



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

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Date: November 17, 2022

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

From: Mark Bisbee, Battalion Chief (RA)

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

State-Certified Prescribed-Fire Burn Boss (CARX) course maximum class size and instructor/student ratios

Recommended Actions:

Motion to Approve - Consent

Background Information:

Currently, the maximum class size for the CARX course is 24. The current instructor-to-student ratio is 1:12 for lecture, and 1:6 for activities. This reflects the instructor/student ratios of a live-class class such as Fire Control 3, but CARX ended up having no live fire components or exercises.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

Allowing larger classes means less costs, instructor time, materials, and logistical support to implement classes. It would also build more prescribed-fire capacity by increasing students on their way to become Certified Burn Bosses.

The current instructor/student ratio is not in alignment with other similar SFT CFSTES or FSTEP courses and puts an undue burden on the few approved primary instructors to team up to deliver each course in the state. Reducing the ratio would mean that these few instructors could teach more courses, increasing overall capacity.

For comparison, here is a sample list of other SFT courses:

Course(s)	Max Students	Instructor/Student Ratios
Instructor 1	32	1:32 Lecture, 1:16 Activities
Company Officer Series	32	1:32
Fire Marshal Series	30	1:30
Fire Inspector Series	30	1:30
Chief Fire Officer	25	1:25
Executive Chief Fire Officer	24	1:24
Aircraft Rescue & FF Awareness	30	1:30

SFT Staff recommends increasing the maximum class size to 30 students, with a matching instructor/student ratio of 1:30 for all portions of the class.