



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

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 Jose Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend San Jose Fire Department continue as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on September 15, 2021, at the San Jose Fire Department Training Tower located at 255 S. Montgomery Street in San Jose, California. Agency representatives included Captain Tyler Macham, Fire Engineer Paul Gonzalez, Training Specialist Scott Boucher, and Assistant Training Division Manager Cathy Noonan.

A review of the Department'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 an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A review of 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 Jose Fire Department

(SJFD) utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for certification testing for its scheduled Training Academy.

The training facility presents appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits are 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 continue 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.

- 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 full-time faculty 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. SFT recommends that existing positions be retained with additional staffing considered to offset workload.
- The SJFD training grounds possess some aging structures and props in need of renovation and/or replacement.
- SFT recommends additional stationary locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended cleansing stations and shower facilities be expanded to ensure student and instructor safety.
- For complete, self-sustained Fire Fighter Academy delivery, continuation of dedicated training apparatus and hand tools/equipment is recommended. Allocated items alleviate any lapse or delay in training delivery. SFT recommends exploration of retired apparatus allocation to the academy.
- 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 San Jose Fire Department is an accomplished and historical organization serving a uniquely diverse community in Southern California. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the community. A cooperative neighbor in the state, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The Department has a strong focus on continued growth through ongoing recruitment and community action and provides a cornerstone training destination for all levels of fire service training and education. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. Eager to meet the needs of the state, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system.

The San Jose Fire Department has demonstrated a strong devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud, professional, and progressive organization. State Fire Training recommends the San Jose Fire Department continue its designation as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Accreditation period of five (5) years.