

FIRE PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY (FPTC)

Program Review Executive Summary

2016

The history of the Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) and State Fire Training is an integral part of the history of the Monterey Peninsula College's "California Fire Academy" and fire technology program. In 1974, the California State Department of Education, the California Fire Chiefs Association and Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) recognized the need for consistent high-quality training. With constantly evolving challenges in firefighting strategy/tactics, emergency medical services, hazardous materials and technical rescue, the fire service needed a system to keep up with the technological changes.

An agreement was made between the three agencies to find an educationally conducive environment to deliver fire training within the State of California. Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California was chosen as the site for the newly formed "California Fire Academy".

In 1979, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) joined in the agreement to continue to provide quality training. The four agencies worked together with the fire service to develop career development guides and specific standards for California. Over the next 26 years the program thrived and evolved into a sophisticated system of over 150 courses that offer certification in over 20 career tracks. In addition, several other courses were offered which are not part of a certification program, but beneficial to a firefighter's continuing education. The responsibility for State Fire Training shifted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/ State Fire Marshal in the 1990's.

Due to economic issues and housing constraints, it was no longer feasible to continue the program at the Asilomar Conference Center. Therefore, the program moved to Monterey Peninsula College in 2003 and continued program delivery there for the next three and one half years.

In January of 2007, the Monterey Peninsula College Fire Academy/Fire Technology program moved to Seaside, California in an area that had been part of the former Fort Ord. A partnership with the Monterey College of Law allowed Fire Training to continue in an uninterrupted fashion while a new Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) was being built. Construction was completed in 2009, and the new facility offers state of the art learning environment.

Today, MPC (with input from the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association) the Monterey County Fire Training Officer's Association (Fire Technology Advisory Committee), works collaboratively to identify training needs and to provide consistent quality education for the county.

Program Strengths:

- In May of 2015, we had our site visit from the State Fire Marshal Office (SFMO) for reaccreditation. After a comprehensive audit of our current facility and discussion of our proposed plans, we were reaccredited. This audit from the SFMO validates our program

content and delivery. The new accreditation for the regional training program is valid for five years. (see attached)

- The opportunity to grow the program will coincide with the development of phase II of the training center. The College recognizes the need for, and importance of, this training facility and continues to commit resources to the development. Phase II has been planned as a comprehensive training complex to include a drill tower, burn building, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) and all associated facilities for a state-of-the-art training facility. This training space is currently scheduled to be located in the Parker Flats area of the former Fort Ord and in the MOU (Military Operations on Urban Terrain) training area which are both scheduled to be conveyed to Monterey Peninsula College.
- Working collaboratively with the Fire Chief's Association and the County Fire Training Officers Association (advisory board). These two associations provide direction and guidance to the desired courses needed locally. They understand the need to provide quality education and training to an expanding population of public safety personnel. Part of this quality education is the recognition that technology and innovation are key factors. The new training center will not only benefit Fire Protection, but all Public Safety Training program. Our ability to training students to the current standard is critical, and with the assistance of both groups, we will be able to meet and exceed the challenge.
- We have been in dialog with CSUMB on a BA in Emergency Management for student to continue their education.
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) instructional staff conduct the wildland portion of the Basic Academy and also issues CAL FIRE (67 hour) certificates for the training.
- We have been able to place 40 of our students into jobs working for local fire agencies over the past two years.

Challenges/Areas for Improvement:

- The fire protection technology program continues to have challenges meeting all of the needs of the program. There are no full-time faculty members for the program. There are several challenges presented by this including: the lack of student advisement time, outreach, curriculum development, and faculty evaluations.
- The need for a computer lab has been identified by State Fire Training, for the delivery of the national test. This will require the installation of 40-50 computers.
- Recruiting the under-represented student population, like other CTE programs we have our challenges with attracting the non-traditional student.
- The program over the past three years has seen a decline in the number of students attending the SFMO level II and III courses. This is a direct result of the number of non-college providers available to the student. By recognizing this change in course availability, we are collaborating with our local Training Officers Association to provide

courses.

- The Basic Firefighter I and II Academies are held at various fire departments and training locations. Departments make their sites available on a gratis basis for specific training. At times this presents a challenge to instructors needing to provide instruction to students when the training grounds are not available. Upon phase II completion, the college would have the responsibility of scheduling for the training ground.
- An advertising/recruiting plan needs to be developed and funded, to promote our underserved population.

Priority/Goals:

Over the past two years, we have developed a list of goals to grow the PSTC. This growth is not only for the Fire Protection, but also the Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Technician programs. The list established will provide the foundation for the PSTC covering the next five year's.

- Hire at least one new full-time instructor (FPTC)
- Hire at least one new full-time instructor (EMMS)
- Employ part-time equipment manager position
- Submit SLO assessment results to the Office of Instruction
- Create a computer lab
- Development of phase II of the training center
- Establish pathway with CSUMB
- Develop an internship program
- Increase number of non-traditional students
- Revise curriculum
- Increase operating budget for Fire Technology/ EMMS programs
- Continue to add courses as needed and create new degrees and certificates