



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
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Date: February 20, 2020

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

San Bernardino County Fire District Initial Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend San Bernardino County Fire District 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 October 29, 2019, at the San Bernardino County Fire District Training Tower located at 2824 E. W Street in San Bernardino, 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; Fire Captain Cody Eaves, Moreno Valley College/CAL FIRE; and Ray Mosack, Mount San Antonio College. STEAC Representative Brett Davidson, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department, participated administratively due to State of Emergency status as issued by Governor Newsom. Davidson was provided all information pertaining to the Accreditation including the final Self-Assessment Report, Site Evaluation checklist, supplemental documentation, and photos obtained during the visit.

Introductions were facilitated by Training Captain Bryan James, San Bernardino County Fire District, that included Fire Chief Don Trapp; Assistant Fire Chief Dan Munsey; Assistant Fire Chief Ronald Walls; Captains Jon Garber, Dan Nafzgar, and Matthew Anderson; staff member Sandra Quiroz; and consultant William Melendez.

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 San Bernardino County Fire District will utilize the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for certification testing for its schedule 2020 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 Fire District serves more than two million residents of the sprawling 19,000 square miles of the County. 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 681 sworn personnel serve to promote teamwork, integrity, trust, family, and honesty. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided to 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.

To ensure success and compliance with upcoming Fire Fighter I examination, State Fire Training requires the San Bernardino County Fire District training staff observe and participate in the examination process with other experienced agencies or colleges in the region.

The San Bernardino County Fire District 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 San Bernardino County Fire District being designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system.