



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: January 10, 2020

Attachment #1

To: John Binaski, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Santa Monica Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Re-Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Santa Monica Fire Department remain an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Re-Accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A Re-Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on June 17, 2019, at the Santa Monica Fire Department administrative office and training center located at 2500 Michigan Avenue in Santa Monica, California. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with agency host Training Chief Sean VanSluis present throughout.

A review of the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed with Chief VanSluis, 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 a tour of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The Santa Monica Fire Department has undergone facility and personnel changes in the Training Division warranting a requested, and approved, six-month Extension Period from the August 24, 2019, ALA expiration date. This is in compliance with State Fire Training Procedures Manual Section 3.5.3(B)(1) Reaccreditation. The Re-Accreditation period will reflect the extension date.

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, and equipment to accommodate a fire academy training program as supplemented by satellite training sites and locations. The Santa Monica Fire Department successfully adheres to the 2013 Fire Fighter I curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification testing and can transition to the proposed 2019 curriculum with ease.

The training facility presents an appropriate academy California Fire Code-compliant classroom 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 within the agency participate in the Academy delivery and the Department will continue hosting additional State Fire Training courses at the facility in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner.

The Santa Monica Fire Department is an accomplished organization serving a uniquely diverse community for more than 135 years. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the region. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely techniques, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment. Exceptional training and recruitment have provided a diverse, educated, and strong workforce. Given its progressive nature, the Department possesses a strong need for additional administrative support personnel and funding for program enhancement and sustainability.

The Santa Monica Fire Department has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to fire training, safety, and standardization, efforts reliably demonstrative of this exceptional member of the California fire service. It is recommended that Santa Monica Fire Department continue to be designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system.