



Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) Implementation Plan

Issued: September, 2026

OVERVIEW

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders on the updated Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) curriculum requirements. Stakeholders are encouraged to study this information carefully and seek clarification from SFT if questions arise.

The Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) curriculum is presented as a Certification Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) series. SFT updated the certification training standard (CTS) guide, course plans, and certification task books based on the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards:

- NFPA 1010: Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters (2024)

IMPLEMENTATION

Candidates entering the SFT system should enroll in the 2024 Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator courses and comply with the most current Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator requirements.

New Curriculum	Hours
FADO 1A: Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024)	40 hours
FADO 1B: Pumping Apparatus Operations (2024)	40 hours
FADO 1C: Aerial Apparatus Operations (2024)	40 hours
FADO 1D: Tiller Apparatus Operations (2024)	40 hours
FADO 1E: Wildland Fire Apparatus Operations (2024)	27 hours
FADO 1F: Water Tender Operations (2024)	32 hours

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) Curriculum October 1, 2026

Retirement of Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) Curriculum December 31, 2026

Effective December 31, 2027, SFT will retire Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017). On January 1, 2028, SFT will remove the curriculum from the SFT course catalog, and it will no longer be available.

Candidates pursuing certification of any apparatus in the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator certification track using a 2017 task book must complete and submit their Certification Task Book (2017) postmarked on or before December 31, 2027.

Candidates who do not meet this deadline will be required to meet the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operators (2024) certification requirements using the applicable (2024) Certification Task Book.

INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) Instructor Registration October 1, 2026

Instructors for the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) curriculum must meet the SFT requirements for Registered Instructor. Instructors must have appropriate education and practical experience relating to the specific course content.

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) Instructors

SFT Registered Instructors authorized to teach any Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) course are encouraged to attend the appropriate 2024 course and must complete the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Instructor Update, available through the SFT User Portal, to obtain authorization to teach the corresponding 2024 course.

In Process Instructor Candidates

Candidates actively pursuing instructor registration for any Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) course must submit all documentation postmarked on or before December 31, 2027. Anyone who applies to teach a Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator course on or after January 1, 2028, will be required to meet the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) requirements.

New Instructor Registration

New instructor candidates shall meet the following requirements:

Category	Requirement
Instructor Registration	Be an OSFM Registered Instructor
Certification	OSFM Fire Fighter 1 and OSFM Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2014) or newer, apparatus-type specific
Education	All candidates: • FADO 1A: Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017 or newer) • FADO 1B: Pumping Apparatus Operations (2017 or newer) Additional requirements by apparatus: • FADO 1C: Aerial Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017 or newer) • FADO 1D: Tillered Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017 or newer) • FADO 1E: Wildland Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017 or newer) • FADO 1F: Water Tender Driver/Operator (2017 or newer)
Experience	All candidates: • Held the rank of Engineer for a minimum of three (3) years' full-time paid or six (6) years' volunteer or part-time paid within a recognized California fire agency

	○ For departments that do not use the Engineer rank, applicants who have operated fire apparatus as their primary responsibility for a minimum of three (3) years' full-time paid or six (6) years' volunteer or part-time paid within a recognized California fire agency qualify Additional requirements for FADO 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, and 1F: • Have a minimum of three (3) years' full-time paid or six (6) years' volunteer or part-time paid experience operating the course-specific apparatus
Chief's Letter	Provide a letter signed by their Fire Chief or authorized designee that verifies qualification to deliver Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) curriculum.
Application	Submit an SFT Instructor Registration Application
Fee	Pay the registration fee

POTENTIAL AGENCY IMPACTS

Fire agencies desiring to use the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) curriculum as a requirement for their recruitment/promotion activities need to review the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) 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 Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2024) curriculum and discuss potential impacts with their advisory committees.