



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

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Date: July 11, 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:

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

Recommended Actions:

Recommend College of the Sequoias remains an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on June 5, 2025, at the College of the Sequoias in Hanford, California. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire and EMS Programs Director Nick Branch serving as site host and representative.

The College of the Sequoias 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. College of the Sequoias 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 cadets 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 program self-sustaining and the College will focus on hosting additional registered SFT courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with SFT requirements.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Training facility maintenance and development shall be immediate to ensure student and instructor safety for compliant academy and course delivery. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - o Procurement of a Class A burn capable container/prop
 - o Procurement of an on-site SCBA compressor/fill station
 - o Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, and decontamination stations with extractors to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment
- Consistent participation at California Fire Technology Director Association's 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 College has identified a specific need for dedicated personnel to offset the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties. Exploration of additional clerical staff, full-time faculty, and full-time coordinator is strongly recommended.
- Given the regional usage of the site, improved equipment and burn logs shall be established and maintained in accordance with SFT and NFPA requirements.
- The program may benefit from utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses while garnering students from throughout the State. As an ARTP, this is an available option.
- The program shall continue to explore outreach and recruitment opportunities for expanded diversification of the instructor cadre roster. Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversifications efforts.

College of the Sequoias has a strong and unwavering devotion to student support, with a steadfast focus on personal development and growth. The College boasts a uniquely diverse student population, with many under-represented demographics participating in the Academy. The College is devoted to the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. The College maintains a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs.

SFT recommends continued recognition of College of the Sequoias as an Accredited Regional Training Program for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.