



Information Bulletin

COVID-19 and the Delivery of SFT Courses or Certification Exams

Issued: March 17, 2020

As the State continues to address concerns surrounding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training (SFT) Division is closely following events and public health recommendations surrounding the outbreak and spread of COVID-19.

This bulletin serves to provide guidance to Registered Instructors, Registered Lead Evaluators, Accredited and Host Facilities regarding course deliveries and administration of certification exams. SFT recognizes these actions could have an impact on the delivery of SFT courses and certification exams.

Registered Instructors, Registered Lead Evaluators, Accredited and Host Facilities shall continue to comply with Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 13, and the State Fire Training Procedures Manual (January 2019) regarding course delivery, certification exam delivery, required instructional hours, and course content.

Only Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academies (ALA) may deliver an SFT course in a distance learning format in accordance with Section 3.7 of the State Fire Training Procedures Manual. All students must complete all course work listed in the Course Information and Required Materials Manual (January 2019) and course plans in a classroom setting, unless the course has been approved by SFT for hybrid or online delivery.

If a SFT course or certification exam is canceled or rescheduled, it is the responsibility of the Registered Instructors, Registered Lead Evaluators, Accredited and Host Facilities to notify SFT of the course cancellation or new delivery dates in accordance with the State Fire Training Procedures Manual. Furthermore, for courses with less than five students, the Registered Instructor shall obtain SFT approval prior to course instruction. The Registered Instructor shall email the SFT Course Scheduler to request any adjustment(s) prior to course delivery.

At this time, Registered Instructors, Registered Lead Evaluators, Accredited and Host Facilities shall utilize their discretion when deciding to suspend or cancel a SFT course or certification exam.

If you have questions about the information provided in this bulletin, please contact State Fire Training at SFT.Acadisonline@fire.ca.gov. SFT encourages following the best practices issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to ensure all fire service members and stakeholders remain well and safe.