



**ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018**



**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  
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 – 10 (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**

One of six Divisions 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. 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 as well as 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 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 National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee's as well as various other agency/professional committees and working groups.

Staff and adjunct instructional staff are commended and recognized for their professional expertise and selfless commitment to those they serve. Their dedication has been instrumental in our ability to meet the needs of the fire and emergency services community.

### **Improvements/Achievements 2017-18**

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

- A total of 145 fire officers from throughout Connecticut attended this year's *Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend* at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Six courses were offered resulting in 2,320 contact hours at the nation's premiere fire education institution.
- Hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Firefighters Memorial Service. Fortunately, no new names were added to the Memorial Honor Roll as a result of a line-of-duty death.
- Continued administration of the 800 FIRE LINE program, a national volunteer fire and emergency services recruitment tool. During the fiscal year, eight calls were received with five referred to local fire, EMS, and other emergency response related organizations. Career guidance was provided to the remaining callers. Since its inception, 446 callers have been referred to local fire departments.
- The Commission's Regional Foam Trailer program continued to be available for emergency response to spills and fires involving flammable and combustible liquids. We recognize and extend thanks to our partners from the Hartford, Willington, Norwich, New Haven, Waterbury, Fairfield, Danbury and Winsted Fire Department's for hosting and responding with these assets.
- Completed three deliveries of the highly popular and successful *Introduction to the Fire Service* summer camp programs for youth 14 to 17 years of age reaching 92 students.

- Academy dormitory rooms were occupied 7,521 Room Nights by students attending Connecticut Fire Academy and New England Disaster Training Center programs.
- Continued support to the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations including the Annual Fire Service Day at the Capitol held on April 11, 2018.
- The agency's electronic mail Listserv continued to provide a medium for the dissemination of important and timely information to more than 4,632 subscribers, an increase of 452 from FY2017. A total of 251 messages were transmitted during the fiscal year containing thousands of news items of public safety interest. Our use of Social Media sites including Facebook and Twitter continued to expand. We added 234 new Twitter followers and Tweeted 218 messages during the year promoting division activities and news of interest to the general public.
- In the area of Public Fire and Life Safety Education, continued dissemination of press releases to the news media. Staff provided radio, television interviews and commentary on a wide range of fire service related topics. Again this year we assisted with the coordination and promotion of *Operation Save a Life* with more than 5,000 smoke and CO detectors donated to fire departments state-wide. Participated in several high school career fairs and provided facility tours and education. Further, we rebooted delivery of an annual Public Fire and Life Safety Conference with 76 attendees.
- Continued support to the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard (CTHG). 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. Each year, the CTHG continues in a leadership role in the planning and execution of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundations (NFFF) Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD. Once again, the Connecticut Fire Academy served as a host field training location for the National Honor Guard Academy.
- Temporarily paused use of the Saba Learning Management System which included on-line registration for CPAT to allow for an upgrade to the electronic commerce module.

### **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 provides consulting services to communities regarding fire department administration, Juvenile Firesetter Intervention and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention. 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 during statewide exercises and emergencies.

As a result of budget reductions, a tuition and fee schedule increase became effective in January, 2018. Coordination and collaboration with the independent Regional Fire Schools continues. In November 2017, the State Bond Commission allocated \$17.5 million for construction of a new Eastern Connecticut Fire School in Willimantic. Completion of the Litchfield County Regional Fire School is expected in the second quarter of FY2019. Allocation of additional funds by the state Bond Commission is necessary for any of the remaining projects to move forward.

Staff members closely monitor and address emerging trends in the fire and emergency services arena. Information dissemination from the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) continues to Connecticut Fire Chiefs regarding homeland security related issues. We are completing the final stages of equipment acquisition as part of our FFY2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant was awarded in April, 2017 totaling \$451,558. Two replacement Respirator Fit Testing Machines and a replacement Incident Command Simulator were procured and placed into service. Awaiting delivery and installation of the grant funded 7000 PSI Breathing Air Compressor, Storage and Fill Stations System which will be capable to supply new generation, higher pressure breathing apparatus.

A number of facility enhancements were completed during the year including upgrade of two of the original Class B Burn Building computer controlled propane fueled fireplaces in addition to adding one new fire scenario. In addition, replaced liquid propane pumps, piping and emergency shut-off switches supplying our training prop distribution system. In an effort to improve customer support and interaction the Certification Division office space was relocated. Worn carpet in various classrooms and office space was replaced as part of our long range plan in addition to replacement of storm drain covers and curbing throughout. A one-year extension to the Academy's food service contract was approved.

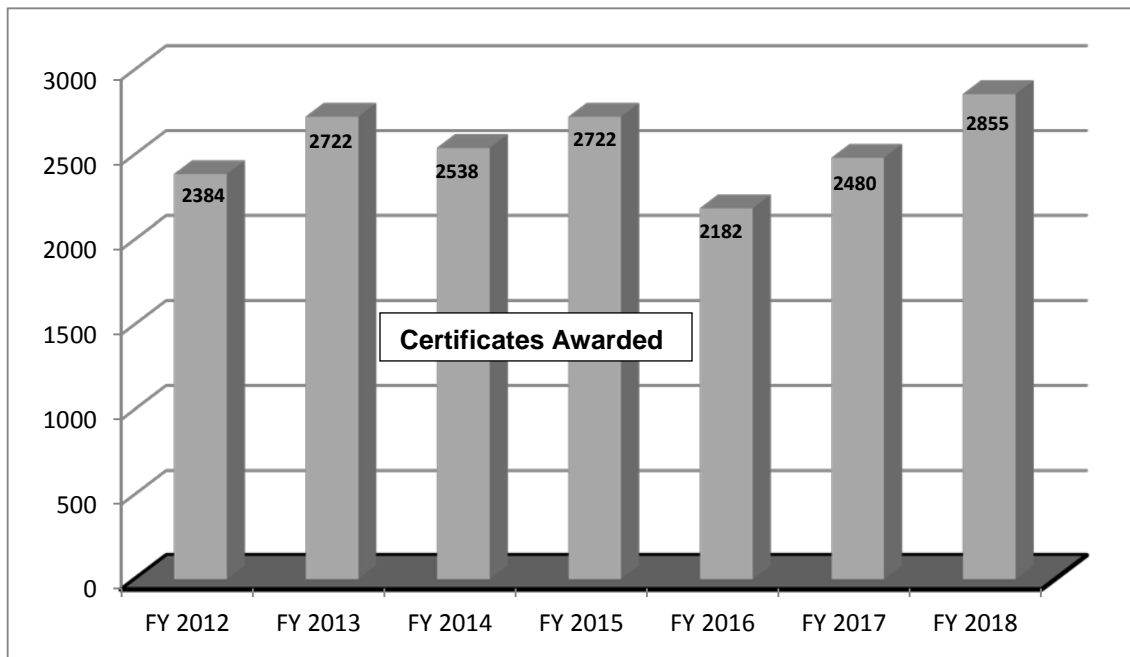
Finally, the CFA Bookstore realized \$364,124 in external sales with a total of 7,963 items sold. Revenue derived from sales at the Connecticut Fire Academy Bookstore is reinvested into maintaining and expanding available publications, internal printing and support of Connecticut Fire Academy's programs.

### **Certification Unit**

The Certification Unit of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control under the direction of Director Jason Decremer 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 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 careers in the fire service. The Certification Division Director attended The Pro Board and IFSAC Annual meetings in FY2018.

The Certification Unit conducted 29 NFPA 1403 compliant Live Fire Training audits, 86 psychomotor examinations and 128 cognitive examinations, and 15 ADA compliant examinations; including for the first time foreign language examinations, assessing 3803 candidates in FY2018 resulting in 2855 Pro Board and IFSAC accredited certifications (Figure 1). The overall written examination success rate was 75 percent. In addition, the Unit developed and administered five promotional examinations and three entry level examinations for municipalities.



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

Initiative for 2019 include establish pilot program for online written examination testing for FF1 and Hazardous Materials with electronic delivery of completed certifications. Continue preparation for a ProBoard reaccreditation site visit scheduled for December 2018 and IFSAC reaccreditation scheduled for August 2019.

### **Training Unit**

The Training Division under the direction of Director William Higgins 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 with collegiate transfer credits. Courses are available for delivery throughout the state and at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks.

During FY2018 360 training programs were delivered reaching 5,324 students, providing a total of 156,947 contact hours. Special seminars and specialized training including Rescue Week and the Annual June Fire School provided training to over 949 students. Also, continued delivery of the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) to assist municipalities in identifying future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. A total of 782 candidates were registered with 598 testing. An overall passing rate of 75.25 percent was achieved.

As a result of retirements and resignations, seven vacant per-diem Fire Service Instructor positions were filled.

The division hosted the annual conference of the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) in Mystic, CT September 25-27 bringing State and Provincial Training Directors together for planning and exchange of ideas and resources.

To add value to our students, 14 Connecticut Fire Academy training programs continue to be eligible for college credit through Charter Oak State College. Collaboration with the Military Department and Department of Public Health at the New England Disaster Training Center at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks provides unique training opportunities for all emergency response personnel.

### **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; Chief Richard H. Nicol, Secretary, Ret., Middlebury; Chief Charles M. Stankye, III, Ret., Derby; Chief John J. Brady, Ret., Madison; Deputy Chief Harry Tulier, Hartford; Chief David J. Dagon, Ret., Mansfield; Chief Frank C. Hilbert, Mystic; Megan Murphy, Fire Marshal, Trumbull; Chief Peter Buonome, Ret., Avon; Jeffrey K. Bridges, Wethersfield and Richard Fontana, New Haven. Victor Mitchell, Director of Continuing Education and Workforce Services, Tunxis Community College and William Abbott, State Fire Marshal, Department of Administrative Service, Office of State Fire Marshal, served as ex-officio voting members.