



**ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2011 - JUNE 2012**



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

**REUBEN F. BRADFORD, Commissioner
Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman
Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman
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 – 15 (General Fund)

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

The Commission proudly presents the following summary of activities for Fiscal Year 2012.

Agency Mission

To prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters, either natural or man-made, on the citizens of the State of Connecticut. This objective shall be accomplished through the development and delivery of state-of-the-art educational programs designed to meet nationally recognized standards, certification of individuals to such standards and maintenance of up-to-date resources for use by fire service personnel, public educators and other first responders.

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.

Public Service

The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) serves as the focal point for fire service training, public fire and life-safety education and professional competency testing and certification. The Commission's operating units are comprised of the Office of State Fire Administration, Connecticut Fire Academy and Certification Unit. Appointed members of the Commission represent the statewide fire service organizations and serve to advise the Commissioner under the leadership of Chairman Peter Carozza, Jr. The Division is overseen by State Fire Administrator Jeffrey J. Morrissette.

Having been consolidated into the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) on July 1, 2011, the division continues to leverage its limited resources in an effort to provide quality services. Economies and efficiency are gained through partnerships and synergy with other DESPP Divisions; Connecticut State Police, POST as well as the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. In addition, partnerships continued with the Military Department, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, and the Department of Corrections. Further, we frequently partner with the federal Department of Homeland Security, United States Fire Administration and National Fire Academy exchanging grants, curricula and data. Such collaborations yield significantly increased opportunities for Connecticut's fire service. A conscious effort is made to schedule programs and services within every geographic region of the state to ensure equal access to both the career and volunteer fire service.

Agency staff members actively participate on state and national committees, boards and organizations in an effort to maintain a positive, proactive impact upon agency services as well as serve in an advocacy role on behalf of Connecticut's fire service. By Connecticut General Statutes, the State Fire Administrator serves on both the State Emergency Response and Enhanced 911 Commissions in addition to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. Agency staff and Adjunct Instructors represent the Commission on the Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board and various other agency/professional committees and working groups.

Improvements/Achievements 2011-12

The following accomplishments suggest the wide variety of activities offered by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control:

- A total of 163 fire officers from throughout Connecticut attended two sessions of the *Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend* at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Students successfully participated in one of six courses resulting in 2,608 contact hours at the nation's premiere fire education institution. The two sessions were mandated due to construction of a geo-thermal HVAC system for the campus.
- Hosted the 9th annual Connecticut Firefighters Memorial Service. The names of Bruce M. Bachinsky (Waterbury Fire Department, 10/26/10) and Robert D. Watts (Windsor Fire Department, 4/18/11) were added to the Memorial Honor Roll as a result of line-of-duty deaths.
- Continued administration of the 800 FIRE LINE program, a national volunteer fire and emergency services recruitment tool. During the fiscal year, 21 calls were received with only 6 referred to local fire, EMS, and other emergency response related organizations.
- The Commission's Regional Foam Trailer program was activated for response to incidents including train derailments and chemical tanker accidents providing resources not available locally.
- Three *Introduction to the Fire Service* programs for youth 14 to 17 years were delivered to 93 students representing 50 different fire departments.
- Continued offering the Fire Officer Seminar Series and Instructor Development Seminar headlined by national speakers presenting on a variety of contemporary topics. Six, single day-long sessions were held with 493 students resulting in 3,944 contact hours.

- Academy dormitory rooms were made available and occupied by students attending Connecticut Fire Academy and New England Disaster Training Center programs. Occupancy again exceeded 4,000 room nights.
- Continued support to the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations including coordination of the Annual Fire Service Day at the Capitol.
- The agency's electronic mail list service continued to provide dissemination of important and timely information to more than 4,000 subscribers. Communications were reduced to a single daily message with multiple informational messages typically packaged. A total of 242 messages were transmitted during the fiscal year containing in excess of 1,000 items of public safety interest.
- Continued regular dissemination of press releases to the news media, most specifically, in areas of public fire and life safety education. Staff provided radio, television interviews and commentary on a whole host of fire service related topics.
- Actively participated on the Connecticut State Firefighters' Association Education Committee in support of the Regional Fire Training Schools.
- Continued support to the Statewide Honor Guard initiative. This group of volunteers provides direct support to local fire departments for both celebratory and grief assistance. In addition, they play a high profile and active role in the planning and execution of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD.
- Hosted four FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Workshops attended by 51 students, these numbers are lower as the AFG Program is beginning to transition to online webinars for delivery of this information.

Certification Unit

The Certification Unit of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control under the direction of Director William Trisler assesses fire service personnel in areas ranging from basic firefighting skills to technical rescue specialties and from instructional methodology to executive officer leadership. This knowledge and skills evaluation of specific competencies legitimizes the pre-requisite training requirements and instruction associated to certification-based, fire service-related training courses and education.

The certification process is acknowledged as a means of evaluation for departmental entry-level opportunities, promotions and professional development of firefighters across the state. With the requisite skills and knowledge developed from the National Fire Protection Association consensus standards in support of the statewide educational framework developed from the same standards, 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 CFPC Certification Division is accredited by two international entities, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Accreditation of the Certification Unit validates the professionalism and commitment of full and part-time staff and provides portability to our customers as they pursue their firefighting careers.

During FY12, the Certification Division experienced an additional reduction in staffing with the retirement of and elimination of the Certification Coordinator position. The division was maintained by the Certification Registrar, with assistance from two adjunct examiners, who maintained the daily operations. The Registrar’s professional expertise and selfless commitment resulted in the Units success is duly recognized. The Certification Unit offered 5,850 practical skills and cognitive testing opportunities statewide awarding 2,384 certifications with an overall passing rate of 80% for FY12 (Figure 1).

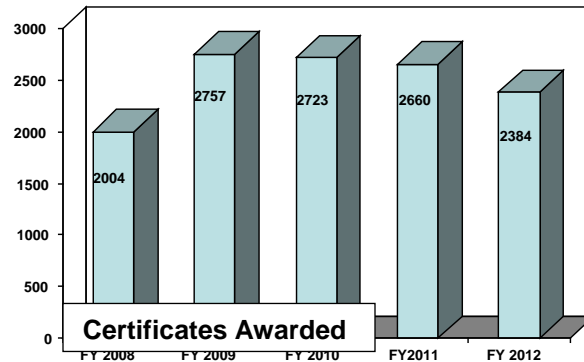


Figure 1 - Total Number of Certificates Awarded Over the Past Five Fiscal Years

Goals for 2013 include: (1) Reaccreditation by ProBoard; (2) Review and revision of current examinations; (3) Development of new examinations; (4) Explore fixed testing sites for written examinations; (5) Explore digitizing certification archive records.

Office of State Fire Administration

The Office of State Fire Administration provides overall coordination, management and support of division activities and facilities. With the creation of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, opportunities for inter-agency collaboration were sought. The Office provides consulting services to communities regarding fire department organization and administration, Juvenile Fire-setter Intervention, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention and coordination of the regional Foam Trailer Emergency Response program. In addition, oversight of the Statewide Fire Rescue Disaster Response Plan continues as a priority with staff serving as Fire Service Liaison’s in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). With two significant statewide emergencies; Tropical Storm Irene and the historic October snow storm a significant amount of staff time was dedicated to supporting operations at the SEOC. Support to the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard continues to ensure the honoring of Connecticut’s fallen firefighters. Coordination and collaboration with the independent Regional Fire Schools is ongoing. Nearly \$10 million in facility enhancements to both the New Haven and Hartford County Regional Fire Schools were completed by years end. Plans are underway for design work to initiate construction at five additional Regional Fire Schools. Information dissemination to fire service constituents continued through use of the CFPC Listserv with over 4,000 informational messages transmitted during the year.

Training Unit

The Training Unit under the leadership of Adam D. Piskura, Director of Training, delivers a diverse range of training and education programs ranging from the comprehensive Veteran's Administration approved, 14-week resident Recruit Firefighter Training program to Fire Officer and technical specialty level courses with collegiate transfer credits. Along with some changes within the Recruit Firefighter Training Program itself, the Program's Rules and Regulations have also been updated and conformed to new policies effective Recruit Class #50. Courses are available for delivery throughout the state or at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks.

During FY12, 479 training programs were delivered reaching 7,795 students resulting in 170,751 contact hours. Topical seminars and specialized training including Rescue Week 2011 and the Annual June Fire School provided training to over 1,259 students. In addition to course deliveries, the Connecticut Fire Academy offers services such as respirator face piece fit testing (29 fit testing sessions were conducted to 823 participants), College Fair and textbook sales. We have also expanded the Introduction to the Fire Service youth program, to include an Advanced Skills Concepts course. Continued popular was delivery of the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) to assist municipalities identify future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. A total of 1,960 candidates were registered with 1,519 testing. An overall passing rate of 87% was achieved. Charter Oak State College approved 13 CFA programs for collegiate transfer credit adding value to our students. We continue to support the growth of the New England Disaster Training Center and are currently in the process of obtaining passenger rail cars to complete the construction of the railroad rescue/hazmat prop. Several staff members participate on national committees active in the development of training for emergency responders to incidents involving Advanced Powered Vehicles, I-95 Corridor Coalition's 3D IM Training, and the published retesting of contemporary fire hose to develop a validated friction loss matrix that reflects actual experiences. Over 12 adjuncts have written and/or reviewed textbooks for accuracy that are then published. Finally, the CFA Bookstore had \$303,126.27 in sales with a total Cost of Goods Sold of \$198,662.32 resulting in revenues of \$104,463.95.

Commissioners

Members of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control are appointed by the Governor and represent statewide fire service organizations. The Commissioners serving during this fiscal year: Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman, West Hartford; Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman, Simsbury; Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary, Derby; Chief John J. Brady, Ret., Madison; Deputy Chief Clifton Cooper, Hartford; Chief David J. Dagon, Mansfield; Chief Frank C. Hilbert, Mystic; Megan Murphy, Fire Marshal, Trumbull; Chief Matthew Nelson, Ret., Newington; Chief Richard H. Nicol, Ret., Middlebury. Victor Mitchell, Director of Continuing Education & Workforce Services, Tunxis Community College and Robert Ross, CT State Fire Marshal, Department of Construction Services are ex-officio members.