

MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL



***2014
ANNUAL REPORT***

ABOUT THE COVER

The picture found on the cover of this report shows students taking part in live fire training during a Macomb County Fire Academy. The academy was conducted through one of Council's approved Regional Fire Training Centers with this one managed by Macomb Community College.



MFFTC 2014

CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE

On behalf of the members of the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council, it is our pleasure to present this 2014 annual report to Governor Snyder and members of the State House and Senate. Council would also like to thank our State Fire Marshal, Richard Miller, for his support of not only Council's goals and objective but for the state fire service as a whole.

During 2014 funding from the Fireworks Safety fee provided Michigan's fire service with the only source of training revenue as general fund monies in direct support of firefighter training were eliminated from the Bureau's Training Division budget. Using a combination of both direct allotments in the amount of \$10,000 per county and competitive elective training grants Council made significant positive impacts on firefighter training across the State. Council was also able to designate funding for training projects within the Bureau of Fire Services as well directly offsetting general fund expenditure. These projects included providing a \$75,000 match to a FEMA awarded grant for the replacement of Bureau software and \$41,000 for the purchase of new scanning equipment used in reviewing firefighter training completion test. Additional funding was provided to the Bureau to offset cost related of a training meeting for the Bureau's fire training contract coordinators. It is important to continue to recognize the collaboration, cooperation, and support from the Governor's office, our elected officials, and fire service organizations throughout the State of Michigan.

As we look forward to 2015 the members of the Fire Fighters Training Council enthusiastically pledge to continue the development of a statewide training program that includes and encourages local and state partnerships, innovation, and creativity while continually analyzing where financial resources can be best utilized for the greatest return in protecting the citizens of this great State.

Chief Timothy A. James
Chairperson
Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council



MFFTC 2014

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MFFTC 2014

COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Council History

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training (MFFTC) was established by Public Act No. 291 of 1966 and is located within the Bureau of Fire Services which resides under the State's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The Bureau of Fire Services is under the direction of State Fire Marshal Richard Miller, an appointee of Governor Snyder.

Council Responsibilities

The MFFTC serves the training needs of the State's firefighters by: Preparing and publishing training standards; establishing courses of study; certifying instructors; establishing regional training centers to assist local fire departments with training needs; cooperating with various federal, state and local agencies to facilitate firefighter training and developing and administering certification exams for new firefighters and department officers.

Council Appointees

Members of the MFFTC are appointed by the Governor to serve a four year term. Candidates for the Council are recommended to the Governor by the organization they represent. Member organizations are defined within Public Act 291. The Governor also appoints the Chairperson of the committee with the Vice Chair position elected by majority vote of the Councilmembers. In addition to the appointed members the State Fire Marshal serves as an ex-officio member of the Council.



MFFTC 2014 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Members

The Michigan Firefighters Training Council is comprised of the following members who represent their sponsoring organization. The number of representatives allowed under Public Act 291 for each organization is shown in parenthesis.

Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs – (2)

Chief Timothy A. James, Chair – Fire Chief, Benton Twp Fire Department and Sunfield Fire Department

Chief Chad Tackett – Fire Chief, Texas Township Fire Department

Michigan Professional Firefighters Union – (1)

Aileen M. Pettinger – Lieutenant, City of Saginaw Fire Department and IAFF local 102

Michigan Association of Fire Service Instructors – (1)

Brian K. Blomstrom – Sergeant, Greenville Department of Public Safety

Michigan State Firemen’s Association – (1)

Steven D. Richardson – Crew Leader, Alpena Combat Readiness Center

Michigan Municipal League / Michigan Township Assoc. – (1)

David J. Purchase, Vice Chair – Retired Fire Chief, City of Norton Shores

Ex-Officio Member

Richard W. Miller – State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire Services



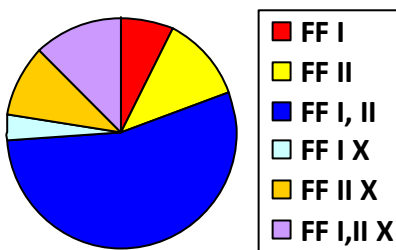
MFFTC 2014 TRAINING PROGRAMS

Firefighter Certification

The certification of firefighters is a requirement under Michigan PA 291. This law requires that all fulltime firefighters be certified to the level of Firefighter II within one year of date of hire and all part time, paid-on-call and volunteer firefighters be certified to the Firefighter I level within two years of date of hire. The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) is charged with oversight of the State’s firefighter training program. To this end the MFFTC authorizes training academies conducted under the auspices of individual fire departments, county training/chiefs organizations and Regional Fire Training Centers. Under the direction of the MFFTC support of these activities is provided through the Fire Fighters Training Division within the Bureau of Fire Services. This support includes; registration and approval of classes, scheduling and shipping of video training course materials, approval of course funding, proctoring of final written and skills examinations, maintenance of firefighter, instructor and course training records, and site visits for program review and quality control. Much of our field work is provided by 23 contracted Training Coordinators located around the state. It is noteworthy to identify the fact that in 2014 at least one firefighter certification test was held in each Michigan county.

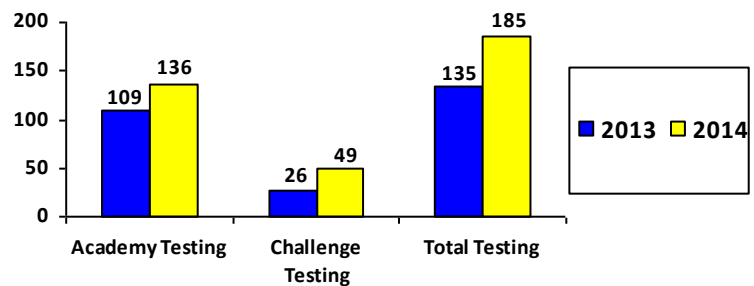
Currently, the Council approved curriculum used for approved firefighter training academies meets the 2008 NFPA 1001 standard.

Firefighter Exams Conducted



X - Indicates Challenge Exam

Firefighter Exams Requested



Peninsula	FF I	FF II	FF I, II	FF I X	FF II X	FF I,II X	TOTALS
Upper	9	16	35	7	7	10	84
Lower	5	6	65	0	12	13	101
TOTALS	14	22	100	7	19	23	185

Firefighter Exam Statewide Distribution



MFFTC 2014 TRAINING PROGRAMS

Instructor Certification

In support of its programs the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council established a program for the training and certification of fire service instructors. Under PA 291 the MFFTC approves all fire instructor certification levels including; probationary Associate Instructor, Associate Instructor, probationary Instructor I, Instructor I and Instructor II. Maintenance of a strong and diverse instructor base is a priority for the MFFTC in order to assure the availability of vital training programs in all areas of the State. Listed below are the instructor certifications approved by Council during 2014.

Probationary Associate Instructor –	89	Associate Instructor –	36
Probationary Instructor I –	30	Instructor I –	82
Instructor II –	38		

Officer Certification

The training and certification of Michigan's fire officers is an important component of the mission of the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council. In support of fire departments across the State fire officers receive training in fire ground tactics and personnel responsibilities through a series of MFFTC approved courses developed and supported by the National Fire Academy and private fire service curriculum producers. MFFTC fire officer certification levels of Company Officer and Fire Officer III are designed to meet the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association 1021 standard. The MFFTC fire officer certifications have been voluntarily adopted by many Michigan fire departments as minimum requirements for appointment as fire department company officers and are recommended levels of officer training under MIOSHA Part 74. A total of 545 fire personnel received Council Company Officer certification through the completion of 42 total programs conducted. The State's current information management system is unfortunately unable to query the number of FO III certification awarded. It is hope that this information will be available in future years with upgrade to the system software.



MFFTC 2014 TRAINING PROGRAMS

NIMS Training

Federal NIMS training requirements set the various training levels within the National Incident Management System. MIOSHA Part 74 also requires incident command training for all Michigan firefighters. In support of these requirements the Firefighters Training Council offers several courses including; NIMS ICS for the Fire Service, IS-300 and 400 level command training. Firefighter course achievements are tracked and maintained through the Fire Fighter Training Division's Information Management System. A total of 1,288 fire service personnel received NIMS ICS certification with a total of 76 courses completed.

Drivers Training Certification

Under the direction of the MFFTC Michigan's firefighter receive emergency driving certification through fire service delivered training. Drivers certification training consist of both a classroom based lecture and mandatory range and drive time. Upon the approval and verification of meeting established fire apparatus driving requirements by the local fire chief, the firefighter becomes certified to operate fire apparatus upon Michigan's public roads exempting them from the DOT Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirements for fire apparatus only. In 2014, 100 emergency vehicle drivers training courses were completed certifying a total of 1,540 drivers.

Everyone Goes Home®

In 2013 Council elected to add the *Everyone Goes Home®* training program to the basic firefighter training curriculum. *Everyone Goes Home®* is a program by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to prevent firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries. This four hour class concentrates on the sixteen Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives raising firefighter awareness to on-the-job hazards and creating the basis for cultural change throughout the fire service. In its first year under this new directive 51 classes were conducted certifying 927 firefighters.



MFFTC 2014 TRAINING PROGRAMS

Hazardous Materials Certification

Federal OSHA standard 21CFR 1910.120 requires that all firefighters receive training in the response to hazardous materials incidents. These standards are also included within the MIOSHA standards. Accordingly the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council requires that firefighters seeking state Firefighter I and II certification also become certified at the hazardous materials Operational level. This 24 hour course is taught by MFFTC certified instructors as either a stand-alone program or as part of an approved firefighter training academy. Hazardous materials response training helps assure a safe response and mitigation by emergency personnel to potential incidents involving the production, use and transportation of hazardous materials throughout the State. This year Council awarded a total of 1,319 hazardous materials operations certifications to students in 74 registered classes.

Other Courses

In addition to the above programs the MFFTC has approved courses covering many subject areas including: Agricultural Rescue, Mutual Aid Water Supply, Confined Space Rescue, Apparatus Pump Operator Training, Vehicle Extrication, Advanced Vehicle Stabilization, Wildland Fire Suppression, Elevator Training, Liquid Propane Gas Emergencies, Flammable Liquid Fires, Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness, Cargo Tank Training, Water and Ice Rescue, Fire Prevention and Investigation Training.



MFFTC 2014

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Fireworks Training Fund

Funds generated through the Fireworks Safety Act were utilized to provide critical funding at the county level for firefighter training. In addition funds were from the act were set aside for the funding of specific training grant request submitted by counties, regional training centers and fire service organizations to further support the training of firefighters. Some of the special projects approved by Council utilizing elective grant funds set aside by Council included:

- Allocated \$5,000 to the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society for seed money to go to their Public Education program.
 - Approved a request in the amount of \$17,000 made by Delta Township Fire Department for computer hardware and software for delivery of training in the Blue Card Incident Command System.
 - Approved a request by Bertrand Twp. Fire Department to present a Suburban Fire Tactics course for \$1500.
 - Approved a request for \$12,000 submitted by Mackinac Island Fire Department to be used for flashover training.
 - Approved a request for \$10,000 submitted by Battle Creek Fire Department to certify personnel in Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF). This training was made necessary due to the closure of the Battle Creek Air Guard base leaving the City with ARFF responsibilities for the Commercial airport.
 - Approved a request for \$9,531.30 submitted by Ann Arbor Township Fire Department for flashover training.
 - Approved a grant application for \$5,000 by Manistee County Firefighters Association for purchase of a proposed training facility.
 - Approved the Allegan County Agriculture Extrication class for \$6,000.
 - Approved a request submitted by the State Training Director, not to exceed \$41,000, for the purchase of 3 test scanners.
 - Approved a request from Macomb Community College for the 40 hour fire equipment operator course in the amount of \$6,000.
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MFFTC 2014

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Fireworks Training Fund cont.

- Approved a request by Kalamazoo County Fire Chief Training Committee for Live Fire Officer Training for 40 students in the amount of \$10,000.
- Approved the three county funding request from the Thunder Bay Regional Training Center for a Farm Rescue Operations Class for \$7,500.
- Approved a request from Alpha-Mastodon Volunteer Fire Department for Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge (LACK) training reimbursement in Iron County in the amount of \$639.
- Approved a request from Oceana County Training Committee for Confined Space Rescue Training for \$1,440.
- Approved a request from Alcona Township Fire for a Water Rescue Training class for \$780.
- Supported firefighter training through the awarding of grant funding to the following fire service organizations:
 - Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
 - Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
 - Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
 - Michigan State Fireman's Association

In keeping with the wishes expressed through legislative budget action, Council approved the budget boiler plate required distribution of FY 2015 firework safety fees in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the 83 Michigan county training committees. The boiler plate language set a minimum distribution of \$5,000 per county. Under this distribution formula 61 of 83 counties received less funding than the \$10,000 minimum per county distributed in FY 2014. Additionally there was no funding available for Council approved elective grants.



MFFTC 2014 COUNCIL ACTIONS

MFSIA Annual Conference

On October 24 the Council conducted a regularly scheduled meeting in conjunction with the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association's (MFSIA) annual conference in Traverse City. Members of Council feel strongly that meeting in front of members of this group is important to the mission of training Michigan's firefighters. In support of Council's efforts to schedule this meeting in Traverse City the MFSIA Board of Directors has provided the funding for Council's Lodging expenses and invited Council members to their annual banquet. The MFFTC recognizes and appreciates the financial support of the MFSIA that makes this meeting possible.

Act 291 Rules Update

Council continued its work on development of revised rules for Public Act 291. Several meetings with a representative from the Office of Regulatory Reform were held in an effort to reach final consensus on the draft rules. It is Council's goal to have the draft finalized and submitted for final review, comment and approval during the first half of 2015.

Firefighter Certification

Council took action this year to approve the use of two text in the conducting of Firefighter I and II certification courses. The text approved included those produced by both Jones and Bartlett Learning and the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA). In other action Council also approved the use of electronic versions of the text as opposed to printed versions only.



MFFTC 2014 COUNCIL ACTIONS

Curriculum Review Committee

In 2013, Chairperson Tim James announced the establishment of a Curriculum Committee in Traverse City during the MFSIA Conference. The plan was to have the committee review both regular classes and specialty courses, and work to update the classes offered by the FFTD.

Organizations represented submitted names for two individuals to be selected; the members are as follows:

Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association – Brian Blomstrom (Chair)

Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association – Ray Wlosinski

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union – Aileen Pettinger

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union – Shaun Abbey

Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs – John Kramer

Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs – Blaine Howell

Michigan State Firemans Association – Terry Blackmer

Michigan Municipal League - Dave Peterson

Michigan Municipal League - Dan Oberst

The FFTD was represented also.

Five priorities were established for the group to start the review process, including a review of Firefighter I and II, Hazardous Materials Operations, and Company Officer programs (both the curriculum and testing processes). Additionally, the group met to review specific items, consisting of reviewing and issuing recommendations for online learning capabilities, adding or deleting courses, working to increase the partnerships of other stakeholders for the ICS-300 and ICS-400 programs as it relates to instructor development and instruction, and establishing a partnership with the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association to build a storage database of all instructor materials for curriculums currently offered.



MFFTC 2014 COUNCIL ACTIONS

Curriculum Review Committee

During the rest of 2014, the group worked on the priorities as a large group of tasks. By the end of the year, a substantial amount of progress was completed. Highlights of this progress include:

- All Firefighter I and II texts and testing processes are updated.
- The Company Officer format is new, and almost half of the texts have been updated. The testing process has been re-established and adopted by the MFFTC.
- The Hazardous Materials Test is updated; a provision now exists that outside material can be used to assist with course delivery.
- Candidates have three combined opportunities to challenge a Firefighter I, II or I&II exam OR two retest opportunities for the same before the candidate must retake the courses prior to testing again (passed by Council upon recommendation)
- Development of a policy statement to institute fairness for instructors statewide and provide a non-discriminatory avenue for curriculum submission.
- Met with the Michigan State Police to start the process on updating instructor qualifications for ICS 300/400.
- Established an online site for instructors to download course materials, reducing the workload for office personnel within the Fire Fighter Training Division.

Future goals for Curriculum Committee in 2015 include:

- Reviewing the new Company Officer test for implementation
 - Developing a pilot program for online teaching of Firefighter I and II programs, review results, and prepare recommendations for the MFFTC Developing a Fire Officer III/IV course of study
 - Continue to revise current curriculum offerings by adding, deleting, or updating course offerings.
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MFFTC 2014

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

Language contained within Public Act 291, 1966 states that Council may, “Cooperate with state, federal and local fire agencies in establishing and conducting local or area schools or regional training centers for instruction and training of firefighters of this state and its cities, counties, townships, and villages.” Accordingly Council has authorized 16 Regional Firefighter Training Centers who assist the Council with the promotion and delivery of firefighter training programs. Many of these institutions also offer fire science degrees for those seeking higher levels of education.



MFFTC 2014 REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

2013 Authorized MFTTC Regional Training Centers

Grand Rapids Fire RTC
Grand Rapids, MI

Baker College of Jackson
Jackson, MI

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Kalamazoo, MI

Delta College Fire Science Academy
University Center, MI

Kirtland Community College
Roscommon, MI

Detroit Fire Training Academy
Detroit, MI

Lake Superior State University
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Lansing Community College
Lansing, MI

Oakland Fire Training Inst/OCC
Auburn Hills, MI

**Macomb Fire & Emergency
Training Center**
Clinton Township, MI

Schoolcraft College F T 1
Livonia, MI

Muskegon Community College
Muskegon, MI

St. Clair County Community College
Port Huron, MI

NW Regional Fire Training Center
Traverse City, MI

**Wayne County Community
College District**
Taylor, MI

**Thunder Bay/Alpena Combat Readiness
Training Center**
Alpena, MI