



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
State Fire Training Division
P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 568-2911
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: January 8, 2021

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Stockton Fire Department Initial Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Stockton Fire Department become an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the initial accreditation period of three (3) years.

Background Information:

An Initial Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 24, 2020, at the Stockton Fire Department Training Tower located at 110 W. Sonora Street in Stockton, California. The Accreditation Site Evaluation Team included Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Chris Fowler, State Fire Training; Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training; Randy Collins, California Fire Technology Directors Association (STEAC); and Kris Hubbard, Cosumnes River College (ARTP). Introductions were facilitated by Fire Marshal Ken Johnson and Fire/Arson Investigator Erik Patten that included Deputy Chief Shannon Lewis, Battalion Chief Matt Knierim, Captain Jerome Martinez, and Program Specialist Carmen Mendoza.

A review of the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed with agency representatives present, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. Said documentation has since been received and has met the requirements as set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The review of the SAR was followed by a tour of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facility indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. The Stockton Fire Department (SFD) will utilize the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for certification testing for its scheduled 2021 Training Academy.

The training facility presents an appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classroom equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits will be provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors within the agency participate in the Academy delivery and the Department will focus on hosting additional State Fire Training courses at their facility in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with State Fire Training requirements.

- The current staffing is at its capacity having tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. There is an identified need for additional full-time faculty staff members and clerical personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- The SFD training grounds possess some aging structures and props in need of renovation and/or replacement.
- The site further lacks stationary locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended cleansing stations and shower facilities be constructed to ensure student safety.
- For complete, self-sustained Fire Fighter Academy delivery, procurement of dedicated training apparatus be explored with consideration to covered parking for vehicle longevity and security. This would include, but is not limited to, wildland apparatus.
- To successfully begin compliant delivery of the Fire Fighter 2 (2019) curriculum and Certification Examinations, it is recommended that procurement of a flammable liquids and gas fire prop be explored.

The Stockton Fire Department is an accomplished and historical organization serving a uniquely diverse community. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the community. A cooperative neighbor in the region, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. Emerging from bankruptcy in 2015, the Department focused on continued growth through ongoing recruitment and community action. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment with a focus on wellness and safety. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. Eager to meet the needs of the region, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system.

The Stockton Fire Department has demonstrated a strong devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud, professional, and progressive organization. The Site Evaluation Team is unanimous in the recommendation of the Stockton Fire Department being designated as an

Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.