



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

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Date: April 10, 2026

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 Jose Fire Department
Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend the San Jose Fire Department be reaccredited as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on February 26, 2026, with the San Jose Fire Department in San Jose, CA. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Deputy Chief Steve Boughey, Battalion Chief Sean Ain, Captain Tyler Matcham, and Administrator Cathy Noonan serving as hosts and representatives.

The San Jose Fire Department Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. The documentation has since been received and meets the requirements set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The SAR review was followed by an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities, with an opportunity to review training course records and the equipment complement.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

An evaluation of the training facilities verified sufficient classroom space and a fully functioning, compliant training facility, complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to support a fire academy training program. The Department utilizes the current CFSTES Fire Fighter curriculum and has all necessary materials to deliver Certification Examinations. The training grounds feature California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audiovisual equipment and necessary learning aids. All academy recruits are provided with sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment to succeed in academy training. Several Registered Instructors and Evaluators participate in the academy instruction and Certification Exam delivery, making the

program self-sustaining. The Department 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 training officers and ALA meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the state for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The agency may benefit from the utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses. As an ALA, this is an available option.
- Exploration of Certification Exam progression is recommended, including digitization of skills sheets, video recording, expansion of additional Exam offerings to include Fire and Emergency Services 1 and 2, and Alternate Candidate exam events.
- The Department shall continue to explore outreach and recruitment opportunities for expanded diversification of the instructor cadre roster. Ongoing outreach through fire camps and community events is recommended to support continued diversification efforts.

The San Jose Fire Department is an accomplished and historical organization, with well-rounded, experienced personnel providing expansive response capabilities and a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the community. A cooperative neighbor in the state, the agency promotes teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The Department has a strong focus on continued growth through ongoing recruitment and community engagement and serves as a cornerstone training destination for all levels of fire service training and education. 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.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the San Jose Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of five (5) years.