



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

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**Date:** January 10, 2025

**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:**

Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend Orange County Fire Authority remains an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

**Background Information:**

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 13, 2024, at the OCFA Training Tower located at 1 Fire Authority Road in Irvine, California. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with agency host Battalion Chief Eric Bennett and Management Analyst Tara Miali serving as site hosts and representatives.

The OCFA 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 an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities with an opportunity to review training course records and equipment complement.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

An evaluation 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. OCFA utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All academy recruits are provided with 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 and the department will focus on hosting additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with State Fire Training requirements.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- 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.
- Improved decontamination stations with 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 student and instructor safety.
- The agency may benefit from utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses. As an ALA, this is an available option.
- Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversifications efforts.

Orange County Fire Authority is an accomplished and historical organization serving a vast and unique community in Southern California. A cooperative neighbor in the region, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The agency provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment with a strong focus on wellness and safety. OCFA boasts a thorough and challenging academy, incorporating comprehensive, timely, and relevant training. OCFA has become an active participant in the State Fire training system via member participation in curriculum development cadres, feedback provision, and ongoing stakeholder involvement.

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