



**ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022**

**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 – 11 (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 on Fire Prevention and Control 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.

## **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 and operations. Oversight of the Statewide Fire Rescue Disaster Response Plan continued as a priority with staff serving as Fire Service Liaisons to the State Emergency Operations Center during statewide emergencies and exercises. The Office actively supports the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard, ensuring Connecticut honors its fallen firefighters and their family members consistent with the profession's highest standards. Communication, collaboration, and coordination continue with the nine independent Regional Fire Schools. Further, we coordinate the state's Regional Foam Trailer program with eight local fire departments, hosting these resources and responding to emergencies requiring firefighting foam. We are actively engaged with DEEP in research, outreach, and guidance regarding the environmental impact of AFFF firefighting foam containing PFAS. The AFFF Foam Take-Back Program for municipalities was completed, removing over 35,000 gallons of foam containing PFAS. Also, a pilot project was completed during the year to drain and decontaminate 3 of the state's 8 Regional Foam Trailers and fire apparatus of AFFF foam. Information learned from this pilot will be used to guide the state in the next phase on how best to remove foam product from over 400 municipal fire apparatus on-board foam systems. A new Statute was enacted banning the use of AFFF foam, effective October 1, 2021. Communications and information dissemination to fire service constituents continued primarily through expanded use of social media and the CFPC email Listserv.

During FY22, participated in the CT Fire 2025 Statewide Strategic Planning Initiative that culminated in a Summit in December 2021. Funded with a grant from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), published and distributed 5,700 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Pocket Guides to fire departments and other emergency response organizations statewide. We also administered the SERC's annual Hazardous Materials response exercise. This year's event was held in Putnam with 100 fire and emergency response personnel along with state and federal partners. We distributed approximately \$70,000 in funding to volunteer fire departments located in distressed communities for entry-level Firefighter I training. Received a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) totaling \$304,333 to procure a new Learning Management System expected to go live in December 2022 and a replacement tractor tow vehicle. Further, we serve as the point of contact with fire departments receiving state funding for projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$8.6 Million.

In the fall of 2021, four-full time staff members retired from state service. To date, one of the four vacancies has been refilled. Efforts continue to refill the remaining positions. While still impactful, COVID-19 had a reduced influence on division operations as compared to the previous two fiscal years and is evidenced in our service delivery metrics.

## **Training Unit (Connecticut Fire Academy)**

The Training Unit delivers a wide range of training and education programs, extending from the comprehensive 17-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 at local fire stations, Regional Fire Schools and at the Connecticut Fire Academy (CFA) campus in Windsor Locks.

During FY22, the Training Unit delivered 249 training programs reaching 4,331 students, providing 185,896 contact hours. In addition to training activity, the Unit continued administration of N-95 respirator fit testing services supporting the COVID response by health care professionals. A total of 3,687 respirator fit tests were administered at 176 separate scheduled sessions statewide. The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) continued to be offered to municipalities to assist in identifying future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. This past year, 1,671 candidates registered with 1,051 passing, for an overall passing rate of 62.8%. The Academy's Introduction to The Fire Service (ITTFS) and the Advanced Skills and Concepts (ASAC) programs were designed to provide high school students with an opportunity to learn more about the profession by attending a residential camp and performing training evolutions at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Over the last 25 years, the program has evolved from the two original five-day sessions each summer to three six-day residential sessions each summer. Many alumni have moved on to become full members of their fire departments, have attended college in Fire and EMS programs, and have earned employment as career Firefighters. During FY22, 78 cadets benefited from attendance at these residential camps.

The CFA was proud to host the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute Fire Dynamics Boot Camp, providing training and education in modern fire dynamics to state fire academy instructors from all six New England states.

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, 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 significant incidents while routinely operating in highly hazardous exposure areas when serving the citizens of Connecticut.

The Certification Units retains accreditation by two international entities, The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) 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 careers in the fire service. The Certification Registrar represented the agency at the annual IFSAC Accreditation Conference in Oklahoma City, OK in April 2022.

As with training, we saw certification activities begin to expand after being negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In FY2022, the Certification Unit conducted 33 NFPA 1403 compliant Live Fire Training audits, 2 Pump Operator Audits, 25 Vehicle Extrication Audit; 105 psychomotor skills examinations; 171 cognitive examinations, and 24 ADA compliant examinations; including foreign language examinations, assessing 3357 candidates, resulting in 2773 Pro Board and IFSAC accredited certifications. The overall written examination success rate was 82.25 percent. The Unit also developed and administered five (5) promotional examinations for municipalities. Lastly, reciprocity was awarded to Connecticut fire service personnel certified by other accredited entities for 86 levels of certification.