



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: October 9, 2020

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

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Santa Rosa Junior College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP)
Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Santa Rosa Junior College remain an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on September 10, 2020, at the Santa Rosa Junior College training facilities at 5743 Skylane Boulevard in Windsor, California. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire Technology Director Ken Sebastiani, Fire Academy Coordinator Kim Thompson, and Administrative Assistant Heather Wonneberger present throughout. Additionally, Dean of Curriculum for the Public Safety Training Center Josh Adams met with SFT upon arrival.

A review of the College's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed, 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 the facility with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training ground complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program as supplemented by satellite and partnered training sites and locations. Santa Rosa Junior College has successfully transitioned to the Fire Fighter 1 and 2 (2019) curriculum.

The training facility presents appropriate academy classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. Academy recruits are provided sufficient study materials and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors participate in the Academy delivery and the College will be expanding its hosting of additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies.

Although the program has sufficient staff, the current staffing is at its capacity with staff working well beyond the typical work schedule and hours. This condition has tasked existing staff with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. It has been identified that there is a need for a fulltime Academy Coordinator and part-time equipment manager to lessen the workload of existing staff and enhance the Academy and fire technology course deliveries.

The Academy exists in a unique and under-served region of the State that warrants upgrades to curriculum, training facilities, and equipment. Working cooperatively with neighboring programs, the ARTP shares training space and often requires caravan of students between locations, resulting in instructional delays. It is recommended that enhanced cleansing stations (cancer mitigation, decontamination, etc.) and extractor(s) be procured to ensure student safety.

The current footprint of the Academy is compact with an identified need for expansion to accommodate the Academy training as well as the projected specialized course deliveries.

At present, physical training grounds are often shared and overlapping with the other Public Safety programs. The current Fire Training Tower is dated and in need of improvement and possible replacement. Renovation and expansion of the existing training facility would bolster regional training and course access, and further diversify curriculum delivery.

Santa Rosa Junior College is a constant statewide leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. The College provides numerous continuing education opportunities for those seeking career advancement, offering a growing array of specialized courses and training events. Santa Rosa Junior College boasts an exemplary retention and success rate among students, making it a noteworthy training destination. The College maintains a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs. Santa Rosa Junior College staff and students recognize the importance of fostering cooperative relationships and interagency partnerships.

Santa Rosa Junior College possesses a strong devotion to student development through innovative and progressive training. All participants, staff and students alike, adhere to the strong program standards that have served as the foundation of this model fire service training program. It is recommended that Santa Rosa Junior College continue to be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.