



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

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Date: October 13, 2023

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

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

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:
Fire Fighter Instructor Registration

Recommended Actions:

Formally recognize Fire Fighter Instructors in the State Fire Training system via the SFT User Portal (Acadis).

Background Information:

Under the current system, the Accredited Academies utilize the Fire Fighter 1 (FF1) and Fire Fighter 2 (FF2) courses without registering courses or listing the instructors. This presents a challenge for ALAs/ARTPs to ensure instructors are qualified to instruct the FF1 and FF2 courses. This lack of tracking in the SFT User Portal has resulted in regulatory non-compliance statewide with the requirements specific to Fire Fighter academy instruction and delivery.

During the past five years of evaluations conducted during the accreditation processes, SFT has identified generalized non-compliance with the qualifications of Fire Fighter Instructors. To date, there is limited information supporting Fire Fighter Certification candidate instruction and instructor training history.

At the July 2017 STEAC meeting, the committee updated the Fire Fighter Instructor requirements to the following:

- Has met one (1) of the instructor requirements:
 - Certified SFT Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1; or
 - Certified SFT Instructor 1; or
 - Certified SFT Training Instructor I; or

- Certified SFT Fire Instructor I; or
- SFT Historically Recognized Fire Fighter 1 & 2 Academy Instructor (on or before December 31, 2018)
- Ethical Leadership in the Classroom or Ethical Leadership for Instructors
- Held the rank of Fire Fighter performing suppression duties within a recognized fire agency in California for a minimum of three (3) years.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

In October 2022, a query was conducted of the SFT User Portal to identify the users possessing training that would qualify them as a Fire Fighter Instructor via instructor requirement and Ethics course completion. SFT cannot verify the listed occupational experience through the SFT User Portal.

SFT ran a system-wide query that identified 2,057 total individual users that satisfied the existing Fire Fighter Instructor requirements including completed instructor training, Ethics course completion, and who possess a Fire Fighter 2 or Tenured Path Certification.

Given the SFT Staff time required to query and issue this qualification, a quarterly automated processing is proposed to provide qualified instructors with the designation. During this time, only those individuals possessing Fire Fighter 2 Certification, or equivalent, will be provided automatic qualification demonstrating Fire Fighter Instructor eligibility.

With the required six-month occupational experience requirement denoted in the Fire Fighter (2019) Task Book, qualification issuance may include those individuals possessing that minimum of six months' of experience. To confirm instructor applicability, all entities shall ensure occupational experience is appropriate for the agency/facility and in alignment with SFT regulation which requires a Fire Fighter Instructor to hold the rank of Fire Fighter performing suppression duties within a recognized fire agency in California for a minimum of three years. SFT does not verify occupational experience.

There may be persons who qualify as a Fire Fighter Instructor who do not have a Fire Fighter 2 Certification and therefore will not be listed in the SFT User Portal. Colleges and agencies should verify that the candidate has the required instructor requirements, Ethics course completion, and occupational experience prior to individual designation as a primary instructor of a Fire Fighter 1 and/or 2 course(s).

After the initial query and issuance of the qualified Fire Fighter Instructor, SFT Staff will repeat queries each quarter.

Designation will provide ease of compliance monitoring for SFT with record-keeping ease for the accredited academies for assured academy delivery compliance. This would further alleviate misinformation and confusion regarding course/training completion and who may deliver instruction in alignment with SFT regulation.