



**ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**James C. Rovella, Commissioner
Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman
Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman
Richard H. Nicol, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Morrissette, State Fire Administrator**

*Established - 1975 Statutory authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes. Sec. 7-323
Central Office - Connecticut Fire Academy, 34 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, CT 06096
Average number of full-time employees – 12 (General Fund)*

***Organization structure - Office of State Fire Administration, Training Unit and
Certification Unit***

Division Mission

***To prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters through leadership and collaboration
with municipalities, fire departments and regional fire schools by delivery of quality
consulting services, technical assistance, training, education and professional competency
certification of career and volunteer fire service personnel.***

Statutory Authority

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 7-323(j) - 7-323(s) the Commission is charged with and has primary responsibility for training, public fire and life safety education and professional competency certification for members of Connecticut's fire service.

COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Appointed members of the Commission represent the statewide fire service organizations and serve to advise the Commissioner. The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) serves as the state's focal point for fire service training, public fire and life-safety education and professional competency testing and certification for members of Connecticut's fire service.

Office of State Fire Administration

The Office of State Fire Administration provides overall coordination, management and support of division activities and facilities including the administration of grants. The Office offers consulting services to communities regarding fire department administration, Juvenile Firesetter Intervention, and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. Oversight of the Statewide Fire Rescue Disaster Response Plan continues as a priority with staff serving as Fire Service Liaisons for Emergency Support Function 4 (ESF-4) in the State Emergency Operations Center during statewide emergencies and exercises. The Office actively supports the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard, providing ongoing training for honor guards, ensuring Connecticut honors its fallen firefighters and their family members consistent with the field's highest standards. Coordination and collaboration with the nine independent Regional Fire Schools continues. Further, the Office coordinates the state's Regional Foam Trailer program where eight local host fire departments respond to emergencies requiring firefighting foam. We continue to be actively engaged with DEEP in research, outreach and guidance regarding the impact of firefighting foam containing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Work continued to establish a framework for a foam Take Back program as well as field test Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Fluorine Free (F3) alternatives. The Office received federal funding totaling \$260,566.99 to procure Class A Burn Building thermal lining components and for the installation of a propane fueled live fire burn prop in the Connecticut Fire Academy's Training Tower. Once completed, this will greatly enhance our high rise training capabilities. Communications and information dissemination to fire service constituents continued primarily through expanded use of social media and the CFPC email Listserv with over 5,000 informational messages transmitted during the year. COVID-19 had a profound impact upon division operations forcing a pause to most activities in mid-March and partial resumption of services in mid-June. The impact to the delivery of training and certification services as compared to previous fiscal years is evidenced in the metrics below.

Training Division (Connecticut Fire Academy)

The Training Division delivers a wide range of training and education programs extending from the comprehensive 15-week resident Recruit Firefighter Training program to Fire Officer and technical specialty level courses many with collegiate transfer credits. Courses are available for delivery throughout the state and at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks.

During FY 20, the Training Division delivered 173 training programs reaching 3,673 students, providing 122,624 contact hours. In addition to the Training Division's FY numbers was 7,443 N-95 respirator fit tests were performed supporting mostly Health Care professionals as a result of the Pandemic. Over 70 classes, seminars and specialized training including Rescue Week, Introduction to the Fire Service camps and the Annual June Fire School were cancelled or rescheduled. In addition, the Division continued to offer Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) to municipalities to assist in identifying future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. This past year, 596 candidates registered with 328 passing for an overall passing rate of 55%. Charter Oak State College continues to approve 22 CFA training programs for collegiate transfer credit adding value to our students. Collaboration with the Military Department and Department of Public Health at the New England Disaster Training Center (Camp Hartell) located in Windsor Locks provides unique training opportunities for all emergency responders.

Certification Unit

The Certification Unit assesses fire service personnel in areas ranging from basic firefighting skills to technical rescue specialties, and from instructional methodology to executive officer leadership, including instructional methodology, curriculum development, public education and fire prevention. This knowledge and skills evaluation of specific competencies legitimizes the pre-requisite training requirements and instruction associated with fire service-related training courses and education. The certification process is an independent third-party evaluation of requisite firefighter skills developed from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in support of the statewide fire service educational framework developed from the same standards. The certification process ensures emergency services personnel are better qualified to conduct and manage significant incidents while routinely operating in highly hazardous exposure areas when serving the citizens of Connecticut.

The Certification Unit is accredited by two international entities, National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Accreditation of the certification process validates the professionalism and commitment of full and part-time staff and provides portability to our customers as they pursue a career in the fire service. The Certification Division Director attended the Pro Board and IFSAC annual meetings in FY 2020. In August, the Certification Unit was awarded its five-year reaccreditation from IFSAC following a three-day on site visit by members of their Committee on Site Teams.

The Certification Unit conducted 20 NFPA 1,403 compliant Live Fire Training audits, 64 psychomotor and 96 cognitive examinations, and 9 ADA compliant examinations; including foreign language examinations. A total of 2,216 candidates were assessed resulting in 1,706 Pro Board and IFSAC accredited certifications. The overall written examination success rate was 77%. In addition, the Unit developed and administered nine (9) promotional examinations and two (2) entry-level examinations for municipalities. The Unit continued computer based certification testing this fiscal year. State colleges provided access to their computer labs for testing. COVID-19 has negatively affected our partnership with these colleges due to restrictions with outside agencies being allowed to use their computer labs.