

Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence

Randy Redmond
Chairperson

Paul Adams
Chief Operating Officer

Program Update
5/12/10

AFCA Training Section –

Staff met with the AFCA training section on Friday April 30 to review the status of state training and provide an overview of the proposed modifications to the Adjunct Instructor application and approval process. There was general support from the group for the information that was presented. Staff is available to meet with other state and/or regional groups to present the same information if requested.

Adjunct Instructor Applications –

The backlog of Adjunct Instructor applications has been cleared by the Instructor Review Committee and approval letters have been sent out as appropriate. The application form has been revised to reflect the new process and will be finalized and posted to the website by May 15.

Certificate / Logo –

Designs for an AFSI logo and proposed state certificates were submitted via email to the AFSI board for review and comment. Some modifications were made based on comments received and certificates are now ready to be issued (approved by consensus of the AFSI membership on May 12).

Funding

Funding loans have been approved by all the AFSI member entities (excluding the Metros). Not all the checks have been received yet but sufficient funds have been received to continue to move forward and AzCFSE should begin generating new program revenue within the next week.

Staff / Office –

The new office is up and running and Jeff Johnston and Melina Joya began work on Monday May 3. The new office equipment is now in place and most of the IT issues have been resolved. Instructor and program files have been transferred from the Fire Marshal's Office. Transfer of the AV and other training equipment will follow shortly. Contact information for the office is as follows:

Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence
PO Box 132
Avondale, AZ 85323-0050
623-333-6500
www.azcfse.org

Melina Joya
623-333-6501
melina.joya@azcfse.org

Jeff Johnston
623-333-6502
jeff.johnston@azcfse.org

Scheduling Process –

Everything is just about in place to begin scheduling new programs. The program request forms will be posted to the website by May 17 along with submission instructions. Some minor modifications will be made to the testing evaluator process which will also be indicated on the website.

Arizona State Fire Training Committee
PO Box 132
Avondale, AZ 85323-0050

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Test Software / Test Banks –

The licenses for the test generation and scoring software as well as all the test banks have been transferred to AzCFSE and the test generation software has been loaded. Some test banks will need to be updated to comply with the new NFPA standards for the various programs.

ERMA –

We currently have access to the ERMA system and there are no outstanding fees required to be paid to maintain our access. An IGA will be required between ADOA and some government entity (city) to allow our continued use since ADOA cannot enter into an agreement directly with a private entity for the service (prohibition on competing with the private sector). We are working with the City of Avondale to see what might be possible. We are anticipating a cost of about \$1000 per month to enter student records but the cost will be based on the number of records entered.

FEMA State Training Grant –

An application has been submitted for FY 2011 state training grant funds (\$28,000) and it appears the application is moving forward. None of the FY2010 grant funds that were awarded to the state were expended so we are trying to get FEMA to reinstate those funds through the end of the fiscal year (September) to allow us to schedule at least some NFA classes. Chances of that happening are slim but we are still making the effort.

IFSAC –

A teleconference was held with Clayton Moorman, the IFSAC program manager, Jeff Johnston and myself on May 7 regarding Arizona's status and how to proceed from here. As a result of that conversation a plan is being put in place to accredit AzCFSE through IFSAC. That plan includes the following steps:

1. Submit an IFSAC voting membership application on behalf of AzCFSE. AzCFSE would then become the IFSAC voting member for Arizona. The membership application would be acted upon by the IFSAC Board at their September meeting. Approval of the membership application requires a letter of resignation from the State Fire Marshal's Office (which we have) to be submitted with the application. Approval of the membership application is required before we can schedule a site visit.
2. Schedule an accreditation site visit prior to February 2011. A site visit is required to approve accreditation status and the site visit must be approved by the IFSAC Board, whose next meeting following September will be in April. We will probably try to schedule a site visit sometime in January and initial preparations are already underway for that visit.
3. Prepare as many levels as possible to be included in the site visit review. Initial discussions indicate that we will try to present FF I & II, Instructor I (possibly II), Inspector I (possibly II), ISO, and possibly Driver/Operator. Other levels can be added through an administrative review process following the site visit but having levels approved during the site visit is the preferred process.
4. Phoenix just completed a site visit for HazTech and that level will continue to be held by Phoenix.
5. The testing process for any level to be reviewed will need to be updated to meet the current NFPA standard (2008 version of 1001 for example). This will be accomplished by a team of interested persons from each specialty/interest area working with staff to review the test banks and complete the required IFSAC correlation sheets. This process is the most time consuming part but needs to be accomplished for state certification as well.
6. With respect to programs conducted between January 2010 and the point AzCFSE is accredited they will be grandfathered in the following manner:
 - a. The 300 that had completed testing and had not received their certificates may pay their \$100 to AzCFSE and they will be issued a state certificate. Once the AzCFSE is accredited those individuals will be issued a new certificate with the IFSAC seal at no additional cost.
 - b. Beginning May 3 all new programs that are scheduled and tested will be charged \$100 for the testing and a state certificate. If they wish to pay an additional \$25 for an IFSAC seal they will be issued a new certificate with the IFSAC seal once AzCFSE has completed the accreditation process. The \$25 is to offset the annual IFSAC costs and the reaccreditation site visit which occurs every 5 years.