

2025 Report and Recommendations Regarding Fire and Emergency Service Training Needs

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Commission (OSFMC)

Julie Lynn, Chair

Firefighter Training Advisory Committee (FTAC)

Sean Douglas, Chair

This report is prepared to meet the requirements of OK Admin Code 265:55-1-2 (5). The Firefighter Training Advisory Committee shall:

“Assist the State Fire Marshal Commission in advising the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate and the Oklahoma State Fire Service on fire and emergency training needs for the state. The State Fire Marshal Commission shall submit an annual report or recommendations regarding fire and emergency service training needs to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate not later than December 31 each year.”

The Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Commission’s Fire Training Advisory Committee (FTAC) was re-established by the Commission in 2025. The first priority of the Committee was to review the training levels for fire fighters and officer for the Oklahoma fire service to fulfill the requirements of OK Admin Code 265:55-1-2 (4).

“Advise and assist the State Fire Marshal Commission in ensuring that the state has consistent basic and continuing education programs that include steps for all ranks or positions of career and volunteer firefighters by setting minimum standards for career, recommended levels for volunteer, identifying training programs and courses required for fire service members to achieve those levels.”

The Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Commission selected the following persons to serve on FTAC:

Andy James- Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; Oklahoma Forestry Services

Brady Bond- OSFM Commissioner, Garber Fire Department

Caroline Reed- Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training

Duane Helmlberger- Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma, Midwest City Fire Department

Heath Want- Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma, Lawton Fire Department (replaced Helmberger)

Julie Lynn- OSFM Commission Chair, Tulsa Fire Department

James Heap- Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association, Frederick Fire Department

Kyle Ramer- Oklahoma State Firefighters Association, Jacktown Fire Protection District

Sean Douglas- OSFM Commission Vice-Chair, Claremore Fire Department

Based on the detailed discussions from the recent committee meetings, the following training needs and priorities have been identified:

Training Needs

1. Standardized Firefighter Progression Pathways
 - a. Clear, tiered structure from entry-level support/starter firefighter to advanced/officer levels.
 - b. Modular curriculum that allows flexibility for both volunteer and career firefighters.
 - c. Development of a “roadmap” with documented course requirements, links, and milestones.
2. Core Courses and Content
 - a. Wildland Firefighter: Emphasis on S130, S190, or equivalent courses, with inclusion of extrication fundamentals and vehicle tech.
 - b. Structural Firefighter (Firefighter 1): Covering basic interior attack, EMS components, and safety.
 - c. Engine Operations and Pumping: Courses on water supply, tanker operations, and apparatus operation.
 - d. Incident Command and Leadership: Courses like NFA’s Leadership and Supervision series, including exercises in leadership, difficult conversations, and creating professional growth environments.
 - e. Safety and Extrication: Focused on stabilization and basic extrication techniques suitable for limited equipment.
3. Specialized and Advanced Training
 - a. Fire Officer III & IV: Leadership, strategic planning, fire investigation, and fire marshal topics.
 - b. Wildland Leadership: Engine Boss, Staging, and Incident Commander (ICT 5) courses.
 - c. Support and Volunteer Officer Development: Short courses tailored for volunteers, including orientation to certification processes, training scheduling, and leadership fundamentals.
 - d. Fire and Life Safety Educator: Development of curriculum and certification pathways, possibly in partnership with FMAO.
4. Electives and Supplemental Courses
 - a. Short courses on vehicle technology, staging, safety, and other specialty areas.
 - b. Emphasis on online self-paced modules and short-format classes to improve accessibility for volunteers.

Priorities

1. Develop and Finalize a Clear, Accessible Roadmap
 - a. Make the pathway visible and understandable for all fire service members.
 - b. Incorporate current curriculum titles, links, and equivalencies.
 - c. Ensure the roadmap aligns with national standards and local needs.
2. Streamline and Standardize Course Requirements
 - a. Focus on essential courses with “or equivalent” wording to account for curriculum updates.
 - b. Minimize electives to those that are truly impactful and achievable.
 - c. Clarify prerequisites and bridge programs to prevent redundant training.
3. Align with Funding and Certification Standards
 - a. Ensure training aligns with grant eligibility (e.g., SAFER, FIRE Act).
 - b. Clarify the role of certifications versus department-based training.
 - c. Develop pathways for volunteers to meet standards without undue burden.
4. Enhance Course Accessibility and Delivery
 - a. Promote online, hybrid, and short-format courses.
 - b. Develop in-state instructor capacity for key courses like S130/190.
 - c. Coordinate training schedules with available federal/state resources.
5. Engage Stakeholders and Build Buy-In
 - a. Consult with stakeholders and other partners.
 - b. Promote awareness of the training roadmap through presentations and outreach.
 - c. Incorporate feedback from volunteer and career departments to ensure practicality.
6. Continue Curriculum Development
 - a. Complete and validate new courses (e.g., fire investigator, fire and life safety educator).
 - b. Develop short courses for volunteer officers and support personnel.
 - c. Establish instructor training programs for in-state delivery of key classes.

This prioritized list aims to create a comprehensive, flexible, and accessible training system that supports both volunteer and career firefighters while aligning with national standards and local needs.

Way Forward

FTAC will continue to update the firefighter and officer levels. FTAC is approximately 75% through the update process and is in the process of identifying available training programs to address areas identified by FTAC.

FTAC will provide the updated firefighter and officers levels to the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Commission for review and approval.

FTAC recommends that training funding be prioritized to assist the Oklahoma fire service in obtaining the training to meet the minimum standards for career departments and the recommended levels of training for volunteer departments set by the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Commission.