



**ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017**



**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 – 10 (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 2016-17

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

- A total of 144 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 2,304 contact hours at the nation's premiere fire education institution.
- Hosted the 14th annual Connecticut Firefighters Memorial Service. The name of James J. Butler, Jr., Derby Fire Department was added to the Memorial Honor Roll as a result of a line-of-duty death on February 7, 2016.
- 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 Sixth 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 7,875 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 29, 2017.
- The agency's electronic mail Listserv continued to provide dissemination of important and timely information to more than 4,180 subscribers. A total of 249 messages were transmitted during the fiscal year containing well in excess of 3,000 news items of public safety interest. Our use of social media including Facebook and Twitter continued to expand. We added 308 new Twitter followers and Tweeted 180 messages during the year 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 donated to fire departments state-wide. Participated in several high school career fairs and provided facility tours and education.
- Support continued to the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard (CTHG). 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.
- Continue to implement the Saba Learning Management System which includes on-line registration. While fully implemented for CPAT, the system will be further deployed for training program registration during FY18.

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. Completion of the Fairfield Regional Fire Training School was completed and dedicated in the

name of the late Capt. Joseph S. Elias on May 17, 2017. Also, recently ground was broken for the construction of a new Burrville Regional Fire School. Allocation of additional funds by the state Bond Commission is necessary for any of the remaining projects to move forward.

Staff members closely monitor and address emerging trends in the fire and emergency services arena. Information dissemination from the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) continues regarding homeland security related issues to Connecticut Fire Chiefs. 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. A Request for Proposal is anticipated to be published for a statewide entry-level fire service testing program. In the spring, a final inspection of the Academy's second grant funded replacement pumper trucks was completed and the unit delivered. Also, a FY2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant was awarded in April, 2017 totaling \$451,558 to procure a replacement 7000PSI Breathing Air Compressor, Storage and Fill Stations System, two replacement Respirator Fit Testing Machines and a replacement Incident Command Simulator. Procurement of these items is underway and anticipated to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Facility enhancement 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 \$400,178.98 in external sales with a total of 8,570 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 was under the direction of William Trisler and Jason Decremer, Mr. Trisler retired at the end of 2016 and Mr. Decremer took over director duties in May of 2017. The Certification Division assesses fire service personnel in areas ranging from basic firefighting skills to technical rescue specialties and from instructional methodology to executive officer leadership including instructional methodology, curriculum development, public education and fire prevention. This knowledge and skills evaluation of specific competencies legitimizes the pre-requisite training requirements and instruction associated with fire service-related training courses and education. The certification process is an independent third party evaluation of requisite firefighter skills developed from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in support of the statewide fire service educational framework developed from the same standards. The certification process ensures emergency services personnel are better qualified to conduct significant incidents while routinely operating in highly hazardous exposure areas when serving the citizens of Connecticut.

The CFPC Certification Unit is accredited by two international entities, National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Accreditation of the certification process validates the professionalism and commitment of full and part-time staff and provides portability to our customers as they pursue careers in the fire service.

The Certification Division Registrar attended the Pro Board and IFSAC Annual meetings in FY 2017. The Director of Certification is scheduled to attend the Pro Board Annual and IFSAC meeting in FY 2018.

The Certification Unit conducted 27 NFPA 1403 compliant Live Fire Training audits, 71 psychomotor examinations and 109 cognitive examinations, and five (5) ADA compliant examinations assessing 4012 candidates in FY 2017 resulting in 2480 Pro Board and IFSAC accredited certifications (Figure 1). The overall written examination success rate was 65 percent. In addition, the Unit developed and administered three (3) promotional examinations for municipalities.

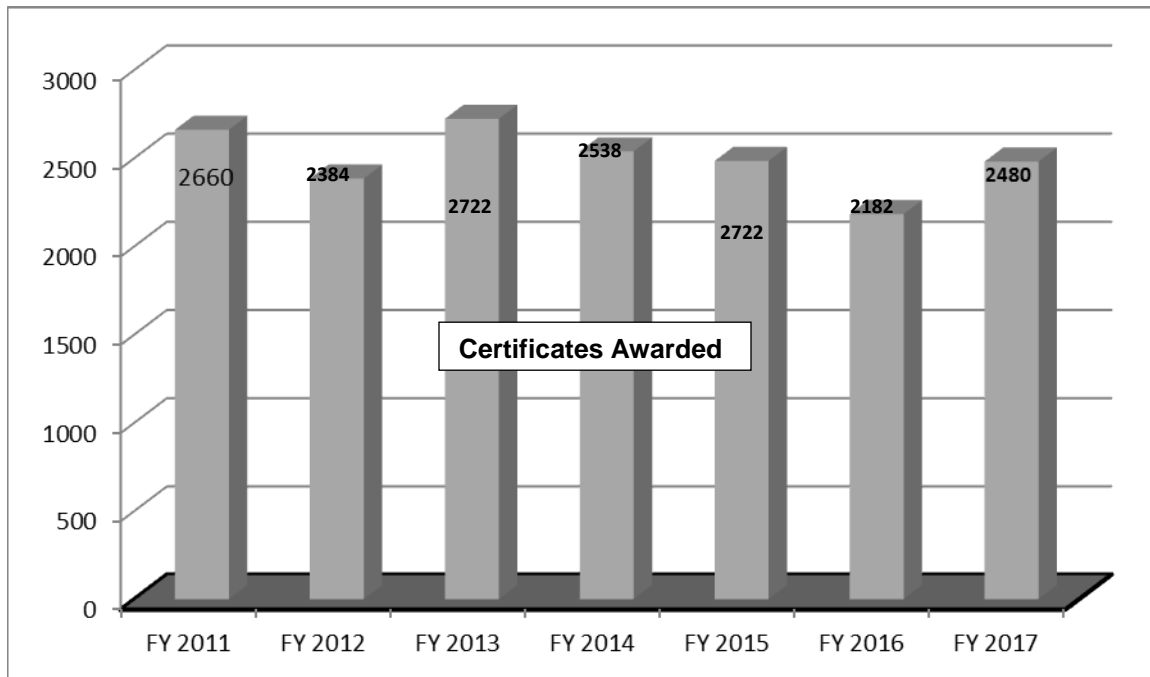


Figure 1 - Total Number of Certificates Awarded Over the Past Seven Fiscal Years

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 2017 343 training programs were delivered reaching 6,246 students, providing a total of 130,030 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 1,104 candidates were registered with 867 testing. An overall passing rate of 73.1% was achieved. Charter Oak State College completed its five year review for collegiate transfer credit adding value to our students. One additional class was approved whereas now 14 Connecticut Fire Academy programs are eligible for college credit. 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.

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.