



Peer Support (2023) Interim Procedures

Issued: August 2024

Procedure Changes

Edition: May 2020 edition of the *State Fire Training Procedures Manual*

Effective Date: July 25, 2024

Section Changes: Modify and update the following sections:

- 6.11.1: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND CANCER AWARENESS
INSTRUCTOR INSTRUCTOR

Justification: SFT created the Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023) curriculum in compliance with Assembly Bill 662 – State Fire Marshal and Emergency Medical Services Authority: Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention (2021-2022, Rodriguez). This update provides a directive for Instructor qualification in alignment with the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee. The identified Registered Instructor qualifications follow similar SFT curricula from the State Fire Training course catalog.

SFT Contact: SFT Staff assigned to instructor registration.

Note: All new text appears in underline. All deleted text appears in ~~strikeout~~.

6.11: INSTRUCTIONAL DISCIPLINES

6.11.1: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND CANCER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR

6.11.1.1: Eligible Courses

Table 6.11.1.1: Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness Instructor Eligible Course

CFSTES Courses	FSTEP Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A: Front-Line Responder• Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 2A: First-Level Supervisor• Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 3A: Organizational Leader• <u>Peer-Based Suicide Awareness</u>

6.11.1.2: General Qualifications

- A. A Registered ~~Primary~~ Instructor for a Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) Fire Control course shall meet the qualifications required of all State Fire Training (SFT) Registered Primary Instructors.
1. See **6.2.1: Qualifications**.

6.11.1.3: Course Work

- A. Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A
1. A Registered Instructor for Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A must have attended and passed Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A
- B. Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 2A
1. A Registered Instructor for Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A must have attended and passed Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A and 2A
- C. Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 3A
1. A Registered Instructor for Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A must have attended and passed Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A, 2A, and 3A
- D. Peer-Based Suicide Awareness Instructor must have attended and passed Peer-Based Suicide Awareness
1. SFT accepts course completions in alignment with the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (Cal-JAC) per AB 1116
 - i. Peer Support Central
 - ii. International Association of Fire Fighters
 - iii. The Counseling Team International
 - iv. Premier First Responder
 2. Complete a minimum of one (1) approved and accredited training course specific to peer support that may include, but are not limited to, peer support services, peer-to-peer suicide awareness and/or intervention, crisis intervention, or similar training. Example coursework:
 - i. Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness (FSTEP, SFT)

- ii. Assisting Individuals in Crisis (ICISF)
- iii. Group Crisis Intervention (ICISF)
- iv. SafeTALK (LivingWorks.net)
- v. ASIST Suicide Awareness (LivingWorks.net)

6.11.1.4: Professional Experience

A. A Registered ~~Primary~~ Instructor for an FTSEP Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness or Peer-Based Suicide Awareness course shall meet the professional experience qualifications listed below.

1. Performing in an “acting” capacity does not qualify.

Table 6.11.1.34: Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness Instructor Professional Experience

FSTEP Course	Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A: Front-Line Responder • Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 2A: First-Level Supervisor • Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 3A: Organizational Leader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of five (5) years’ full-time employment within a recognized fire agency in California OR a minimum ten (10) years’ volunteer or paid-call employment within recognized fire agency in California • A minimum of two (2) years’ experience in at least one of the following fire service behavioral health area(s): Peer Support, Peer Instructor, Policy Development, Agency health and wellness programs, and/or Agency injury/illness prevention programs • A minimum of two (2) years’ experience in at least one of the following fire service cancer mitigation and exposure reduction area(s): Cancer mitigation and exposure reduction programs, Policy Development, Agency health and wellness programs, and/or Agency injury/illness prevention programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Peer-Based Suicide Awareness</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A minimum of two (2) years’ full-time employment within a recognized fire agency in California OR a minimum four (4) years’ volunteer or paid-call employment within recognized fire agency in California</u> • <u>Complete a minimum of one (1) approved and accredited training course(s) specific to peer support that</u>

FSTEP Course	Experience
	<p><u>may include, but are not limited to, peer support services, peer-to-peer suicide awareness and/or intervention, crisis intervention, or similar training. Example coursework:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A (FSTEP)</u> ○ <u>Assisting Individuals in Crisis (ICISF)</u> ○ <u>Group Crisis Intervention (ICISF)</u> ○ <u>SafeTALK (LivingWorks.net)</u> ○ <u>ASIST Suicide Awareness (LivingWorks.net)</u>

6.11.1.45: Maintenance

- A. A Registered BHCA ~~Primary~~ or Peer-Based Suicide Awareness Instructor shall successfully complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of continuing education hours obtained via verifiable topic-specific conferences, seminars, and/or workshops.
1. Continuing education hours may be combined.
 2. Instructors are required to maintain documentation of continuing education hours for five (5) years and shall ~~furnish SFT~~ submit documentation to SFT upon request.

6.X.X: PEER-BASED SUICIDE AWARENESS – INSTRUCTOR

6.X.X.1: Eligible Courses

Table 6.X.X.1: Peer Support – Instructor Eligible Courses

<u>CFSTES Courses</u>	<u>FSTEP Courses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>None</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Peer-Based Suicide Awareness</u>

6.X.X.2: General Qualifications

- A. A Registered Instructor for a Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) Fire Control course shall meet the qualifications required of all State Fire Training (SFT) Registered Instructors.
1. See 6.2.1: Qualifications.

6.X.X.3: Course Work

- A. A Peer Support Registered Instructor must have attended and passed Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023)

6.X.X.4: Professional Experience

- A. A Registered Instructor for this FSTEP course shall meet the professional experience qualifications listed below.
1. Performing in an “acting” capacity does not qualify.

Table 6.X.X.4: Peer Support – Instructor Professional Experience

<u>FSTEP Course</u>	<u>Experience</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Peer-Based Suicide Awareness (2023)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Have a minimum of two (2) years’ full-time or four (4) years’ part-time/volunteer experience within a recognized fire agency in California</u> • <u>Complete a minimum of one (1) approved and accredited training course specific to peer support that may include, but are not limited to, peer support services, peer-to-peer suicide awareness and/or intervention, crisis intervention, or similar training. Example coursework:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 1A (FSTEP)</u> ○ <u>Assisting Individuals in Crisis (ICISF)</u> ○ <u>Group Crisis Intervention (ICISF)</u> ○ <u>SafeTALK (LivingWorks.net)</u>

<u>FSTEP Course</u>	<u>Experience</u>
	○ <u>ASIST Suicide Awareness (LivingWorks.net)</u>

6.X.X.5: Maintenance

- A. A Registered Peer-Based Suicide Awareness Instructor shall successfully complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of continuing education hours obtained via verifiable topic-specific conferences, seminars, and/or workshops.
1. Continuing education hours may be combined.
 2. Instructors are required to maintain documentation of continuing education hours for five (5) years and shall furnish SFT submit documentation to SFT upon request.