



**ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015**



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**Dr. Dora B. Schriro , Commissioner
Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman
Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman
Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary
Jeffrey J. Morrissette, State Fire Administrator**

*Established - 1975 Statutory authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes. Sec. 7-323
Central Office - Connecticut Fire Academy, 34 Perimeter Road Windsor Locks, CT 06096
Average number of full-time employees – 15 (General Fund)*

***Organization structure - Office of State Fire Administration, Training Unit and
Certification Unit***

Division Mission

***To prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters through leadership and collaboration
with municipalities, fire departments and regional fire schools by delivery of quality
consulting services, technical assistance, training, education and professional competency
certification of career and volunteer fire service personnel.***

Statutory Authority

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 7-323(j) - 7-323(s) the Commission is charged with and has primary responsibility for training, public fire and life safety education and professional competency certification for members of Connecticut's fire service.

Public Service

A Division of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) serves as the focal point for fire service training, public fire and life-safety education and professional competency testing and certification in support of Connecticut's fire service. Appointed members of the Commission represent the statewide fire service organizations and serve to advise Commissioner Dr. Dora B. Schriro under the leadership of Chairman Peter Carozza, Jr.

We continue to leverage limited resources in an effort to provide quality services. Economies and efficiency are gained through partnerships and synergy with other DESPP

divisions. In addition, partnerships continue with numerous state and federal agencies including Department of Homeland Security, United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy. These collaborations yield expanded opportunities for Connecticut's fire service. A significant and conscious effort is made to schedule programs and services within every geographic region of the state to ensure equal access to both the career and volunteer fire service.

Division staff members actively participate on state and national committees, boards and organizations in an effort to maintain a positive, proactive impact upon services as well as to advocate on behalf of Connecticut's fire service. By Connecticut General Statutes, the State Fire Administrator serves on both the State Emergency Response and Enhanced 911 Commissions in addition to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisory Council. Agency staff and Adjunct Instructors represent the division on the Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board and the National Fire Protection Association Fire Protection Research Foundation's Advanced Electric Powered Vehicle training oversight panel as well as various other agency/professional committees and working groups.

Staff and adjunct instructional staff are recognized for their professional expertise and selfless commitment. Their dedication has been instrumental in our ability to meet the ever increasing demand for services.

This year's Annual Report is dedicated in the memory of Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary - Commission on Fire Prevention and Control who passed away on June 23, 2015 following a brief illness.

Improvements/Achievements 2014-15

The following accomplishments suggest the wide variety of activities offered by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control:

- A total of 154 fire officers from throughout Connecticut attended this year's *Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend* at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Six courses were offered resulting in 2,464 contact hours at the nation's premiere fire education institution.
- Hosted the 12th annual Connecticut Firefighters Memorial Service. The names of Deputy Chief David P. Fiori – New Britain Fire Department and Firefighter Arnold F. Hartley – Citizen Engine Company (Seymour) were added to the Memorial Honor Roll as a result of line-of-duty deaths that occurred on May 26, 2014 and November 23, 1960 respectively.
- Delivered a series of fire apparatus Q Endorsement Testing Train-the-Trainer sessions on a Regional basis to implement PA 13-271.
- Continued administration of the 800 FIRE LINE program, a national volunteer fire and emergency services recruitment tool. During the fiscal year, 23 calls were received with 6 referred to local fire, EMS, and other emergency response related organizations. Career guidance was provided to the remaining callers.

- The Commission's Regional Foam Trailer program, the most used regional asset in the state, was activated for response to emergency incidents statewide. Additional enhancements were made to the units to maintain operational readiness.
- The highly popular and successful *Introduction to the Fire Service* summer camp programs for youth 14 to 17 years of age were delivered to 98 students in 3 separate classes.
- The Fourth Annual Fire Service College Fair was held in October with approximately 500 attendees. The goal of this program is to provide interested students options for post-secondary education and job training within the Fire Service and EMS fields.
- Continued the Fire Officer Seminar Series and Instructor Development Seminar headlined by national speakers presenting on a variety of contemporary topics. Six, single day-long sessions were held with 340 students resulting in 2,720 contact hours.
- Academy dormitory rooms were made available and occupied by students attending Connecticut Fire Academy and New England Disaster Training Center programs. Occupancy again exceeded 5,070 room nights.
- Continued support to the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations including coordination of the Annual Fire Service Day at the Capitol held on April 22nd.
- The agency's electronic mail list serv continued to provide dissemination of important and timely information to more than 4,000 subscribers. A total of 268 messages were transmitted during the fiscal year containing well in excess of 1,000 news items of public safety interest. We successfully transitioned to a new listserv platform at the close of the fiscal year which should provide for and allow greater utility. The division continued its expanded use of social media, Facebook and Twitter, throughout the year to reach both fire service members and general public.
- In the area of Public Fire and Life Safety Education continued regular dissemination of press releases to the news media. Staff provided radio, television interviews and commentary on a whole host of fire service related topics. Assisted with the coordination of *Operation Save a Life* with more than 5,000 smoke and CO detectors given away to fire departments state-wide. Participated in several high school career fairs and provided facility tours
- Continued support to the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard (CTHG) initiative. This group of volunteers provides direct support to local fire departments for both celebratory and grief assistance as a result of a line of duty death. The CTHG continues to play a leadership role in the planning and execution of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundations (NFFF) Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD. In addition, we provided assistance to the NFFF in support of the Hal Bruno Comfort Zone Camp for surviving children of line of duty death firefighters. This year's camp was held in Bantam, CT. The Connecticut Fire Academy served as a host location for the National Honor Guard Academy in July, 2015.

Office of State Fire Administration

The Office of State Fire Administration provides overall coordination, management and support of division activities and facilities including the administration of grants. The Office provides consulting services to communities regarding fire department administration, Juvenile

Firesetter Intervention and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. In addition, oversight of the Statewide Fire Rescue Disaster Response Plan continues as a priority with staff serving as Fire Service Liaison's in the State Emergency Operations Center during statewide exercises and emergencies.

Coordination and collaboration with the independent Regional Fire Schools continues with planned major upgrades to several facilities planned for FY2016 and 17.

Several emerging trends were addressed through the development of curriculum and or model procedure guides for response to opioid overdoses (Narcan), Ebola, earthquake preparedness and response to civil disturbances. A second Assistance to Firefighter Act Grant was awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency totaling \$492,940. Funding will be utilized to procure a second replacement fire pumper, instructor Personal Protective Equipment and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Facility enhancements included the Administration Building Roof replacement project which was substantially completed. Replaced two rooftop Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) units with high efficiency models. Installed two hydration/bottle filling stations for high quality drinking water. Additional units will be replaced over time. The exterior stairway repair project will commence later this year. A structural engineer is currently inspecting the Academy's Class A Burn Building as a result of premature failure of thermal tiles and sacrificial walls.

Certification Unit

The Certification Unit, under the direction of Director William Trisler, administers professional competency and certification examination of fire service personnel developed from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) consensus standards, in support of the statewide fire service training and educational framework. The Unit is internationally accredited by both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service (NBFSPQ) Professional Qualifications adding value to fire service personnel achieving certification. The Unit conducted 50 NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training Audits, developed and administered 8 promotional examinations for municipalities, conducted 101 psychomotor examinations and 142 cognitive examinations and 14 ADA accommodation examinations resulting in 2,484 certifications issued to fire service personnel with the overall written examination passing rate of 72%.

The Director continues to be an active voting member of our accrediting boards and was appointed to serve as a member of the IFSAC Site Visit Team Committee. In addition, the Director participated as an active member of the Agency's Lean Committee and is the Certifying Official for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ensuring the Academy's compliance with all pertinent VA regulations. A significant amount of staff time was dedicated to preparing for a reaccreditation site visit by IFSAC in July, 2015.

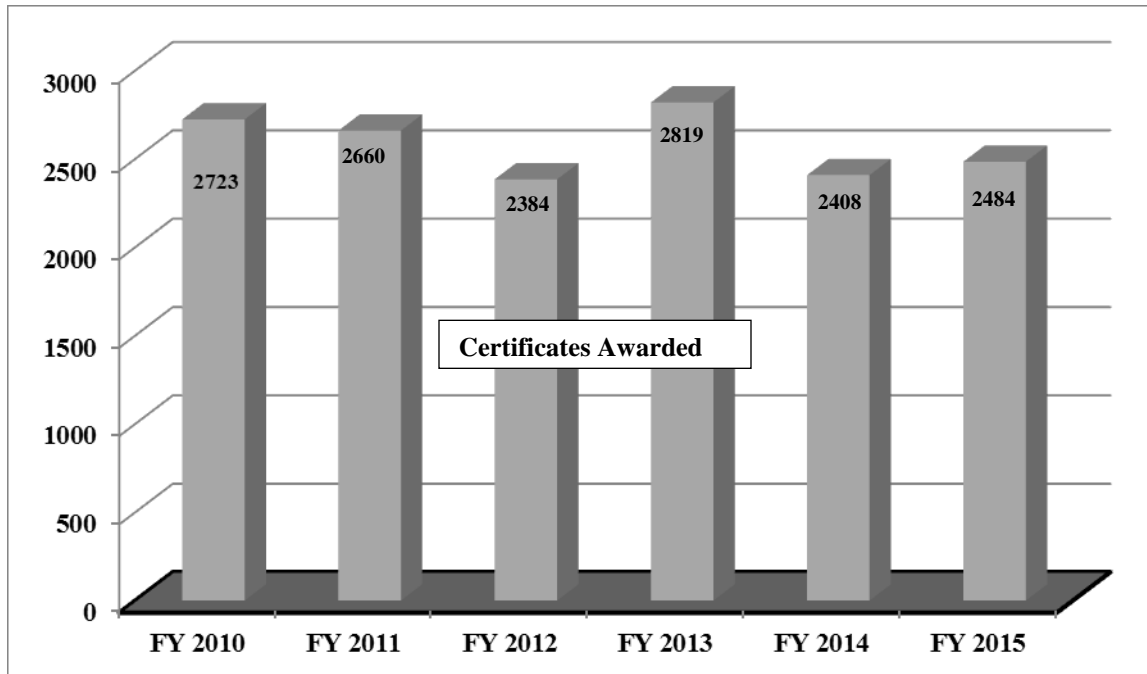


Figure 1 - Total Number of Certificates Awarded FY2010 - 15

Training Unit

The Training Unit delivers a diverse range of training and education programs ranging from the comprehensive 14-week resident Recruit Firefighter Training program to Fire Officer and technical specialty level courses many with collegiate transfer credits.

During FY15, 444 training programs were delivered reaching 6,864 students resulting in 189,524 student contact hours. Topical seminars and specialized training including the Annual June Fire School and Rescue Weeks provided training to over 1,000 students. In addition to course deliveries, the Connecticut Fire Academy offers services such as respirator face piece fit testing and completed 27 fit testing sessions for 840 participants. Continued popular was the delivery of the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) to assist municipalities identify future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. A total of 1,817 candidates were registered with 1,270 testing achieving an overall passing rate of 78.5%. Thirteen training programs continue to be approved by Charter Oak State College for collegiate transfer credit adding value to our students. Our Public Fire and Life Safety Educator directly supported the Public Safety Academy in Enfield as well as high school career days throughout the state. Finally, the CFA Bookstore had gross sales of \$437,233 with 18,560 items sold.

Commissioners

Members of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control are appointed by the Governor and represent statewide fire service organizations. Commissioners serving during this fiscal year: Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman, West Hartford; Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman, Simsbury; Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary, Derby; Chief John J. Brady, Ret., Madison; Deputy

Chief Clifton Cooper, Hartford; Chief David J. Dagon, Mansfield; Chief Frank C. Hilbert, Mystic; Megan Murphy, Fire Marshal, Trumbull; Chief Walter J. Cox, Colchester; Chief Richard H. Nicol, Ret., Middlebury; Jeffrey K. Bridges, Wethersfield and Richard Fontana, New Haven. Victor Mitchell, Director of Continuing Education & Workforce Services, Tunxis Community College and William Abbott, State Fire Marshal, Department of Administrative Service-Division of Construction Services Office of State Fire Marshal served as ex-officio voting members.