



**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:

Vallejo Fire Department
Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend the Vallejo 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 2, 2026, with the Vallejo Fire Department in Vallejo, CA. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Battalion Chief Sean Googins, Battalion Chief Matt Fenzl, and Captain Anthony Shair-Ali serving as hosts and representatives.

The Vallejo 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:

- The training facility consists of aging infrastructure that is failing to meet the demands of academy training and delivery. The facility site is undersized and lacks the capacity to adequately support academies, in-service training, and community risk reduction program delivery.
- Equipment, apparatus, and training resources at the training facility are lacking. Consumable materials and dedicated training-specific tools and equipment are required for successful academy delivery.
- Succession planning and cadre development opportunities are lacking. Training opportunities and tuition reimbursement are contributing to delayed personnel development.
- Improved decontamination stations with showers and 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 the safety of both students and instructors.
- 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.
- The current staffing is at its capacity, with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Department has identified a specific need for additional clerical personnel to reduce the workload of existing staff and ensure the Academy's thorough delivery, free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- 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 Vallejo Fire Department provides a robust, well-rounded training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. Well-rounded, experienced personnel provide expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the region's needs. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely techniques. The staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training and maintain excellent working relations with SFT. The Vallejo Fire Department has demonstrated a genuine devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud and professional organization.

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