



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
State Fire Training Division
P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 568-2911
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: April 9, 2021

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

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)
State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Re-Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy remain an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Re-Accreditation period of four-and-a-half years.

The College was approved for a six-month extension pending delivery of a purchased training tower. An attestation has been received verifying there have been no changes to the evaluation sites following the September 18, 2020 event. The tower has been assessed and is deemed compliant, acceptable, and appropriate by SFT.

Background Information:

A Re-Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on September 18, 2020, at the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy (LTBFA) campus classroom located at 1 College Drive in South Lake Tahoe, California, with a supplemental visit to its training facility in Markleeville, California. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Academy Coordinators Leona Allen and Kileigh Labrado, Academy Director Chief Terry Hughes, and Equipment Coordinator Ed Roe present throughout. A program review meeting was conducted with several LTBFA associates in attendance including College President Jeff DeFranco, Dean of Workforce Development Brad Deeds, Director of Facilities and Capital Construction Al Frangione, CTE Program Specialist Jamie Rhone, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Mike Deacon, South Lake Tahoe Chief Clive Savacool, South Lake Tahoe Battalion Chief Jim Drennan, Lake Valley Fire Protection District Chief Brad Zlendick, and past graduates Benjamin Booker and Jason Cox.

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."

A review of the College's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was 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:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program as supplemented by satellite and partnered training sites and locations. Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy has transitioned to the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification examinations. Certification examinations will begin in 2021.

The campus presents appropriate academy classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. Academy recruits are provided sufficient study materials and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors participate in the Academy delivery and the College will be expanding its hosting of additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies.

Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy maintains healthy and supportive relationships with regional agencies and associated partners, having resulted in continued acquisition of apparatus, equipment, and PPE for Academy use. The current staffing is at its capacity with staff working well beyond the typical work schedule and hours. This condition has tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Academy has identified a specific need for full-time faculty staff members to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.

The Academy exists in a unique and under-served region of the State that warrants upgrades to curriculum, training facilities, and equipment. New burn connexes and a mobile training tower have been procured and are to be positioned and implemented by April 2021. The program has a need for designated apparatus and it currently utilizes partner apparatus for training. Retired apparatus are available but will require a storage structure given the climate and environment of the region. There currently exists no maintenance budget specific to apparatus and equipment, an area of focused recommendation from SFT for Academy sustainability. The current site lacks appropriate locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended cleansing stations and shower trailers be procured to ensure student safety.

Working cooperatively with neighboring agencies, LTBFAs share training space at a location separate from the campus classroom (Markleeville). This requires caravan of students between locations, resulting in instructional delays and increased liability. The logistics surrounding student and equipment transport has created a desire for

procurement of a college-specific training facility to centralize training, while providing the region with a single location for enhanced availability and use. It is recommended that the College explore financial allocation and procurement of a designated training center to be utilized by the College students and partners.

Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy serves a unique region of the State, providing affordable, robust, and well-rounded training programs to entry-level, volunteer, and career fire service personnel. The College intends to provide an array of State Fire Training courses to an underserved region in California, with various technical rescue and specialized courses to be delivered. The students and staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery, advisory committee participation, academy enhancement, and instructor development.

Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy possesses an unwavering devotion to complete student development. The unique training opportunities, student and instructor diversification, and program innovation makes it an up-and-coming leader in the California fire service training and education program and as an ARTP. It is recommended that Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy continue to be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Re-Accreditation period of four-and-a-half years.