



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

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 902-9738
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: July 12, 2024

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

From: Caryn Petty, Statewide Academy Coordinator

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Berkeley Fire Department, Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Berkeley Fire Department remain 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 May 16, 2024, at the Berkeley Fire Department training facility at 997 Cedar Street in Berkeley, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Chief Chris Fowler and Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire Chief David Sprague and Captains Jonathan Pique and Alfonso Munoz serving as site hosts and representatives.

The BFD 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 opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

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. BFD 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-sustained. 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.
- 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. Allocation of staffing hours and support with additionally lend toward the offset of workload.
- Given its progressive nature, the Department possesses a strong need for a significantly larger training space and increased training staff to support the training and development of its personnel.
- The agency may benefit from utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses. As an ALA, this is an option available that should be explored for continued personnel development and agency self-sustainability.

The Berkeley Fire Department is an accomplished organization serving a diverse community with a focus on exceptional customer service. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with an ever-adapting focus on serving the needs of this growing area. The Department trains cooperatively with its neighboring agencies and facilities to provide comprehensive training evolutions for participants. The Berkeley Fire Department continues to be a staple in the State Fire Training system via member participation in curriculum development cadres, feedback provision, and stakeholder involvement. The Berkeley Fire Department has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to fire training, safety, and standardization, efforts reliably demonstrative of this forward-thinking, innovative leader of the California fire service.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Berkeley Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.