



**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:**

San Francisco Fire Department, Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend San Francisco 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 February 29, 2024, at the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) Training Tower located at 649 Avenue N (Treasure Island) in San Francisco, California. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training with agency inductions conducted by Assistant Deputy Chief of Training Julie Mau and Fire Lieutenant Andrew Murtagh that included Deputy Chief of Operations Darius Lattrupp and Assistant Deputy Chief of Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Garreth Miller.

The SFFD 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. SFFD 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 agency has identified a specific need for additional personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- 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.
- 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. It is recommended that development of an enhanced training facility continue progression.
- 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 San Francisco Fire Department boasts a thorough and challenging academy, incorporating comprehensive, timely, and relevant training. The SFFD 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. The San Francisco Fire Department is a leadership partner amongst neighboring agencies with devoted effort toward overall statewide fire service enhancement. The Department continues to be a steadfast participant in the State Fire training system via member participation in curriculum development cadres, regulatory provision review, feedback provision, and ongoing stakeholder involvement.

The agency has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to fire service training in California. The agency's expansive history is complemented by its progressive energy and leadership, where innovation and proud tradition combine. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the San Francisco Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.