



**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, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Lake Tahoe Community College
Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Lake Community College remain 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 August 14, 2025, at Lake Tahoe Community College located in South Lake Tahoe, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Dean of Instruction Brad Deeds; Director of Forestry, Fire, and Public Safety Carlie Murphy; Academy Director Patrick Hughes; and Academy Fire Academy Coordinator Anika Schneider serving as site hosts.

The Lake Tahoe Community College 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 location complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. Lake Tahoe Community College utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds and partner locations 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. 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:

- 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.
- With the regional training center in development, a steady timeline for implementation should be identified and adhered to.
- Given the intended regional usage of the new site, equipment and burn logs shall be established and maintained in accordance with SFT and NFPA requirements. Procurement of live-fire training and extrication props is strongly recommended to ensure facility safety and longevity.
- 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.
- 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. Assignment of additional clerical staff and faculty designations is strongly recommended.
- 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.

Lake Tahoe Community College 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 is an excellent cooperator, working in seamless cohesion with neighboring agencies. The staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery, academy enhancement, statewide engagement, and instructor development. The energetic instructors, diversification, and innovation within this program makes it a standout leader in the California fire service training and education program and as an ARTP.

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