



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

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Date: July 10, 2026

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:

Santa Monica Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend the Santa Monica Fire Department be reaccredited as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a reaccreditation period of four (4) years.

Background Information:

A reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on May 5, 2025, with the Santa Monica Fire Department in Glendale, CA. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Training Chief Sean van Sluis serving as host and representative.

The Santa Monica Fire Department Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. The documentation has since been received and reviewed, and meets the requirements set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The SAR review was followed by an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities, with an opportunity to review training course records and the equipment complement.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

An evaluation of the training facilities verified sufficient classroom space and a fully functioning, compliant training facility, complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to support a fire academy training program. The Department utilizes the current CFSTES Fire Fighter curriculum and has all necessary materials to deliver Certification Examinations. The training grounds feature California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audiovisual equipment and necessary learning aids. All academy recruits are provided with sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment to succeed in academy training. Several Registered Instructors

and Evaluators participate in the academy instruction and Certification Exam delivery, making the program self-sustaining. The Department 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:

- Consistent participation at training officers and ALA meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the state 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 the safety of both students and instructors.
- The agency may benefit from the utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses. As an ALA, this is an available option.
- The current staffing is at its capacity, with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Department has identified a specific need for additional clerical personnel to reduce the workload of existing staff and ensure the Academy's thorough delivery, free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- Additional SFT course deliveries to meet the needs of the region and agency are recommended.
- The Department shall continue to explore outreach and recruitment opportunities for expanded diversification of the instructor cadre roster. Ongoing outreach through fire camps and community events is recommended to support continued diversification efforts.

The Santa Monica Fire Department offers a comprehensive, well-rounded training program led by experienced personnel. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided to all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. The staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training and maintain excellent working relationships with SFT across many areas, including instructional delivery, academy enhancement, and instructor development.

In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, and the *SFT Procedures Manual (2019)*, Accreditation Process, Section 3.1.6(E), two six-month Accreditation Extensions were granted for site development and program sustainability purposes. 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 Santa Monica Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of four (4) years.