



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: January 8, 2021

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

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Palomar College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Re-Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Palomar College remain an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Re-Accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on December 1, 2020, at the Palomar College training facilities at 182 Santar Place in San Marcos, California. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire Academy Director Dave Miller and Academy Coordinator John Thompson present throughout.

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 a tour of all classrooms and the facility with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training ground 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. Palomar College has successfully transitioned to the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum.

The training facility 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.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Although the program has sufficient staff, 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 workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. It has been identified that there is a need for additional instructional staff and full-time clerical support to lessen the workload of existing staff and enhance the Academy and fire technology course deliveries.
- The current footprint of the Academy is compact with an identified need for expansion to accommodate the Academy training as well as the projected specialized course deliveries. At present, physical training grounds are often shared with the other Public Safety programs. Expansion of the existing training facility would bolster regional training and course access, and further diversify curriculum delivery.
- For complete, self-sustained Fire Fighter Academy delivery, procurement of dedicated training apparatus be explored with consideration to covered parking for vehicle longevity and security. This would include, but is not limited to, wildland apparatus.
- To successfully begin compliant delivery of the Fire Fighter 2 (2019) curriculum and Certification Examinations, it is recommended that procurement of a flammable liquids and gas fire prop be explored.
- The site lacks appropriate locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that cleansing stations and shower trailers be procured to ensure student safety.

Palomar College is a statewide leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. The College provides numerous continuing education opportunities for those seeking career advancement, offering a growing array of specialized courses and training events. The College maintains a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs.

Palomar College possesses a strong and devotion to student development through innovative, robust, and progressive training. All participants, staff and students alike, adhere to the strong program standards that have served as the foundation of this Southern California model fire service training program. It is recommended that Palomar College continue to be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Re-Accreditation period of five (5) years.