

MICHIGAN  
FIRE FIGHTERS  
TRAINING COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2016



## **MFFTC CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE**

On behalf of the members of the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC), it is our pleasure to present the Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) annual report to Governor Snyder and members of the State House and Senate. Council would also like to thank our State Fire Marshal, Julie Secontine, for her support of not only Council's goals and objectives, but for the Michigan fire service's goals and objectives as a whole.

During FY16, 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. FY16 also saw the allocation of \$1,000,000 distributed to each of Michigan's 83 counties for fire service specific training. It is important to continue to recognize the collaboration, cooperation, and support from the Governor's office, our elected officials, and the fire service organizations throughout the state of Michigan.

As we look forward to FY17, the members of the MFFTC 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,

Chief Timothy A. James  
Chairperson  
Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council

# **MFFTC ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **COUNCIL OVERVIEW**

### Council History

The MFFTC was established by Public Act 291 of 1966 (PA 291) and is located within the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). The BFS is under the direction of State Fire Marshal Julie Secontine, 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 (RTCs) 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 PA 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.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### Council Members

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

#### Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

Timothy A. James, Chairperson - Fire Chief, Benton Township Fire Department and Sunfield Fire Department

Chad Tackett - Fire Chief, Texas Township Fire Department

#### Michigan Professional Firefighters Union

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

#### Michigan Association of Fire Service Instructors

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

#### Michigan State Firemen’s Association

Terry Blackmer - Port Huron Fire Department Crew Leader, Alpena Combat Readiness Center

#### Michigan Municipal League / Michigan Township Association

Joel Hondrop - Byron Township Fire Department

#### Ex-Officio Member

Julie Secontine - State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire Services

# **MFFTC TRAINING PROGRAMS**

## Training Programs

The certification of firefighters is a requirement under 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 MFFTC is charged with overseeing 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 (FFTD) within the BFS. 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 15 contracted Training Coordinators located around the state.

Currently, 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:

<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Courses Completed</b>	<b>Student Count</b>
Firefighter	82	1,480
Vehicle/Apparatus	155	1,809
Hazardous Materials	99	1,765
Fire Officer	391	5,024
Instructor Development	58	760
Fire Service Non-Certificate	44	1,735

## 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	94
Reciprocity by Accreditation	33

## **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

### Curriculum Review Committee

In FY14, Chairperson Tim James announced the establishment of a Curriculum Committee in Traverse City during the Michigan Fire Service Instructor Association (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.

Five (5) 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 MFSIA to build a storage database of all instructor materials for curriculums currently offered.

In FY16, the Curriculum Review Committee continued to review new curriculum requests, including a new Instructor 2 curriculum, and assisted with a change in basic firefighter exams which now include a hazardous materials component. The committee's input to the MFFTC has proven to be a valuable asset.

# **MFFTC REGIONAL TRAINING**

## 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 RTCs for instruction and training of firefighters of this state and its cities, counties, townships, and villages.” Accordingly, Council continues to authorize 15 RTCs 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.

- Baker College of Jackson - Jackson, MI
- Delta College Fire Science Academy - University Center, MI
- Detroit Fire Training Academy - Detroit, MI
- Grand Rapids Fire RTC - Grand Rapids, MI
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College - Kalamazoo, MI
- Kirtland Community College - Roscommon, MI
- Lake Superior State University - Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- Lansing Community College - Lansing, MI
- Macomb Fire & Emergency Training Center - Clinton Township, MI
- Muskegon Community College - Muskegon, MI
- Northwest Regional Fire Training Center – Traverse City, MI
- Oakland Fire Training Institute/Oakland Community College - Auburn Hills, MI
- Schoolcraft College Fire Training Institute – Livonia, MI
- St. Clair County Community College - Port Huron, MI
- Wayne County Community College District - Taylor, MI