



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

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Date: April 11, 2025

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:

Bakersfield College, Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Bakersfield College remains an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the reaccreditation period of four (4) years.

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on March 4, 2025, at the Bakersfield College/Olive Drive Fire Training Facility located in Bakersfield, California. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty and Certification Exam Coordinator Selena Garcia-Villacana, State Fire Training, with Program Coordinator Derek Robinson, Academy Director Charles Truvillion, Deputy Chief Kevin Albertson (BFD), Division Chief Derek Tisinger (KCFD), Battalion Chief Jack Rice (BFD), Training Secretary Janet Mason, and Executive Secretary Karen Mattox serving as site hosts and representatives.

The Bakersfield College 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 an opportunity to review training course records and equipment complement.

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. Bakersfield College 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 cadets are provided with 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 program self-sustaining and the College will focus on hosting additional registered SFT courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with SFT requirements.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Consistent participation at technology director's meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- Improved decontamination stations with extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that the procurement of additional facilities and equipment be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- Given the regional usage of the site, improved equipment and burn logs shall be established and maintained in accordance with SFT and NFPA requirements.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The College has identified a specific need for dedicated personnel to offset the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- The program may benefit from utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses while garnering students from throughout the State. As an ARTP, this is an available option.
- The program shall continue to explore outreach and recruitment opportunities for expanded diversification of the instructor cadre roster.
- Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversifications efforts.
- The program shall initiate succession planning efforts for continued ARTP support, sustainability, and growth.

Bakersfield College serves a uniquely diverse student population, with many under-represented demographics participating in the Academy. The College maintains a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs. Collaboration and cooperation are cornerstones of this program, an integral part of Kern County region.

In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, and the *SFT Procedures Manual (2019)*, Accreditation Process, Section 3.1.6(E), a six-month Accreditation Extension was granted to ensure program stabilization while working toward sustainability. All requirements set forth by State Fire Training have been satisfied for Reaccreditation and there has been no lapse in accreditation.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Bakersfield College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for a Reaccreditation period of four years.