

Memorandum

To: CLARE FRANK
Assistant Deputy Director
Cooperative Fire, Safety and Training

Date: February 27, 2013

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From: KAY PRICE, Deputy Chief
CAL FIRE Academy

Subject: HEAVY FIRE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Following the tragic death of Heavy Fire Equipment Operator (HFEO) Matthew Will in 2007, a dedicated group of HFEO's, training officers and others worked diligently to establish an apprenticeship program for the HFEO classification. The HFEO apprentice program was approved by the Joint Apprenticeship Committee Board of Directors November 7, 2011 and by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards on January 4, 2012.

The California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee Rules and Regulations describe the minimum requirements for the HFEO apprentice classification. The term of apprenticeship is 36 months. An apprentice HFEO may attain journeyman recognition as a Heavy Fire Equipment Operator upon documentation of successful completion of

1. A minimum of 300 hour academy
2. 36 months of apprenticeship
3. A minimum of 144 related and supplemental instruction during each 12 months of apprenticeship.

On January 23, 2013 CAL FIRE SubJAC, comprised of management and labor, approved the attached three year HFEO syllabi. While the number of hours is longer than the minimum, this fourth and final version removes duplicate training from the Company Officer Academy (COA).

Successful completion of both Heavy Fire Equipment Operator and Basic Fire Control is already a requirement for permanent status in the HFEO classification. In 2012 a HFEO Academy pilot combined HFEO and COA modules. CAL FIRE HFEO's who successfully completed the pilot class should be allowed to participate in the CALFIRE HFEO apprentice program, if it is approved.

Approval of the HFEO three year syllabi is critical for HFEO training and safety and to establish the CAL FIRE HFEO Joint Apprenticeship Committee Program. It is presented here for CAL FIRE Executive approval.

Attachments

cc: SubJAC Members
Ree McLaughlan, Statewide JAC Coordinator