief Richard Beckman, Fire Academy Coordinator at Rio Hondo College, representing STEAC; Chief Jeff Baumunk, Director of Public Safety Education at El Camino College, representing the Accredited Academies system; and Chief Cameron Miller, Fire Academy Coordinator at College of the Desert, representing the Accredited Academies system. Introductions were facilitated by Battalion Chief Neal McCann that included Assistant Chief Randy Black, Battalion Chief Eric Bennett, and Training Program Analyst Tara Miali.

The OCFA Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, 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 assess training course records and equipment complement. The Site Team was provided the revised SAR for remote review prior to the event.

**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. OCFA will utilize the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits will be provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors will participate in the Academy delivery with members from regional partners complementing the need for Instructors and Evaluators.

**Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:**

- Consistent participation at regional training officer meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- Expanded shower facilities, extractors, and female locker rooms are recommended to provide training participants with a safe and healthy learning environment.
- It is recommended that procurement of academy-specific cleansing stations and/or shower trailers be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- Exploration of electronic-based records management system (RMS) is recommended for ease of records maintenance.

Orange County Fire Authority is an accomplished and historical organization serving a vast and unique community in Southern California. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the community. A cooperative neighbor in the region, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment with a strong focus on wellness and safety. Routine professional development and in-service training opportunities are provided all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. Eager to meet the needs of the region, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system.

The Orange County Fire Authority has demonstrated a strong devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud, professional, and progressive organization. The Site Evaluation Team is unanimous in the recommendation of the OCFA being designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.