



**ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016**



**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  
Richard H. Nicol, 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 as well as 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 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 National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee's 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 to those they serve. Their dedication has been instrumental in our ability to meet the needs of the fire and emergency services community.

### **Improvements/Achievements 2015-16**

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

- A total of 141 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 2,256 contact hours at the nation's premiere fire education institution.
- Hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Firefighters Memorial Service. The names of Edward C. Bastien – Baltic Fire Department (7/15/15); Kevin L. Bell – Hartford Fire Department (10/7/14); Frederick H. Letsch, Jr. Fairfield Fire Department (11/7/81) and Francis E. Dwyer, Enfield Fire Department (12/6/73) were added to the Memorial Honor Roll as a result of line-of-duty deaths.
- Continued administration of the 800 FIRE LINE program, a national volunteer fire and emergency services recruitment tool. During the fiscal year, 27 calls were received with 14 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 continued to be available for emergency response to spills and fires involving flammable and combustible liquids. Our thanks and appreciation to the Hartford, Willington, Norwich, New Haven, Waterbury, Fairfield, Danbury and Winsted Fire Department's for hosting and responding with these assets.

- The highly popular and successful *Introduction to the Fire Service* summer camp programs for youth 14 to 17 years of age were delivered to 100 students in 3 separate classes.
- The Fifth 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 372 students resulting in 2,976 contact hours.
- Academy dormitory rooms were occupied 5,269 Room Nights by students attending Connecticut Fire Academy and New England Disaster Training Center programs.
- Continued support to the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations including coordination of the Annual Fire Service Day at the Capitol held on March 30, 2016.
- The agency's electronic mail Listserv continued to provide dissemination of important and timely information to more than 4,000 subscribers. A total of 243 messages were transmitted during the fiscal year containing well in excess of 2,000 news items of public safety interest. Our use of social media including Facebook and Twitter continued to expand. We added 489 Twitter followers and Tweeted 174 messages promoting division activities and news of interest to the general public.
- In the area of Public Fire and Life Safety Education, continued dissemination of press releases to the news media. Staff provided radio, television interviews and commentary on a wide range of fire service related topics. Again this year we assisted with the coordination and promotion 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
- Support continued 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. Each year, the CTHG continues in a leadership role in the planning and execution of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundations (NFFF) Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD. Once again, the Connecticut Fire Academy served as a host field training location for the National Honor Guard Academy.
- Conducted pilot test of web based on-line registration system. System will be deployed more extensively during FY17.

### **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. Recently, ground was broken for the construction of a new Fairfield Regional Fire School. Funding for the Burrville Regional Fire School was allocated by the State Bond Commission with design and construction to occur during FY17. Additional Regional Fire School projects are expected to follow soon.

Staff members closely monitor and address emerging trends in the fire and emergency services arena. Information dissemination and or development and delivery of training and informational programs regarding the Zika virus, Civil Unrest and Response to Active Shooter or Hostile event situations occurred. Both the Director of Training and Fire Administrator participate on the Commissioner's Minority Recruitment Working Group in collaboration with the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association. In the late spring, a final inspection of the first of two Academy grant funded replacement pumper trucks was completed with delivery to occur during the first quarter of FY17. The second pumper will be received and placed into operation during the second quarter. Grant funds were also utilized to procure replacement Self-contained Breathing Apparatus and Personal Protective Equipment for instructional staff. In addition, capital funds were used to upgrade hydraulic rescue equipment used in a variety of Academy programs.

Facility enhancements were completed during the year including replacement of the Academy's exterior stairway's, replacement carpeting in classroom and dormitory room public hallway's as well as pavement repairs, sealing and line striping both the training grounds and main parking lot areas. Utility energy conservation funds were used to upgrade lighting to LED technology in the Administration/Classroom building, parking lot and training grounds. Funds were also received for a project to upgrade the original Class B Burn Building computer controlled propane fueled fireplaces. This long overdue project will commence during FY17 and when complete provide students with a significantly enhanced live fire training experience.

Finally, the CFA Bookstore realized \$354,701.50 in both internal and external sales with a total of 11,561 items sold. Revenue derived from sales at the Connecticut Fire Academy Bookstore is reinvested into maintaining and expanding available publications, internal printing and support of Connecticut Fire Academy's programs.

### **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 Professional Qualifications (NBFSQP) adding value to fire service personnel achieving certification. IFSAC completed a reaccreditation audit and approved reaccreditation for 35 professional qualification levels. A compliance survey conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) found us to be in compliance with all VA regulations for students enrolled under GI Bill benefits. The Unit conducted 33 NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training Audits, developed and

administered 5 promotional examinations for municipalities, conducted 76 psychomotor examinations, and 109 cognitive examinations resulting in 2,629 certifications issued to fire service personnel with the overall written examination passing rate of 73%.

The Director serves on the NBFSQ Advisory Committee and IFSAC Site Visit Team Committee. In addition, the Director is a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1041, *Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications* committee, serves on 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.

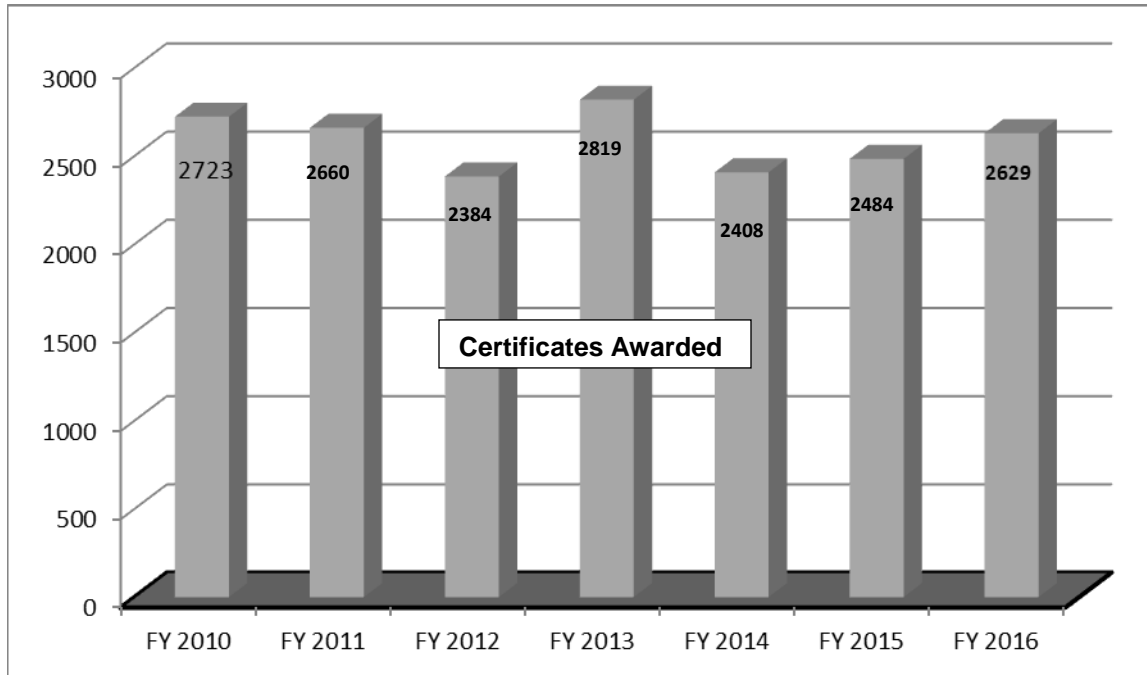


Figure 1 - Total Number of Certificates Awarded Over the Past Seven Fiscal Years

### Training Unit

The Training Division under the direction of Director William Higgins 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 with collegiate transfer credits. Courses are available for delivery throughout the state and at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks.

During FY 2016 431 training programs were delivered reaching 6,597 students, providing a total of 186,004 contact hours. Special seminars and specialized training including Rescue Week and the Annual June Fire School provided training to over 900 students. Also, continued delivery of the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) to assist municipalities in identifying future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. A total of 2,063 candidates were registered with 1572 testing. An overall passing rate of 71.8% was achieved. Thirteen CFA

training programs continue to be approved by Charter Oak State College for collegiate transfer credit adding value to our students. Collaboration with the Military Department and Department of Public Health at the New England Disaster Training Center at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks provides unique training opportunities for all emergency responders.

Two full time Fire Academy Trainers, James Carroll and Mark Salafia retired following 32 years of combined service to the Academy. Due to the state fiscal situation these positions will not be refilled further depleting the division's overall staffing.

### **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, III., 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.