INFORMATION BULLETIN
Fire Fighter (2019)
Accredited Academies Update

Issued: January 16, 2020

OVERVIEW

This Fire Fighter (2019) Update aims to provide ARTP's, ALA's, Registered Lead Evaluators and Registered Skills Evaluators specific information regarding the roll-out of the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) and Fire Fighter 2 (2019) programs. Those who have not already reviewed the SFT January 2020 Newsletter, should review it first for more general information regarding the implementation of the new curriculum and certification requirements in addition to other important SFT changes.

FIRE FIGHTER 1 AND 2 (2019) CERTIFICATION EXAMS

The new Fire Fighter 1 (2019) and Fire Fighter 2 (2019) cognitive exam modules will be delivered through the SFT User Portal. The cognitive exams will become available on March 1, 2020.

Fee(s)

The fee for the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) Certification Exam is $150, which includes Fire Fighter 1 Certification with IFSAC/Pro Board® seals.

The fee for the Fire Fighter 2 (2019) Certification Exam is $75. This fee does not include the Fire Fighter 2 (2019) certification, instead this is a separate application process with a separate fee and requires supporting documentation. The Fire Fighter 2 (2019) certification exam can be delivered with the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) certification exam. If an ARTP/ALA combines the certification exam delivery, both the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) and Fire Fighter 2 (2019) fees would apply.

The ARTP/ALA will be invoiced for the certification exam fees. SFT is unable to collect the fee directly from the candidates. The cognitive and skills exams can be delivered in a modular or consecutive format at no additional costs. These fees include the following reattempts:

- Skills Exam: Day 1 First Attempt, Day 1 Second Attempt, Day 2 First Attempt, Day 2 Second Attempt
- Cognitive Exam: first attempt, second attempt, third attempt.

If a candidate utilizes a different ARTP/ALA for one of the allowed reattempts, a new certification exam fee would be required.

Skills Evaluators

Current Fire Fighter 1 Lead Evaluators and Skills Evaluators who have a SFT Fire Fighter 2 Certification have been administratively issued a Fire Fighter 2 Registered Lead Evaluator and/or Fire Fighter 2 Registered Skills Evaluator in the SFT User Portal. Verification of these records can be viewed from within the SFT User Portal, on SFT Transcripts, and through the SFT

Instructor Database. Discrepancies or missing records from your SFT User Portal shall be reported by emailing the SFTHelpDesk@fire.ca.gov email account.

Fire Fighter 1 (2013) Certification Exam
The Fire Fighter 1 (2013) certification exam will continue to be delivered through QuestionMark until December 31, 2020. The QuestionMark fees and current SFT fees remain unchanged.

Exam Phone After-Hours Support
SFT implemented the Exam Phone to assist ARTP's and ALA's with exam delivery issues. Due to the cost of this service outside of normal business hours, SFT has discontinued the after-hours support. SFT will continue to monitor the phone Monday through Friday, 0800-16:30, except for state and federal holidays. ARTP's and ALA's should consider the SFT Exam Phone hours, when scheduling a cognitive exam.

ENHANCED SKILL SHEETS FOR FIRE FIGHTER 1 AND 2 (2019)
ALA's may develop enhanced standardized skill sheets that include agency-specific tasks. ALA's that want to utilize Fire Fighter 1 or 2 (2019) Enhanced Skill Sheets, shall submit to SFT for review at least six weeks prior to exam delivery. Fire Fighter 1 (2013) Enhanced Skill Sheets will not be accepted for Fire Fighter 1 (2019) academic training and certification exams. ALA's that opt to use existing skill sheets shall resubmit to SFT using the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) skill sheets. ALA's and Registered Lead Evaluators should review the SFT Procedure Manual section 11.6.1.2 for more information.

CANDIDATE TYPES
It is important that all accredited testing sites are aware of the four different Certification Exam Candidate types, since each candidate type has different entrance requirements. This includes ALA's testing non-employees.

- **Non-Certified - ARTP/ALA (Accredited Academy) Candidate:**
  Completed the Fire Fighter training at the ARTP or ALA administering the SFT certification exam.

- **Non-Certified – Non-ARTP/ALA (Alternate Delivery) Candidate:**
  Did not complete Fire Fighter training at the ARTP or ALA administering the SFT certification exam. (E.g. Employee of a non-accredited fire department). Alternate Delivery Candidates must present a completed and signed State Required Instructional Skills Sheet or an Alternate Delivery Skill Sheet Waiver (Alternate Delivery Waiver Justification template letter) to the ARTP or ALA for admittance into the exam.

- **SFT-Certified (Upgrade) Candidate:**
  An eligible SFT Certified Fire Fighter seeking to upgrade to IFSAC/Pro Board certification. Upgrade candidates are required to submit an upgrade application and supporting documentation to SFT for review. When approved, the candidate will receive

a SFT Exam Authorization Letter. The candidate will then provide the exam authorization to the testing site for admittance into the exam.

- **IFSAC/Pro Board-Certified (Reciprocity) Candidate:**
  Possesses an IFSAC and/or Pro Board certification(s) and is seeking SFT certification reciprocity. Reciprocity candidates are required to submit a reciprocity application and supporting documentation to SFT for review. When approved, the candidate will receive a SFT Exam Authorization Letter. The candidate will then provide the exam authorization to the testing site for admittance into the exam.

Also, the most recent version of the [Fire Fighter Academy Results Template (Excel)](#) now records these four different candidate types in an effort to help explain why there may be empty results for modules not attempted and to streamline processing. SFT will no longer accept old versions of the Fire Fighter Academy Results Template beginning February 1, 2020. ARTP's, ALA's, and Registered Lead Evaluators should review the [SFT Procedure Manual](#) section 11.3 and 11.4 for more information.

PROCEDURES MANUAL CHAPTER 11

The [SFT Procedure Manual](#) (January 2019 edition) was adopted into regulations on July 1, 2019. Chapter 11: Fire Fighter Certification Exams of the SFT Procedures Manual is a new chapter that outlines the requirements to conduct SFT certification exams. ARTP's, ALA's, and Registered Lead Evaluators should review the chapter to ensure compliance with SFT's regulations.

CSTI AND IAFF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TRAINING

ARTP's and ALA's may use the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) or International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Hazardous Material Training in lieu of the SFT's Fire Fighter 1B (2019) course plan. Agencies utilizing the CSTI or IAFF training should ensure that candidates are being issued a Pro Board Accredited Certification in the following levels:

- Hazardous Materials Responder at the Awareness Level

- Hazardous Materials Responder at the Awareness and Core Operations Level: with Product Control and Personal Protective Equipment Mission Specific Competencies

SFT consulted with CSTI and IAFF to establish the reporting requirements for candidates who received CSTI or IAFF Hazardous Material certification. SFT published a [CSTI and IAFF HazMat Reciprocity Information Bulletin](#) with further details.