

CAL FIRE

OSFM State Fire Training Program



CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal's State Fire Training (SFT) Program plays a critical role in the professionalism of the California fire service. Fire departments and individuals donate thousands of hours annually to support curriculum development, issuance of instructor credentials, and certification of personnel.

The SFT Program is a collaborative effort of the California fire service that work together to design and deliver courses that provide fire service personnel at all levels with the knowledge and skills 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, individual community colleges and fire departments, courses are delivered to approximately 50,000 students per year. SFT courses are delivered throughout the state and at approximately 52 accredited community colleges and local fire agencies. Many SFT courses lead to professional certifications.

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).

CFSTES is a system of course delivery and certification. Several certification tracks for both career and volunteer firefighters have been created. Certification criteria consist of prerequisites such as work experience, completing a specific course of study and passing the appropriate certification examinations. Once completed, fire service personnel may submit for certification in positions such as Firefighter, Apparatus Operator, Company Officer, Chief Fire Officer, Executive Fire Officer, Fire Chief, Instructor, Fire Inspector, Plan Examiner, Fire Marshal, Fire Investigator and Community Risk Officer. All SFT certifications are aligned with national professional qualification standards.



FSTEP is a program that assists local fire agencies in meeting their specific training needs. Courses include, live-fire training, auto extrication and wildland firefighting. Courses delivered through registered instructors may be "custom" tailored to meet each department's needs.

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. National accreditation of California's professional certification tracks is a long term goal of SFT. Currently, Fire Fighter I (2013) certification is nationally accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), and the National Board on Fire Services Professional Qualifications (Pro Board).

