



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: January 8, 2021

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

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Pasadena Fire Department Initial Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Pasadena Fire Department become an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the initial accreditation period of three (3) years.

Background Information:

An Initial Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 4, 2020, at the Pasadena Fire Department Training Tower located at 515 N. Lake Avenue in Pasadena, California. The Accreditation Site Evaluation Team included Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Chris Fowler, State Fire Training; Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training; Ray Mosack, Mount San Antonio College; Jeff Baumunk, El Camino College ARTP; Andy Grzywa, Rio Hondo College (ARTP); and Scott Jaeggi, California Fire Technology Directors Association (STEAC). STEAC Representative Matt Jewett, California Fire Technology Directors Association, participated administratively due to prior commitments. Jewett was provided all information pertaining to the Accreditation including the final Self-Assessment Report, Site Evaluation checklist, and supplemental documentation. Introductions were facilitated by Battalion Chief Anthony Bagan that included Fire Chief Brian Frieders, Captains Christiaan Miller and Justin Pagliuso, and Staff Assistant Henry Delgado.

A review of the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed with agency 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 tour of all classrooms

and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

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. The Pasadena Fire Department will utilize the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for certification testing for its scheduled 2021 Training Academy.

The training facility presents an appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classroom 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 within the agency participate in the Academy delivery and the Department will focus on 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 fire academy is to be conducted at various sites in the region with the majority of delivery held at the PFD Lake Avenue location and off-site at the Glendale Fire Department training tower. The logistics surrounding student and equipment transport identifies a need for procurement of an agency-specific training center to centralize structures, equipment, and apparatus, while providing the region with a single location for enhanced training course availability. A designated site would allow for the Academy delivery to focus on well-rounded training, student safety, and learning proficiency.
- The PFD training grounds possess some aging structures and props in need of renovation and/or replacement.
- The site further lacks stationary locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended cleansing stations and shower facilities be constructed to ensure student safety.
- It is additionally recommended that the Department begin exploring financial allocation for training grounds renovation and the feasibility of constructing a designated training center to be utilized by the agency recruits and partners.

The Pasadena Fire Department is an accomplished and historical organization serving a uniquely diverse 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 region. Through active ongoing recruitment, the agency possesses a diverse workforce with attention to career-long training and development. A cooperative neighbor in the region, the 149 sworn personnel serve to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment. Exceptional training and recruitment have

provided a diverse, educated, and strong workforce. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction 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 Pasadena Fire Department has demonstrated an ambitious and exemplary devotion to training that is indicative of a proud, progressive, and professional organization. The Site Evaluation Team is unanimous in the recommendation of the Pasadena Fire Department being designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.