

MICHIGAN  
FIRE FIGHTERS  
TRAINING COUNCIL  
FISCAL YEAR 2018  
ANNUAL REPORT



**MFFTC**  
**CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE**

On behalf of the members of the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC), it is our pleasure to present this Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) annual report to Governor Whitmer and members of the State House and Senate. The Council would also like to thank our State Fire Marshal, Kevin Sehlmeyer, 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 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 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,

Chad Tackett  
Chairperson  
Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council

# **MFFTC** **ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **COUNCIL OVERVIEW**

### Council History

The MFFTC was established by 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 Kevin Sehlmeier.

### Council Responsibilities

The MFFTC 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 (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

PA 144 recently 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 MEMBERS**

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

# **MFFTC 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 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 State Fire Marshal and with the support of the MFFTC, support of these activities is provided through the Firefighter 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 25 contracted training coordinators located around the state.

During FY18, 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. FY18 saw the allocation of \$2,000,000 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:

<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Courses Completed</b>	<b>Student Count</b>
Firefighter	339	2,057
Vehicle/Apparatus	155	2,117
Arson Det./Fire Investigation	7	87
Fire Officer	33	496
Hazardous Materials	51	882
Health and Safety	134	2,043
Instructor Development	93	913
Manager/Supervisor Dev.	61	829

<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Courses Completed</b>	<b>Student Count</b>
Rescue	96	1,491
Suppression	195	2,760
Fire Service Non-Curriculum Q	241	5,706
Certified Associate Instructor		14
Certified Instructor I		155
Certified Instructor II		43
Fire Fighter I Reciprocity		0
Fire Fighter I Veterans		0
Fire Fighter II Reciprocity		2
Firefighter II Veterans		0
Fire Fighter I & II Reciprocity		9
Fire Fighter I & II Veterans		14

### 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	14
Reciprocity by Accreditation	11

### Training Grant Program

In FY18, the MFFTC implemented a training grant program to utilize training funds that were returned to the BFS (either unencumbered training funds and/or funds that were returned by the county to the Fireworks Safety Fee account). Fire departments submit both individual and regional training applications for the MFFTC's review and approval. Eight (8) regional applications and 17 department applications were awarded grant funding with the caveat that the training must be completed by the fiscal year end.

### Rescue Manikins

With the MFFTC's approval to further spend remaining FY18 training funds, the BFS purchased and distributed rescue manikins for training in all 83 counties in Michigan.

## **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 FFTD. In 2018, the Curriculum Review Committee met over the fall months to update exams and discuss recommendations regarding different learning texts and ideas for MFFTC review, including:

### **Firefighter I and II/Haz Mat Exam(s) Update for FY19**

The committee changed out 25% of the exam questions for Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazardous Material (both on the firefighter exam and the stand-alone test).

### **Status of 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 2019 (FY19). The committee worked to ensure different organizations were involved with choosing NFA Classes. Members were reminded that classes will need to be submitted by March 2019 for fiscal year 2020.

### **Firefighter I and II Curriculum– Starting in FY20**

The group discussed the positives and negatives in having one or two curriculums. The committee's recommendation to the MFFTC was to have two curriculums, both IFSTA and Jones and Bartlett.

### **Company Officer I and II:**

The committee discussed both positives and negatives between the Company Officer and separate Fire Officer I and II curriculums and checked NFPA 1021 for verification of questions. Other fire officer programs were reviewed as well. In the end, the committee recommended to have a stand-alone Fire Officer I and II program, which was taken up by the FFTD.

### **Future Plans:**

As the Firefighter Training Council General Rules are developed, and certification exams are required, the Curriculum Committee will focus on validating the exams. Additionally, as the committee meets, time will be taken to review curriculum offered by the FFTD and reviewing courses to ensure the most relevant courses are proposed to the MFFTC.



## **MFFTC REGIONAL TRAINING**

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 17 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.

- 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