

MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL



***2013
ANNUAL REPORT***

ABOUT THE COVER

The picture found on the cover of this report shows a live fire simulation training conducted at one of the State's Regional Fire Training Centers. The instructor shown is demonstrating an attack on a simulated warehouse loading dock fire.



MFFTC 2013

CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE

On behalf of the members of the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council, it is our pleasure to present this 2013 annual report to Governor Snyder and members of the State House and Senate. I would like to begin by expressing our gratitude on behalf of all members of the MFFTC to Mr. Michael Deprez for his leadership these past years as Chairperson of the Council, and wish him great success in his new position within the Bureau of Fire Services. I 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 2013 significant progress was made on the goal of providing a comprehensive funding mechanism for the necessary emergency response training of all firefighters within the State of Michigan. This monumental task would not have been possible without the collaboration, cooperation, and support from our elected officials, citizens and organizations throughout the State of Michigan.

The MFFTC understands that the ability of firefighters to efficiently and professionally perform rescues, provide medical care, suppress fires, and help those in need, is directly related to the quality and availability of their training. To meet these needs the Council has committed to support our local communities and the men and women of the fire departments that serve those communities with increased opportunities for quality training programs that will enhance the capability of our firefighters to respond during domestic emergencies and terrorist events.

As we look forward to 2014 the Council is enthusiastic 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 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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MFFTC 2013

COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Council History

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training (MFFTC) was established by Public Act No. 291 of 1966. In 2003 the Council was placed under the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (Now named LARA – Licensing and Regulatory Affairs) through executive order by then Governor Granholm. The passage of a series of legislative bills in 2006 resulted in the MFFTC being placed within the newly created Bureau of Fire Services. Residing under LARA the Bureau 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.

On February 19th Chairperson Mike Deprez resigned from the Council to accept the position of Assistant State Fire Marshal within the Bureau of Fire Services. Chief Chad Tackett from the Otsego Fire Department was appointed effective May 1st to fill the vacant position. Councilperson Tim James was named the new Council Chairperson by Governor Snyder assuming his role at the August 13th meeting with Council electing Councilperson David Purchase as the Vice Chair.



MFFTC 2013 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, Otsego 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



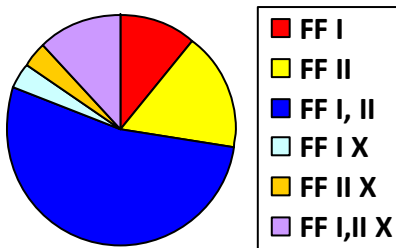
MFFTC 2013 TRAINING PROGRAMS

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 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 22 contracted Training Coordinators located around the state.

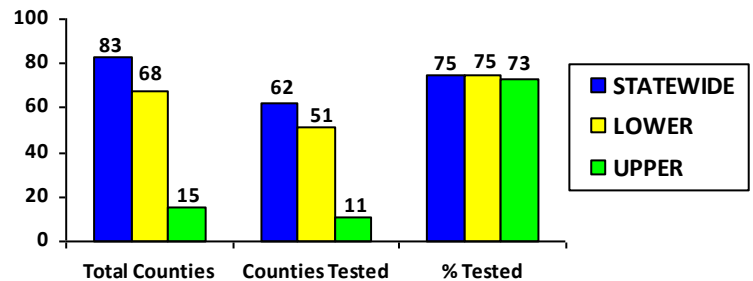
Currently, the Council approved curriculum used for approved firefighter training academies meets the 2008 NFPA 1001 standard. With the release of the updated 2013 NFPA 1001 standard Council has set the goal to update the State's firefighter training curriculum before the start FY 2015 training year.

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	2	3	7	3	1	1	17
Lower	13	19	65	2	4	15	118
TOTALS	15	22	72	5	5	16	135

Firefighter Exam Statewide Distribution



MFFTC 2013 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 and certified Associate Instructor, certified Fire Instructor (Phased out, replaced by Instructor I), 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 2013.

Probationary Associate Instructor –	104	Probationary Instructor I –	18
Certified Associate Instructor –	30	Instructor I -	95
Certified Instructor –	11		

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.

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 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.



MFFTC 2013 TRAINING PROGRAMS

Hazardous Materials Certification

Federal OSHA standard 29CFR 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.

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.

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, Fire Prevention and Investigation Training.



MFFTC 2013 COUNCIL ACTIONS

Fireworks Training Fund

While there were many important issues facing Council members this past year, perhaps none were as important as preparing for and managing the increased funding for training provided for by the passage of the Fireworks Safety Act. These funds are critical to the proper training of Michigan's firefighters and Council members would like to express our extreme gratitude to the members of our legislature as well as Governor Snyder for their support of this funding. Through their collective efforts Council was able to allocate \$10,000 in training funds to every Michigan county training committee for their use on a local level for the training of their firefighters. This level of funding is unprecedented in our history and will serve to better prepare our firefighters to meet today's emergency response challenges. In addition to the county allocations, Council has also allocated budgeted funds for the following purposes:

- \$75,000 match for a grant application through FEMA's Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program. The first ever AFG sponsored grant for state agencies only. The Bureau of Fire Services \$500,000 grant application is to fund needed software upgrades to the Bureau's training information management system.
- \$95,000 for support of Council approved special training programs. Individual counties, regional training centers and/or state fire service organizations may present their funding request for use of these funds to Council for approval.

In addition to these efforts discussion at the Council level has produced other potential projects including the on-line delivery of training, establishment of a web accessed instructor resource data base and increasing the availability of vital and much needed live fire training throughout the state.



MFFTC 2013 COUNCIL ACTIONS

MFSIA Annual Conference

On October 25 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

2013 saw the completion of the first phase of a very important and high priority Council project. This project involved the review and re-write of the administrative rules associated with Public Act 291. The revised rules were formally recommended by Council at the August 13 regular meeting and are currently moving through the State's rules process. Council is hopeful that the proposed rules will be approved in the near future.

Fire Instructor I

Another important Council project was the implementation of the newly developed Fire Instructor I program. After a series of pilot course deliveries Council members approved the final version of the Instructor I course which was then presented around the state by Training Supervisors Mr. Gary Crum and Mr. Dan Hammerberg. Through their dedicated efforts 95 new Instructor I certifications and 18 probationary Instructor I certifications were approved by Council.



MFFTC 2013

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Fire Instructor II

At the October 25th MFFTC meeting Council approved the application process for the newly established Instructor II certification. This is an important step in updating the state instructor certification system. A certified Instructor II will be able to conduct newly developed courses of study thus providing a mechanism to train Instructor I's for future course deliveries across the state. An Instructor II will also have the ability to submit new courses to Council for certification approval and placement on the approved course list. In an effort to move the responsibility for delivery of the Instructor I program from staff of the Fire Fighter Training Division to fire services Instructors in the field, an Instructors II will be authorized to instruct the Instructor I program.

Everyone Goes Home®

Through the rules process Council has updated the firefighter certification training curriculum to include the *Everyone Goes Home®* training program. *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. There are over 1,000 instructors certified to teach this program across Michigan.

Curriculum Review Committee

At the December 10th Council meeting Chairperson James formally established a training curriculum review committee charged with reviewing and updating the Council's approved training courses. At the direction of Council this committee will begin its work reviewing our Firefighter I/II training curriculum. Each organization represented on Council nominated two members to serve on the review committee.



MFFTC 2013

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.

Revocations/Approvals

At the June 11th council meeting the RTC status for Alpena Community College was revoked by Council due to the lack of activity. This RTC was re-authorized at the December 10th council meeting and is now operated as the Thunder Bay/Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center.

Web Based Training

At the December 10th council meeting the RTC located at Wayne County Community College District was authorized to deliver the Council approved firefighter strategy and tactics course via an on-line delivery system. Using the on-line Blackboard Platform students will be able to receive this training remotely using web based educational tools. Increasing the access of training programs using non-conventional delivery means is a priority for Council. It is hoped that by updating delivery instructional methods training will become more accessible to firefighters across the state especially in some of our more rural areas.



MFFTC 2013 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