



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATE FIRE TRAINING**

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Date: April 14, 2024

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:

Fresno Fire Department, Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

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

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on March 20, 2024, at the Fresno Fire Department (FFD) headquarters at 911 H Street in Fresno, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training with Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention and Support Services Jonathan Chew and Civilian Training Officer Manuel Graves serving as site hosts and representatives.

The FFD 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 an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliance.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

An evaluation of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training facility complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. FFD utilizes 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 are provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training.

Several Registered Instructors and Evaluators participate in the Academy and Certification Exam delivery making the agency self-sustaining and the Department will focus on hosting additional State Fire Training courses 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.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Consistent participation at training officer and ALA meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Academy has identified a specific need for additional administrative support personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties. Allocation of staffing hours and support with additionally lend toward the offset of workload.
- The training facility exhibits ongoing needs for equipment and facility maintenance. Upkeep and preventative maintenance of the facility, equipment, and apparatus will serve to ensure longevity of the training program.
- Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, and decontamination stations with extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of additional facilities be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- The agency may benefit from utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses. As an ALA, this is an option available that should be explored.
- Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversifications efforts.

The Fresno Fire Department boasts a thorough and challenging academy, incorporating comprehensive, timely, and relevant training. The FFD training and education program establishes, and builds upon, the knowledge, skills, and abilities of its members to safely and effectively perform all the functions within their positions with the utmost professionalism. Fresno Fire Department continues to be a staple in the State Fire Training system via member participation in curriculum development cadres, feedback provision, and stakeholder involvement. Given its progressive nature, the Department possesses a need for additional administrative support for continued growth and innovation of its already expansive training division.

The Fresno Fire Department has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to fire training, safety, and standardization, efforts reliably demonstrative of this historical and exemplary leader of the California fire service. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Fresno Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.