



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

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Date: October 10, 2025

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

From: Caryn Petty, Statewide Academy Coordinator

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

College of the Redwoods, Accredited Regional Training (ARTP) Initial Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend College of the Redwoods be provided an Accredited Regional Training (ARTP) Initial Accreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of three (3) years.

Background Information:

An Initial Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on August 28, 2025, at the College of the Redwoods campus in Eureka, CA. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Sean Robertson, Assistant Professor of Fire Technology; Sean Wilson, Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE; and Rachel Warze, Administrative Officer Coordinator, serving as site hosts and representatives. The Site Team consisted of Chief Justin Chaplin, CAL FIRE, Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee and Accredited Academies; and Instructional Assistant-Public Safety Valarie Carte, Sierra College, representing the Accredited Academies and the California Fire Technology Directors Association. Other dignitaries in attendance included Dr. Keith Flamer, President/Superintendent; Rory Johnson, Dean Career Education; Chief Kurt McCray, CAL FIRE Humboldt Del Norte; Chief Tim Citro, Humboldt Bay Fire; and Battalion Chief John Chambers, Humboldt Bay Fire.

The College of the Redwoods 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 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

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accommodate a fire academy training program. The College will utilize the current Fire Fighter 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-sustained. 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.

The College of the Redwoods academy is to be conducted at partner sites in the region with instructional delivery to be conducted at the main campus and off-site at the Fortuna Fire District and the Humboldt Bay Fire – Chris Kemp Training Center.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Participation at California Fire Technology Director Association's meetings is strongly recommended to foster statewide relationships and to explore networking and partnership opportunities.
- Given the regional usage of the shared sites, improved equipment and live-fire burn logs shall be established and maintained in accordance with SFT and NFPA requirements. At no time shall the ARTP students lack site access per scheduling conflicts.
- All training sites shall be maintained for security, cleanliness, and safety of students and instructors.
 - o Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, and decontamination stations with extractors shall be explored to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for students and instructors.
 - o An improved ventilation prop shall be considered at the Fortuna location for enhanced student and instructor safety.
- Documentation of progressive efforts of improved live-fire training props at Chris Kemp location shall be provided on a quarterly basis to SFT.
- 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 Redwoods will serve 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 is already an excellent cooperator, working in seamless cohesion with neighboring agencies. Program coordinators recognize the underserved student and varied agency populations in the region and have an express desire to bridge the regional fire service training and education gap. This focus on providing education for all students is indicative of the training devotion serving as the foundation of the proposed program.

The Site Evaluation Team was unanimous in their endorsement of State Fire Training recommending recognition of College the Redwoods as an Accredited Regional Training Program for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.