



**ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2013 - JUNE 2014**



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

**DR. DORA B. SCHRIRO, Commissioner
Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman
Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman
Charles M. Stankye, Jr., 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 – 15 (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.

Public Service

A Division of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), 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 in support of Connecticut's fire service. The Commission's operating units are comprised of the Office of State Fire Administration, Training (Connecticut Fire Academy) and Certification Unit. Appointed members of the Commission represent the statewide fire service organizations and serve to advise Commissioner Dr. Dora B. Schriro under the leadership of Chairman Peter Carozza, Jr.

We continue to leverage limited resources in an effort to provide quality services. Economies and efficiency are gained through partnerships and synergy with other DESPP divisions. In addition, partnerships continue with numerous state and federal agencies including Department of Homeland Security, United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy. These collaborations yield expanded opportunities for Connecticut's fire service. A significant and 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.

Division staff members actively participate on state and national committees, boards and organizations in an effort to maintain a positive, proactive impact upon services as well as to advocate 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 Advisory Council. Agency staff and Adjunct Instructors represent the division on the Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board and the National Fire Protection Association Fire Protection Research Foundation's Advanced Electric Powered Vehicle training oversight panel as well as various other agency/professional committees and working groups.

Staff and adjunct instructional staff are recognized for their professional expertise and selfless commitment. Their dedication has been instrumental in our ability to meet the ever increasing demand for services.

Improvements/Achievements 2013-14

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

- A total of 172 fire officers from throughout Connecticut attended this year's *Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend* at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Students successfully participated in one of six courses resulting in 2,752 contact hours at the nation's premiere fire education institution.
- Hosted the 11th annual Connecticut Firefighters Memorial Service. The name of Lt. Russell F. Neary – Easton Volunteer Fire Department was added to the Memorial Honor Roll as a result of a line-of-duty death on October 29, 2012.
- Continued administration of the 800 FIRE LINE program, a national volunteer fire and emergency services recruitment tool. During the fiscal year, 22 calls were received with 5 referred to local fire, EMS, and other emergency response related organizations. Career guidance provided to the remaining callers.
- The Commission's Regional Foam Trailer program was activated for response to incidents including hazardous materials transportation accidents, rail tie fire and a large tire warehouse fire providing resources not available locally. Federal grant funding is being used to provide long overdue repairs to valves and transfer pumps along with replacement of attack hose lines and tires for the units. Additional replacement foam has been secured and strategically located for rapid refill.

- Three *Introduction to the Fire Service* summer camp programs for youth 14 to 17 years of age were delivered to 101 students resulting in 12,726 contact hours.
- The Third Annual Fire Service College Fair was held in October with approximately 450 attendees. For the first time, representatives from the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association participated and provided guidance to students interested in fire service careers. The goal of this program is to provide interested students options for post-secondary education and job training within the Fire Service and EMS fields.
- 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 372 students resulting in 2,976 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 5,238 room nights.
- Continued support to the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations including coordination of the Annual Fire Service Day at the Capitol held on April 15th.
- The agency's electronic mail list service continued to provide dissemination of important and timely information to more than 4,500 subscribers. A total of 246 messages were transmitted during the fiscal year containing well in excess of 1,000 news items of public safety interest.
- In the area of Public Fire and Life Safety Education continued regular dissemination of press releases to the news media. Staff provided radio, television interviews and commentary on a whole host of fire service related topics. Loaned the BullEx fire safety stove prop to 11 fire departments to aid in their local education efforts. Assisted with the coordination of *Operation Save a Life* with more than 5,000 smoke and CO detectors given away to fire departments state-wide. Participated in several high school career fairs and provided facility tours
- Continued support to the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard (CTHG) initiative. This group of volunteers provides direct support to local fire departments for both celebratory and grief assistance as a result of a line of duty death. The CTHG continues to play a leadership role in the planning and execution of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD. The Connecticut Fire Academy hosted the National Honor Guard Academy in July, 2014.

Office of State Fire Administration

The Office of State Fire Administration provides overall coordination, management and support of division activities and facilities. Completing our third full year of as a division within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, opportunities for inter-agency collaboration continued. The Office provides consulting services to communities regarding fire department organization and administration, Youth 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 continued as a priority with staff serving as Fire Liaisons supporting the State Emergency Operations Center

(SEOC). Plan activities included 2 Large Scale Exercises, 1 Multi-Tanker Strike Team Exercise and 1 Large Scale Multi-Task Force Exercise in Litchfield County. Eleven activations of the Statewide Fire Rescue Plan occurred along with 4 SEOC Activations. New wireless cards were provided to County Coordinators.

Coordination and collaboration with the Regional Fire Schools continues through participation on the Connecticut State Firefighters Association Education Committee. Initial design work and environmental remediation is currently underway for several school projects with significant progress foreseen on school construction during FY15.

For the first time, state fire service training entities became eligible for the Assistance to Firefighter Act grant program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Connecticut Fire Academy was awarded a much needed grant with the federal share totaling \$488,750 to replace an aged pumper fire apparatus. A second grant application was submitted in support of our Public Fire and Life Safety initiatives for which we are awaiting a disposition.

Facility enhancements included replacement of pumps and control units for the Academy's training grounds pump house. The Administration Building Roof replacement and exterior stairway repairs are delayed until Spring 2015.

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 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) Professional Qualification Standards 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 CFPC Certification Unit is accredited by two international entities, 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 firefighting careers.

Following a site visit and a thorough evaluation, Pro Board reaccredited the Certification Unit for 40 professional certification levels. Several technical committees of subject-matter-experts review, revise, and develop examination materials to address NFPA standard revisions. The Director attended the Pro Board and IFSAC Annual meetings as a voting member, and

continues to meet with NFPA regularly to assure the CFPC is aware of national trends and is an active participant in the professional development of the fire service at the national level. The Director is the CFPC representative to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) LEAN Committee. The Director is the CFPC Certifying Official for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). A compliance survey conducted by the Connecticut Office of Higher Education found the CFPC to be in compliance with all pertinent VA regulations.

The Certification Unit conducted 45 NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training audits, administered six (6) promotional examinations and 262 psychomotor and cognitive examinations assessing 6217 candidates in FY 2014 resulting in 2408 Pro Board and IFSAC accredited certifications (Figure 1). The written examination success rate was 77 percent. Notably, 591 entry-level Firefighter 1 certifications and 271 Rescue Technician level certifications were issued.

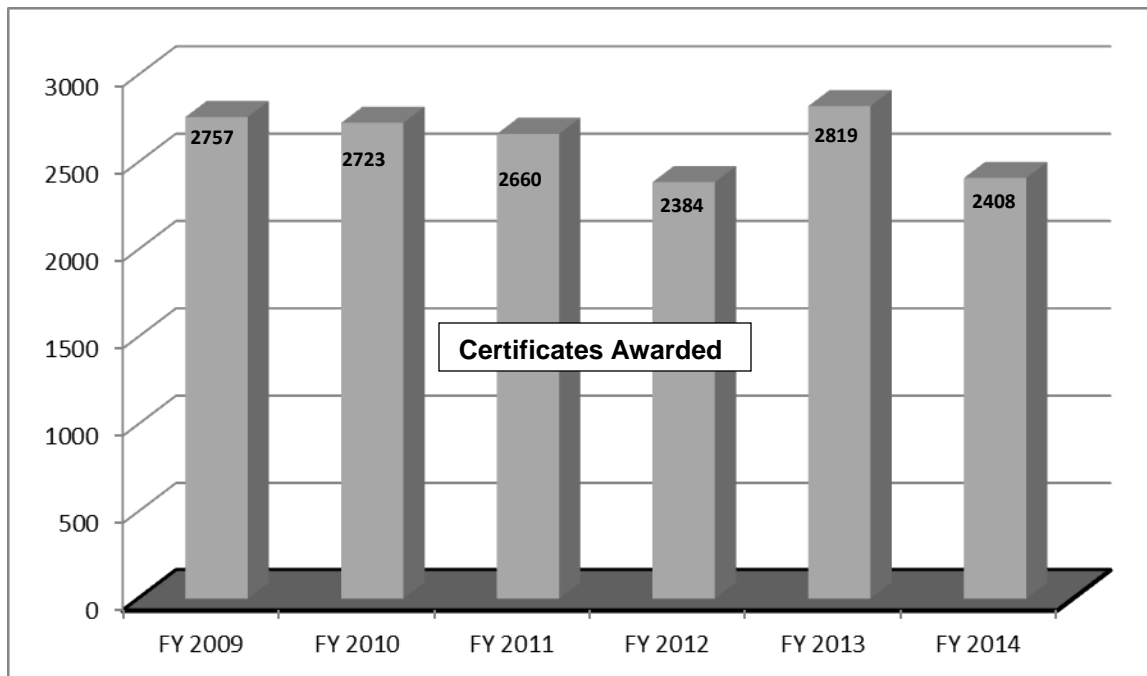


Figure 1 - Total Number of Certificates Awarded Over the Past Six Fiscal Years

Training Unit

The Training Unit delivers a diverse range of training and education programs ranging from the comprehensive 14-week resident Recruit Firefighter Training program to Fire Officer and technical specialty level courses many with collegiate transfer credits.

During FY14, 392 training programs were delivered reaching 7,512 students resulting in 189,110 student contact hours. Topical seminars and specialized training including the Annual June Fire School and Rescue Weeks provided training to over 1,000 students. In addition to course deliveries, the Connecticut Fire Academy offers services such as respirator face piece fit

testing and completed 27 fit testing sessions for 840 participants. 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 1,402 candidates were registered with 1008 testing achieving an overall passing rate of 78.3%. Thirteen training programs continue to be approved by Charter Oak State College for collegiate transfer credit adding value to our students. Our Public Fire and Life Safety Educator directly supported the Public Safety Academy in Enfield as well as high school career days throughout the state. Finally, the CFA Bookstore had gross sales of \$378,232.14 with 16,608 items sold.

Commissioners

Members of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control are appointed by the Governor and represent statewide fire service organizations. 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 Walter J. Cox, Colchester; Chief Richard H. Nicol, Ret., Middlebury; Jeffrey K. Bridges, Wethersfield and Richard Fontana, New Haven. Victor Mitchell, Director of Continuing Education & Workforce Services, Tunxis Community College and William Abbott, State Fire Marshal, Department of Construction Services served as ex-officio voting members.