



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: October 14, 2022

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)
State Fire Training

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

College of the Desert Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend College of the Desert be provided Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of four-and-a-half years.

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on March 9, 2022, at the College of the Desert Fire Academy training facility at 72564 Ramon Road in Thousand Palms, CA. The accreditation visit was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Public Safety Academy Director Neil Lingle, Basic Fire Academy Program Coordinator Cameron Miller, Public Safety Academy Manager Walt Meyer, and Public Safety Academy Instruction Lab Tech Carlos Perez. The ARTP was provided a six-month Extension Provision in April 2022 and all noted requirements have been satisfied in alignment with SFT policies and procedures.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. College of the Desert utilizes

the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful and complete Certification Examination delivery.

The College campus exhibits appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy cadets are provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors participate in the Academy delivery with members from regional partners complementing the need for Registered Instructors and Evaluators.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Continued Fire Advisory Committee/Board meetings are recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region. This Committee should include varied members from the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- Improved decontamination stations and multiple extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of additional facilities be explored to ensure student safety.
- It is recommended that procurement exploration be conducted for the following:
 - o Mobile devices (tablets) for supplementation of instructional delivery and Certification Exam participation
 - o Full PPE for applicable instructors

Program coordinators recognize the underserved student and regional agency populations in the region and have expressed a desire to bridge the regional fire service training and education gap. This focus on providing education for all students is indicative of the training devotion serving as the foundation of the program. Academy personnel possess an energetic approach to program development with a strong focus on maintaining diversified student populations while adhering to the standards set forth by State Fire Training. The College is proactively building cooperative relationships founded on producing strong, well-rounded fire service professionals.

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 extension was granted in April 2022. 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 College of the Desert as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of four-and-a-half (4.5) years.

Documentation available upon request:

- College of the desert ARTP Extension Provision 2022