



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 902-9738
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: January 13, 2023

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:

San Bernardino County Fire Department
Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD) 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:

An Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 8, 2022, at the San Bernardino County Fire Department training facility in San Bernardino, CA. Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, met with Division Chief of Training and Safety Jon Garber; Deputy Chief of Administration Bertral Washington; Deputy Chief of Operations Scott Tuttle; Captains Jason Moore, Andrea Binley, Brandon McGarvey, and Dan Nafzgar; and Office Assistant Tori Watson who provided an overview of the ALA. A review of the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed with agency representatives present, 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 review of all classrooms and training facilities.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The training facility indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. The San Bernardino County Fire Department utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for certification testing for its Training Academy.

The training facility presents several appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits will be provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors within the agency participate in the Academy delivery and the Department will focus on hosting additional State Fire Training courses at their facility in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with State Fire Training requirements.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- The training facility continues to expand and grow beyond the confines of the current location. Recommendation is made for exploration of an area of permanence that will meet the needs of this growing training entity.
- The current staffing is at its capacity having tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. There is an identified need for additional staff members and clerical personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- There is a need for additional cadre members to satisfactorily meet the student-to-instructor ratios for safety and improved instruction.
- The site further lacks stationary locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended cleansing stations and shower facilities be constructed to ensure student safety.
- The training apparatus are without proper coverage and protection from the elements. It is recommended that an apparatus cover or other bay be procured for equipment longevity, ease of access, and Academy use.

San Bernardino County Fire Department is a model fire agency that has proudly demonstrated great interagency cooperation. The SBCFD has demonstrated a strong devotion to training that is indicative of a progressive organization through provision of comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment with a focus on wellness and safety. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. Exceptional efforts are being made through camps and outreach events to diversify the workforce. Eager to meet the needs of the region, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system through focus group, curriculum cadre, and accredited academy engagement.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the San Bernardino County Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Accreditation period of five (5) years.