



Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) Implementation Plan

Issued: August 2024

OVERVIEW

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders on the Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) Fire Service Training and Education (FSTEP) curriculum. Stakeholders are encouraged to study this information carefully and seek clarification from SFT if questions arise.

Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) is a four-hour course intended to address the need for creating a peer-based suicide awareness course for all emergency-services personnel as directed by Assembly Bill 622 (Rodriguez). This course provides the knowledge and skills that will prepare emergency services personnel to engage in direct peer-based communication and triage for suicide prevention. All training is intended to equip personnel to provide support, help, and encouragement in a safe and effective manner. All training shall also be in accordance with AHJ policies and procedures. The course plan is available on the SFT website.

IMPLEMENTATION

Candidates entering the SFT system should enroll in Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) and comply with its requirements.

New Curriculum	Hours
Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023)	4 hours

Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) Curriculum..... September 1, 2024

INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

Instructor Registration..... September 1, 2024

Instructors for the Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) Course must meet the SFT requirements for Registered Instructor. Instructors must have appropriate education and practical experience relating to the specific course content. Instructors are encouraged to use subject matter experts as Guest Lecturers, in accordance with the *State Fire Training Procedures Manual*, due to the specificity of information presented in this course.

New Instructor Registration

Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) Registered Instructors shall demonstrate cultural competency by verifying the following:

- Be an SFT Registered Instructor

- Complete SFT’s Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) course or equivalent (as approved by Cal-JAC per AB 1116)
 - Peer Support Central
 - International Association of Fire Fighters
 - The Counseling Team International
 - Premier First Responder
- Have a minimum of two (2) years’ full-time or four (4) years’ part-time/volunteer experience within a recognized California fire agency
- Complete a minimum of one (1) approved and accredited training course specific to peer support that may include, but is not limited to, peer support services, peer-to-peer suicide awareness and/or intervention, crisis intervention, or similar training. Approved coursework includes:
 - Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A (FSTEP, SFT)
 - Assisting Individuals in Crisis (ICISF)
 - Group Crisis Intervention (ICISF)
 - SafeTALK (LivingWorks.net)
 - ASIST Suicide Awareness (LivingWorks.net)
- Provide a letter signed by their Fire Chief or authorized designee that verifies qualification to deliver Peer-Based Suicide Awareness training
- Submit an SFT Instructor Registration Application
- Pay the registration fee

Instructor Currency

To maintain instructor currency and relevancy, Registered Instructors for this course shall complete a minimum eight (8) annual continuing education hours obtained via verifiable topic-specific conferences, seminars, and/or workshops. Continuing education hours may be combined. Instructors are required to maintain documentation of continuing education hours for five (5) years. Registered Instructors shall submit documentation to SFT upon request.

POTENTIAL AGENCY IMPACTS

Fire agencies desiring to use the Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) curriculum as a requirement for their recruitment/promotion activities need to review the Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) curriculum requirements to be sure that all agency training needs are met. After review, fire agencies should update their job specifications and recruitment documentation to reflect these new courses and certification requirements.

Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), Accredited Local Academies (ALA), community colleges, and all other local delivery venues need to review the curriculum and seek approval from their curriculum committee/program sponsor, as appropriate. ARTPs should review the new Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) curriculum and discuss potential impacts with their advisory committees.