

CAL FIRE

OSFM State Fire Training Division



CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal's State Fire Training (SFT) Division is an essential and integral part of California fire service. State Fire Training consists of two main program elements: the California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) and the Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP).

The SFT Program is a collaborative effort of the California fire service that designs and delivers courses to provide knowledge and skills for fire service personnel at all levels, which empowers them to do their jobs professionally and safely.

Through the efforts of organizations such as the California Fire Chiefs Association, California Professional Firefighters, and the California Fire Technology Directors, Accredited Academies, community colleges and fire departments. Hundreds of courses are delivered to approximately 50,000 students per year. Many SFT courses lead to Professional Certification and improve the opportunity for career advancement.



CFSTES is the system of course delivery for Professional Certification. The Certification criteria consists of prerequisites such as work experience, completing a specific course of study, and successfully completing the Certification Exam. Once completed, fire service personnel may submit for Certification for positions such as Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer, Executive Chief Fire Officer, Fire Chief, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor, Fire and Life Safety Educator, Fire Inspector, Plans Examiner, Fire Marshal, and Fire Investigator. All SFT certifications are aligned with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Professional Qualification Standards.



FSTEP is the system of course delivery that assists fire service professionals in meeting their specialized training needs. These topic-specific opportunities include, technical rescue, NWCG and California-specific courses, water rescue, leadership and management,. Registered instructors may customize and expand the minimum state requirements to meet the needs of an individual department or region.



As one of the premiere state-level fire service training programs in the nation, courses and programs that are developed in California are often emulated across the United States. Currently, the Fire Fighter 1 and Firefighter 2 Certifications are nationally accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Services Professional Qualifications (Pro Board). Expanding the accreditation of the certification tracks remains at the forefront of the SFT program.



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