

STATE FIRE TRAINING ANNUAL REPORT



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FISCAL YEAR 2023

CHIEF'S MESSAGE



DANIEL BERLANT

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Welcome to the 2023 edition of the CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training Annual Report. 2023 proved to be a busy year for the State Fire Training Division (SFT). This Annual Report is packed full of data and useful information about your state training system.

In 2023, we increased our SFT leadership team with the promotion of Chris Fowler to Division Chief, who is deeply committed to the program mission and to increasing stakeholder engagement statewide. Retired State Fire Marshal Michael Richwine stepped into the role of Chair of our Statewide Training & Education

Advisory Committee (STEAC). I am confident that under both Chief Fowler and Chief Richwine's leadership, along with the entire SFT team, that State Fire Training will continue to accomplish significant achievements and milestones.

SFT has maintained their commitment to improve the timelines for the scheduling and processing of courses, certification examinations, and certification issuance as the program continues to grow. There are some incredible statistics and data featured in this year's Annual Report that reflect their dedication to this work.

They have completed the 2+ year commitment to updating and crafting the 15 Technical Rescue, NFPA 1006 course curriculums, which was an incredible undertaking. They have improved business processes, delivered 10 Behavioral Health and Wellness and Cancer Awareness courses, and continued to conduct accredited academy site assessments, all while looking to the future of the program with the approval of Blueprint 2030.

The State Fire Training team takes so much pride in their customer service, which is only matched by their enthusiasm for ensuring the California fire service has the training required to meet their community's changing needs. I am extremely grateful, humbled and proud to lead such an amazing group of personnel.

As we look to 2025, our team is laser focused on preparing the fire service for ever changing challenges ahead. From electric vehicle fires to battery energy storage systems, our training must ready our firefighters for the evolving technology that has quickly become a staple of our society.

We thank you for your continued support and partnership in training and look forward to working with you all in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Berlant".

FY 2023 STATISTICS

STATE FIRE TRAINING OVERVIEW



CALIFORNIA FIRE ACADEMY SYSTEM

30 Accredited Local Academies (ALAs)

40 Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTPs)

CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE TRAINING AND EDUCATION SYSTEM (CFSTES)

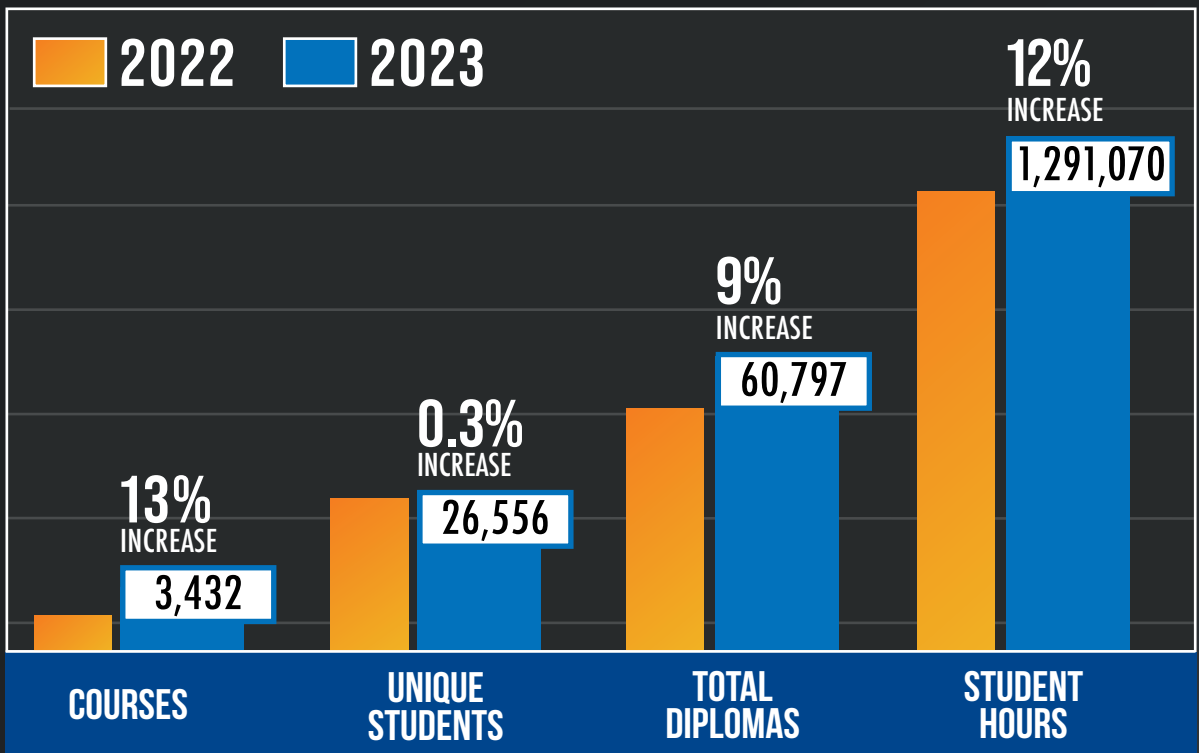
56 Courses

27* Certifications

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM (FSTEP)

110 Courses

* 23 of these certifications are based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.



SFT saw roughly a 10% increase in Courses, Diplomas, and overall Student Hours this fiscal year compared to last year; meanwhile, Unique Student Totals remained nearly the same.

COURSES

	CFSTES	FSTEP
 HOURS	484,928	806,142
 DIPLOMAS	18,369	42,428
 COURSES	1,278	2,154

CERTIFICATION AND EXAM

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES	11,316	NATIONALLY ACCREDITED
	5,685	CALIFORNIA SPECIFIC
EXAMS	12,904	TOTAL STUDENTS
INSTRUCTOR	9,940	COURSE REGISTRATIONS

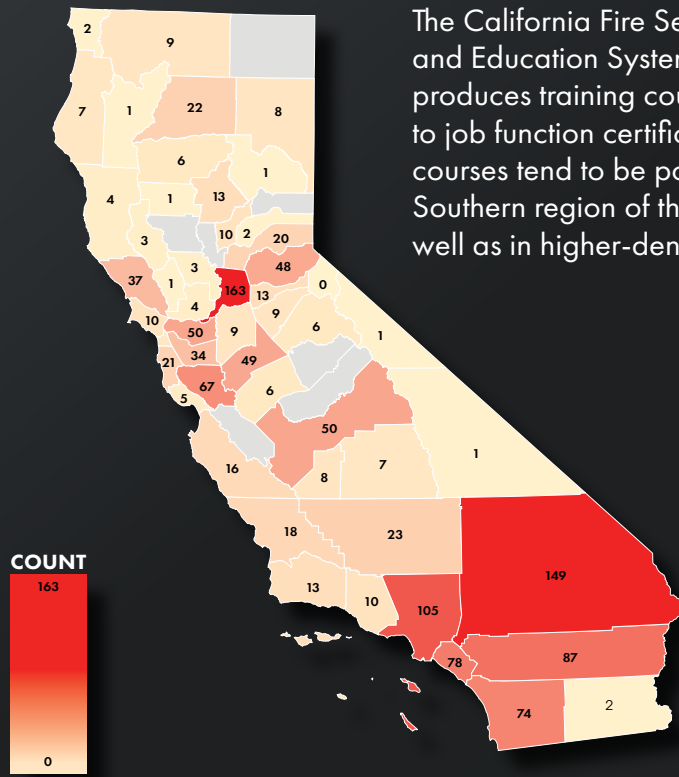
State Fire Training (SFT) holds national accreditation for Fire Fighter 1, Fire Fighter 2, Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness and Operations, and Wildland Fire Fighter 1. Consequently, SFT offers five distinct certification exams.



State Fire Training is committed to providing the highest level of quality training and education to the California fire service.

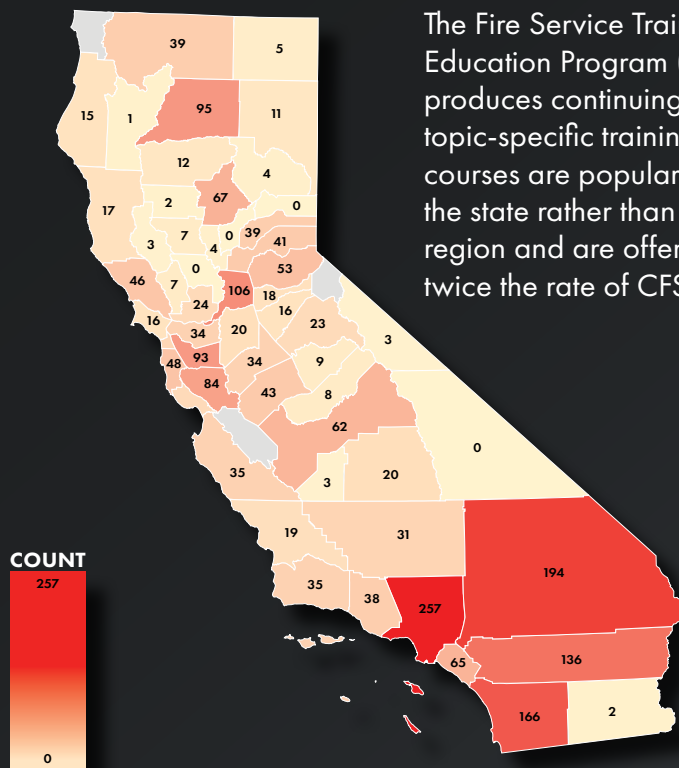
TRAINING BY REGION

CFSTES



The California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES), produces training courses that lead to job function certification. CFSTES courses tend to be popular in the Southern region of the State as well as in higher-density counties.

FSTEP



The Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) produces continuing education and topic-specific training courses. FSTEP courses are popular throughout the state rather than a specific region and are offered at nearly twice the rate of CFSTES courses.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



UPDATED:

- Animal Technical Rescue Awareness & Technician
- Tower Rescue Technician
- Rope Rescue Technician

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Expansion of IFSAC and Pro Board – State Fire Training (SFT), under the advice of Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC), evaluated which curriculum tracks were optimal for expansion into IFSAC/Pro Board accreditation. SFT has partnered with stakeholder groups to validate the exam requirements for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1 and 2, and anticipates accreditation in 2025. Currently, Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 are recognized outside of California.

Digital Hired Vendor Cards - SFT provides the Incident Safety Awareness for Hired Vendors (ISAHV) course for hired vendors working with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) or the United States Forest Service (USFS) who plan to engage in wildland fire suppression and other incident support activities. During this fiscal year, SFT implemented two improvements to this program. The first was implemented in July 2023, when SFT launched a new course verification database to allow CAL FIRE and USFS personnel to verify the date a vendor completed their last ISAHV course and to determine an active or expired card status. The database was designed to help incident personnel verify ISAHV validity and status. The second was implemented on January 1, 2024, when SFT stopped mailing out the physical cards to instructors and/or host agencies and instead transitioned to using digital course diplomas, which aligns the diploma issuance process for all other SFT courses. Students may log in to the SFT User Portal and print their course completion diploma at any time. Shifting to usage of the digital diplomas eliminated the cost and staff time to mail physical cards.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- **Peer to Peer Support**
The development of training standards for a peer-to-peer course
- **Fire Fighter 1 and 2**
Update to the 2024 edition of NFPA 1010
- **Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Series**
Update to the 2024 edition of NFPA 1010
This includes the:
 - Aerial Apparatus
 - Pump Apparatus
 - Tillered Apparatus
 - Water Tender Apparatus
 - Wildland Apparatus
- **Fire Inspector 1 and 2**
Update to the 2024 edition of NFPA 1030
- **Plan Examiner**
Update to the 2024 edition of NFPA 1030
- **Fire Marshal**
Update to the 2024 edition of NFPA 1030
- **Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer, and Executive Chief Officer**
Update to the 2019 edition of NFPA 1033 and the 2022 edition of NFPA 1140: Standard for Wildland Fire Protection
- **Fire Control 1 and Fire Control 2**
Updates to reflect revised content in Fire Control 3

TEST BANK DEVELOPMENT & PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

If you have ever taken a test or an exam, then you have been impacted by test development – for better or worse. A poorly developed test can be frustrating, can cost you a promotion or job, and do little to measure appropriate knowledge and skills. Alternatively a well-developed test is valid and reliable, which means that the test measures appropriate knowledge and skills, and is dependable, repeatable and consistent.

DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION

The Chief of State Fire Training (SFT) and the SFT staff oversee certification and curriculum development. They collaborate with advisory committees and volunteer task forces, known as cadres, composed of working professionals in the field to create and validate test banks. The cadre ensures that all test items, which are secured from reputable textbook publishers who provide professional certification test banks (i.e., Jones and Bartlett, IFSTA), are correlated directly to the appropriate NFPA professional qualifications standard, Certification Training Standard (CTS), and SFT Course Plan. Validation is an important component of the test development process because this is what connects the test

items (content) to the job duties/standards by establishing a series of links. Simply put, they ensure that the Terminal Learning Objectives (TLOs) and KSAs appropriately correlate to the professional qualification standard for the job function (job duties).

Additionally, SFT will ask cadre SMEs to predict test item difficulty using the Angoff Method on new exams. The Angoff Method is a well-established standard-setting method that is legally defensible and reflects the difficulty of the exam content. This allows SFT to use empirical data to launch new tests/test items with predicted results.



PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

SFT looks at **test analysis** and **item analysis** when evaluating the performance of a test bank. Test analysis is the statistics used to evaluate how effective an exam is at differentiating between good candidates and poorly performing candidates. SFT may use a variety of data to evaluate test analysis such as the mean, median, mode, and range; indicators exam's frequency distribution (variability), such as the skewness, kurtosis, variance, and standard deviation; and indication of reliability using KR-20.

Item analysis looks at the performance of each test item, and flags potentially weak items to remove or improve, and this makes the test more reliable and valid. SFT frequently uses classical item analysis tools such as P-Values (difficulty index); point biserial correlation (discrimination index); and distractor analysis, which focuses on how well the individual item alternatives are performing.

GET INVOLVED!

We encourage stakeholders of all ranks to apply and participate in the test development process – which starts by joining a curriculum cadre. Each cadre application is thoroughly reviewed, with attention paid to ensuring diversification and statewide representation. The best candidates are then selected to take part in updating or creating the course(s) content. We deeply appreciate the fire departments, college programs, and SMEs that support SFT by keeping us current and relevant.

SFT USER PORTAL COURSE RETURN & INVOICING ENHANCEMENT



For the last several years, State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders have consistently requested two important improvements to SFT's course delivery process: shorter wait times for course completion diplomas and payment by credit card for course invoices.

SFT made a significant investment in software development for the SFT User Portal and that work was completed this fiscal year. Throughout June 2024, SFT began pilot testing the new functionality and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. On July 1, 2024, SFT launched the new course return and invoicing enhancement for all courses allowing billing parties to not only pay via credit card but also via ACH/Telecheck as well.

Prior to the feature enhancement, course rosters were submitted on a spreadsheet, and processed manually by SFT staff. When errors or discrepancies existed, processing course diplomas would be delayed. On average, diplomas could take 2+ weeks to reach a student after the Instructor submitted the spreadsheet roster. It could take an additional 2+ weeks to receive an invoice via the mail and another 1+ weeks for SFT to receive payment for a course. Typically 2+ months after the course was delivered. The only option for payment was to mail a check or money order with the course invoice, which was cumbersome for many agencies.

The new SFT User Portal Features reduced the course return and invoicing process from several weeks or even months down to less than a week in ideal conditions. Instructors may now digitally record their course roster and test results on a webpage rather than a spreadsheet. SFT Staff approve submittals typically within 2+ business days rather than 2+ weeks. Additionally, the course invoice is generated shortly after the course return has been approved and an option for digital payment (credit card or telecheck) is now available. Of course, if billing parties still wish to pay by mail, that option is still available.

Course diplomas are issued to students once the course has been paid, which is now determined by when the Instructor returns the course and pays the invoice, but on average takes less than one week.

This was a large undertaking and just one of the many improvements that SFT will implement over the next year or two. SFT is constantly seeking to improve the overall user experience and committed to providing enhancements that enable the California Fire Service to safely protect life and property through education, training, and certification.



DON'T MISS IT!

To view a video demonstration of this new feature, visit [SFT's Course Delivery webpage](#) or go directly to the [Video Guide for the New Course Return and Invoicing Process](#).

TECHNICAL RESCUE - NFPA 1006



California State Fire Training (SFT), a division of CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), plays a crucial role in establishing, developing, and delivering standardized training and education for the California fire service. The Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP), produced by SFT, offers continuing education and topic-specific training courses which include courses aligned with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006 standards.

Beginning in 2022 with Structural Collapse, State Fire Training began partnering with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) statewide on the long-awaited update to the FSTEP Technical Rescue Series. This education and training provide recent and relevant professional qualifications to rescue technicians, which now includes the new Heavy Vehicle, Machinery, and Tower Rescue courses. These courses ensure that firefighters are well-prepared to save lives in emergency situations.

State Fire Training acknowledges the dedication of the 80+ cadre members that participated in this course development over the past 2.5 years. Several members participated in all 15-course updates and new course development, which allowed for continuity and reliability throughout the series.

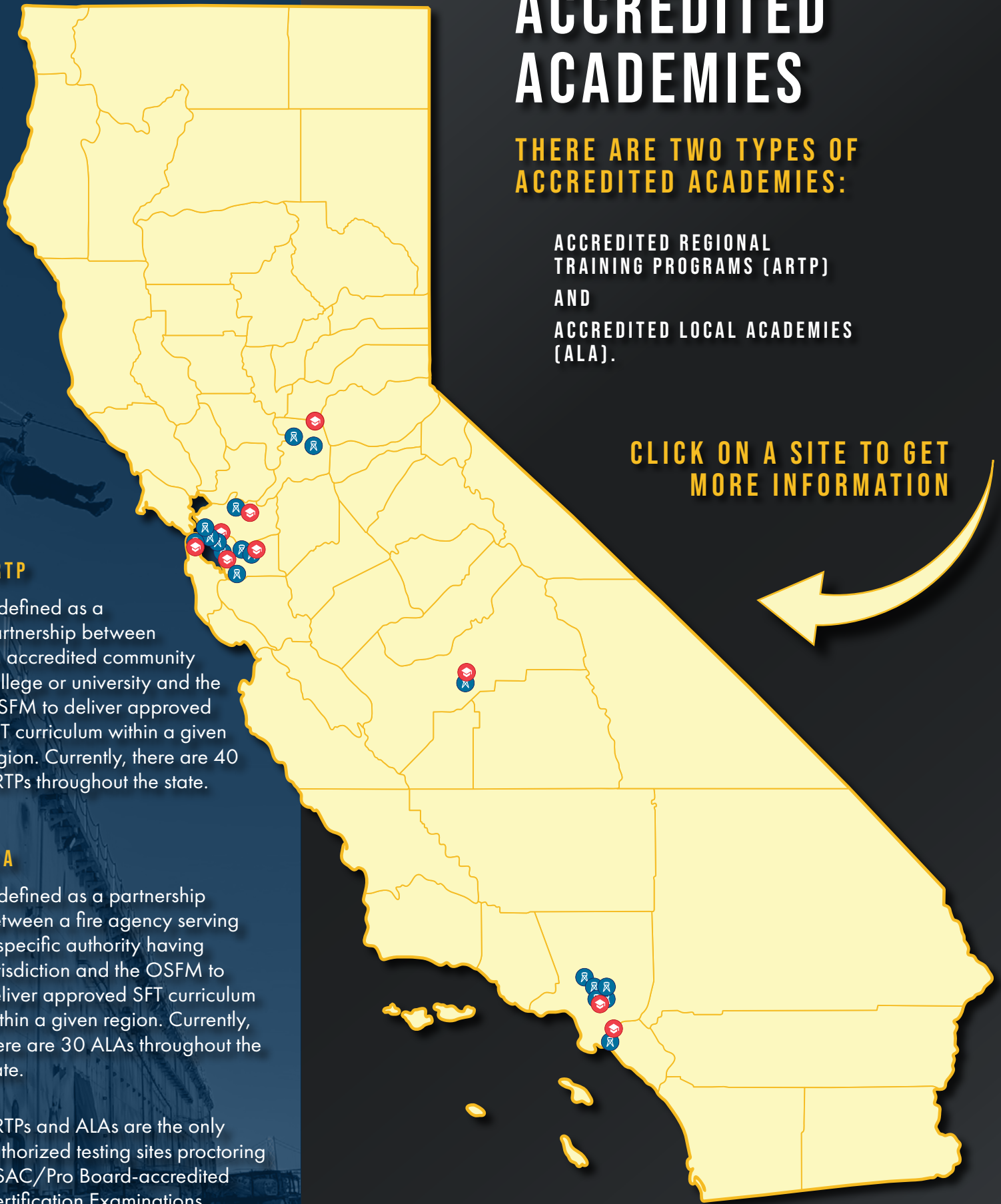
**// WE ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR SERVICE AND SUPPORT. //**

ACCREDITED ACADEMIES

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF ACCREDITED ACADEMIES:

ACCREDITED REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS (ARTP) AND ACCREDITED LOCAL ACADEMIES (ALA).

CLICK ON A SITE TO GET MORE INFORMATION



ARTP

is defined as a partnership between an accredited community college or university and the OSFM to deliver approved SFT curriculum within a given region. Currently, there are 40 ARTPs throughout the state.

ALA

is defined as a partnership between a fire agency serving a specific authority having jurisdiction and the OSFM to deliver approved SFT curriculum within a given region. Currently, there are 30 ALAs throughout the state.

ARTPs and ALAs are the only authorized testing sites proctoring IFSAC/Pro Board-accredited Certification Examinations.

LEADERSHIP

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The CAL FIRE - OSFM State Fire Training Division establishes, develops, and delivers standardized training and education for the California fire service. The State Fire Training website serves as a valuable resource and a one-stop shop for all things related to State Fire Training.

Visit our website each month, as content is updated periodically. Also, join our E-newsletter and follow us on social media.

