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**Date:** January 12, 2024

**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:**

Pasadena Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend Pasadena Fire Department be provided Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of five (5) years.

**Background Information:**

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 28, 2023, at the Pasadena Fire Department (PFD) training facility at 1500 E. Villa Street in Pasadena, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty and introductions were facilitated by Battalion Chief Christiaan Miller that included Fire Chief Chad Augustin, Battalion Chief Daniel Nausha, and Fire Captains Josh Organ and Victor Lazaryan. The PFD 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 a tour of the training facilities with opportunity to assess equipment complement.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

A tour 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. PFD utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate a California Fire Code-compliant classrooms 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 and Evaluators participate in the Academy and Certification Exam delivery making the agency self-sustaining.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Training is conducted at various sites in the region with student and equipment transport identifying a need for procurement of an agency-specific training center to centralize structures, equipment, and apparatus. A designated site would allow for the Academy delivery to focus on well-rounded training, student safety, and learning proficiency. Focused effort on secured funding for site enhancement and development will provide for longevity, sustainability, and adaptability of increased academy and course delivery.
- Consistent participation at training officer and ALA meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Academy has identified a specific need for additional administrative support personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversifications efforts.
- Improved decontamination stations and additional extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of additional facilities be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- Procurement of an SCBA fill station and forklift, or other heavy materials movement equipment, are recommended for exclusive training use.

The Pasadena Fire Department is an accomplished and historical organization serving a uniquely diverse community in Southern California. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the region. Through active ongoing recruitment, the agency possesses a diverse workforce with attention to career-long training and development. A cooperative neighbor in the region, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment. Exceptional training and recruitment have provided a diverse, educated, and strong workforce. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. Eager to meet the needs of the region, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system having participated in cadres and other SFT cooperative groups since Initial Accreditation was granted.

The agency has demonstrated an ambitious and exemplary devotion to training that is indicative of a proud, progressive, and professional organization. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Pasadena Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.