



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

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 902-9738
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: October 10, 2025

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

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

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions: Recommend San Diego Fire-Rescue Department be reaccredited as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for an accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on September 8, 2025, at the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department training facility in San Diego, CA. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Battalion Chief Kevin Pendleton serving as site host and representative.

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department 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 accommodate a fire academy training program. SDFD utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) 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-sustaining and 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 officer's and ALA meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the state for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The agency has identified a specific need for additional personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
 - o The utilization of professional/temporary non-classified employees shall remain in-place to ensure program compliance.
 - o Additional clerical and administrative support are strongly recommended.
 - o Designated logistics personnel is strongly recommended for sustained equipment and materials organization and maintenance.
- The agency may benefit from utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses while garnering students from throughout the State. As an ALA, this is an available option.
- The agency 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.

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is a previous Academy of Excellence Award winner and continuous statewide leader providing a robust training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the unique needs of the region. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely techniques. SDFD is an up-and-coming participant in the SFT system and is an eager host for regionally desired courses. SDFD has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to training, safety, and standardization, efforts reliably demonstrative of this exceptional member of the California fire service.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of five (5) years.