

MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2019

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the members of the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council, it is our pleasure to present this Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) annual report to Governor Whitmer and members of the State House and Senate. The council would also like to thank State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier for his support of not only the council's goals and objectives, but for the Michigan fire service's goals and objectives as a whole.

Effective January 31, 2018, Public Act 144 of 2017 (PA 144) amended the Fire Fighters Training Council Act, Public Act 291 of 1966 (PA 291), by revising and expanding the duties of the state fire marshal and the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council pertaining to the development of standards and examination requirements for certification as a fire service member; establishing continuing education requirements for maintaining certification; establishing a disciplinary process for the suspension or revocation of a certification for certain violations; and, promulgating rules for the development, conduct, and responsibilities of a county training committee in each county in the State. Because the current Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules do not reflect the requirements in the statute, as amended, the rules are being revised to implement the provisions added to PA 291 under PA 144.

As we move forward, the members of the Michigan 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.

Respectfully,

Chad Tackett

Chad Tackett
Chairperson
Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council

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OVERVIEW

Mission:

To establish policy for and provide direction to the Bureau of Fire Services' Fire Fighter Training Division to facilitate the effective implementation of Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council approved programs and standards to enhance the safety and performance of Michigan's firefighters.

Council History:

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council was established by PA 291 and is located within the Bureau of Fire Services in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The Bureau of Fire Services is under the direction of the Director and State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier.

Council Responsibilities:

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council serves the training needs of the state's firefighters by:

- Preparing and publishing training standards and exam requirements for certification of a fire service member.
- Establishing courses of study and continuing education requirements for maintaining certification.
- 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:

In 2018, PA 144 amended PA 291 and expanded the number of council appointees from seven (7) to nine (9) members. Council member organizations are defined within PA 291, as amended, and candidates for the council appointments are recommended to the governor by the organization they represent. Council members are appointed by the governor to serve a four-year term. The governor also appoints the council's chairperson. The vice chair position is elected by majority vote of the council members. In addition to the appointed members, the state fire marshal serves as an ex-officio member of the council.

Council Membership:

The MFFTC is comprised of the following members who represent their sponsoring organization:

Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

Chad Tackett - Fire Chief, Texas Township Fire Department
Alan Styles - Fire Chief, Dalton Township Fire Department

Michigan Professional Firefighters Union

Aileen M. Pettinger - Lieutenant, City of Saginaw Fire Department and
International Association of Firefighters Union, Local 102

Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association

Brian K. Blomstrom - Staff Sergeant, Greenville Department of Public Safety

Michigan State Firemen's Association

Terry Blackmer - Port Huron Fire Department Crew Leader, Mayville Fire
Department

Michigan Municipal League

Greg Janik - Fire Chief, Saugatuck Township Fire District

Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

Lynnae White - Fire Marshal, Grandville Fire Department

Nominee of the State Fire Marshal

Jacob Steichen - Firefighter, Traverse City Fire Department

Ex-Officio Member

Kevin Sehlmeier - State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire Services

TRAINING

Training Programs:

The certification of firefighters is a requirement under PA 291. This law requires that all full-time firefighters be certified to the level of Firefighter II within one (1) year of date of hire and all part-time, paid-on-call and volunteer firefighters be certified to the Firefighter I level within two (2) years of date of hire. The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council is charged with overseeing the state's firefighter training program. To this end, the council 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 state fire marshal and with the support of the council, support of these activities is provided through the Fire Fighter Training Division located within the Bureau of Fire Services. This support includes registration and approval of classes, scheduling and shipping of 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 25 contracted training coordinators located around the state.

During FY19, funding from Fireworks Safety Fees 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. FY19 saw the allocation of \$2,300,000 distributed among Michigan's 83 counties for fire service specific training. The council-approved curriculum used for approved firefighter training academies meets the 2013 NFPA 1001 standard.

The following table details some of the training conducted over the fiscal year:

Course Type	Courses Completed	Student Count
Firefighter/HazMat Operations	245	1,821
Vehicle/Apparatus	164	2,536
Arson Det./Fire Investigation	9	101
Fire Officer	46	801
Hazardous Materials	34	380
Health and Safety	142	2,359
Instructor Development	132	1,327
Manager/Supervisor Development	124	2,286
Rescue	67	1,004

Course Type	Courses Completed	Student Count
Suppression	191	3,135
Fire Service Non-Curriculum Q	244	5,213
Certified Associate Instructor		13
Certified Instructor I		85
Certified Instructor II		31
Firefighter I Reciprocity		13
Firefighter I Veterans		0
Firefighter II Reciprocity		14
Firefighter II Veterans		0
Firefighter I & II Reciprocity		7
Firefighter I & II Veterans		3

Reciprocity:

PA 291 allows for granting reciprocity for basic firefighter certification provided the applicant can provide documentation demonstrating accreditation via veteran status or a national accreditation organization.

The following table details the type and quantity of approved reciprocity requests:

Reciprocity for Veterans	3
Reciprocity by Accreditation	34

Training Grant Program:

In FY18, the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council implemented a training grant program to utilize training funds that were returned to the bureau (either unencumbered training funds and/or funds that were returned by the county to the Fireworks Safety Fee account). The council continued the training grant program in FY19. Fire departments submit both individual and regional training applications for the council's review and approval. Twenty (20) regional applications were awarded grant funding with the caveat that the training must be completed by the fiscal year end.

CURRICULUM REVIEW COMMITTEE

A Curriculum Review Committee was established in FY14 to review both regular classes and specialty courses, and to update the classes offered by the Bureau of Fire Services' Fire Fighter Training Division. In FY19, the Curriculum Review Committee met several times to update the Fire Fighter I & II and Fire Instructor I and validate the content of the exams including:

Firefighter I and II/Haz Mat Exam(s) Update for FY20

The committee reviewed, validated and approved the exam questions for Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazardous Material (both on the firefighter exam and the stand-alone practical test) that minimally meets NFPA 1001, 2019 edition. This review process was needed due to both publishers going to the new firefighter textbook IFSTA 7th edition and the Jones & Bartlett 4th edition.

Fire Instructor I Exam Update 25% of the exam questions

The committee reviewed, validated and approved the replacement questions for Fire Instructor I exam minimally met the NFPA 1041, 2012 edition using the IFSTA Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 8th edition.

NFA Courses – Nine State and NFIRS Classes

The committee reviewed dates, locations, classes, and organization for the National Fire Academy's (NFA) Michigan schedule for fiscal year 2020 (FY20). The committee worked to ensure different fire service organizations were involved with choosing NFA Classes. Members were reminded that classes will need to be submitted by March 2019 for FY20.

Future Plans:

As the Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules are developed, and certification exams are required, the Curriculum Review Committee will focus on validating the exams for all certifications defined in Public Act 291.

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

Per PA 291, the 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 continues to authorize seventeen (17) regional 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.

- Alpena Community College – Alpena, MI
- Baker College of Jackson – Jackson, MI
- Delta College Fire Science Academy – University Center, MI
- Detroit Fire Department Training Academy – Detroit, MI
- Grand Rapids Fire Department Regional Training Center – Grand Rapids, MI
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College – Kalamazoo, MI
- Lake Superior State University – Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- Lansing Community College – Lansing, MI
- Macomb Fire and Emergency Training Center – Clinton Township, MI
- Northern Michigan Regional Training Center – Petoskey, MI
- Northwest Regional Training Center – Traverse City, MI
- Oakland Fire Training/Oakland Community College – Auburn Hills, MI
- Schoolcraft College Fire Training Institute – Livonia, MI
- St. Clair County Community College – Port Huron, MI
- Van Buren Technology Center – Lawrence, MI
- Wayne County Community College – Taylor, MI
- West Michigan Regional Training Center – Norton Shores, MI