

Kentucky Fire Commission



**Annual Report
FY2017**



Fire Commission Staff

Ronnie Day	<i>Executive Director</i>
Marc Rudder	<i>SFRT Director</i>
Bruce Roberts	<i>Division Director Fire Commission</i>
Brenda Goddard	<i>Finance Director</i>
Gilbert "Tiger" Robinson	<i>Fleet/Equipment Director</i>
Michael "Howdy" Kurtsinger	<i>Legislative Director</i>
Jeremy Rodgers	<i>Fire Commission Training Auditor</i>
Chuck Bonta	<i>Fire Commission Training Auditor</i>
Eric Bach	<i>Fire Commission Training Auditor</i>
Casey Hall	<i>Curriculum Coordinator</i>
Mary Adams	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
Paul Adams	<i>Lead Admin Sys Prog Analysis</i>
Becky Blair	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
Lisa Bradley	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
Tina Briggs	<i>Fire Commission Assistant</i>
Peggy Bryant	<i>Financial Analyst</i>
Therese Cheney	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
Ericka Cole	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
Delores Montgomery	<i>Business Affairs Asst II</i>



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From the Director's Desk

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. Time does not stop and neither does the Fire Commission. We are constantly evolving to meet the needs of today's fire service and striving to make our communities safer.

Our commitment to excellence continues to be showcased in the programs we offer Kentucky firefighters and with our State Fire Rescue Training (SFRT) division. It is with great pleasure that I present to you this annual report, highlighting the Fire Commission's achievements and accomplishments for the past fiscal year.

The Fire Commission's legislative team continues to lobby in Frankfort on behalf of our firefighters. Through their efforts, beginning in FY2017, firefighters who pass away from certain types of cancer related to the fire service will be treated as a line of duty death, and their families eligible for death benefits from the State. This campaign has been a decade in the making and we are grateful it has now become law.

Our mobile fleet of state-of-the-art training props and simulators has expanded and we continue to explore new methods of situational exposure during training sessions. It's truly amazing how much of the fireground can be authentically recreated to provide a safe learning environment.

I continue to be amazed at the reception of the SFRT program. The dedication of our firefighters to be pro-active in furthering their education drives SFRT to continue to improve upon our current curriculum and seek new pathways of training to expand our course offerings. Our instructors can be found presenting material on the local, state, and national levels and we are proud of their representation.

It takes a great team to build a great organization. The pride and deep responsibility that our Fire Commission board members and staff bring to the fire service across Kentucky is what continues to make our organization excel. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the hard work of these men and women, many who take time out of their personal life to pass their knowledge and education forward. We also have several partnerships on the local, state, and national levels that continue to assist us in our ventures.

In addition, I must thank the Kentucky Community and Technical College System for their continued support of our organization and for standing with us as we continue our commitment to serve firefighters in the Commonwealth.

As always, we would like to thank you for your dedicated support of Kentucky's fire service as we grow and expand our organization.



Ronnie Day
Executive Director



State of State Fire Rescue Training

Welcome to the Kentucky Fire Commission's State Fire Rescue Training Program! There have been many exciting accomplishments during the past fiscal year, and we are proud to share them with you.

Last year was a busy one. For the third year in a row, we have seen annual student totals hover around the 110,000 mark. Holidays aside, you can find SFRT instructors delivering classes nearly every day of the year. This is a testament to our students, many whom are volunteers that give up their weekends to seek learning avenues through SFRT.

Our students' desire to acquire new skills has been met in the form of an increased class count. Through the efforts of our 14 area offices as well as the National Responder Preparedness Center, 325 more classes were put on by SFRT in FY2017 than in FY2016. I wish to thank the dedication of all of our staff for remaining committed to excellence in fire service training. Numbers like these cannot be achieved without their hard work.

FY2017 saw the acquisition of several state of the art training props and simulators. By being able to create a realistic fireground in a completely controlled environment, our firefighters are becoming better prepared to mitigate any situation they encounter.

The fiscal year ended with another successful State Fire School in the books. Our numbers continue to grow as do our class offerings. Several unique, niche classes, were offered for the first time this year. Seats were full and feedback was positive. We continue to explore adding new courses to meet the needs of the modern fire service.

Looking ahead to the next year, there are several projects in the works, including construction of new area offices, expansion of our mobile fleet, and the creation of new full time positions within SFRT. New curriculum will be added and outdated curriculum updated. As always, we will continue to carry out our mission and vision of preparing first responders for all types of hazards in the Commonwealth.

I look forward to serving you in FY2018 and beyond.



Marc Rudder
SFRT Director



Mission Statement

The Kentucky Fire Commission is committed to enhancing safety and education within the fire service for the citizens and industries within the Commonwealth through standardized special and technical education, training, communication, coordination and the distribution of funds to the agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

2017 Kentucky Fire Commission Board of Directors Representation

Chairman	Greg Dearing
Vice Chairman	Joe Baer
Secretary	Rich Meyer

Paid Firefighters

Joe Baer
Rick Daugherty

Business & Industry

Greg Dearing
Pam Dickens

KCTCS Chancellor

Dr. Rhonda Tracy

Volunteer Firefighters

Scott Lawson

Trustee-Fire Protection

William Lilly

Practicing Physician

Dr. William Melahn

Paid Fire Chiefs

Kevin Tyler

Volunteer Fire Chiefs

Dave Goldsmith

KY Division of EM

Michael Dossett

County Judge Executive

James Nickell

Mayors

Teresa Rochetti-Cantrell

State Fire Marshal

Mike Haney

General Public

Rich Meyer



Firefighter Numbers FY2017

51 Paid Depts
751 Volunteer Depts
(above numbers include
92 Combination Depts)

1169
150-hour
Certificates
Issued

734
400-hour
Certificates
Issued

1525
IFSAC Seals
Issued

3000+
IFSAC
Written Tests

1134
IFSAC
Skills Tests



Legislative Happenings

Fire Commission delegates traveled to Washington, DC and met with Kentucky's representatives to lobby their support for federal funding of fire industry grants:

- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants
- Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

These grants work to provide funding to increase the number of firefighters in a community, as well as provide funds for purchasing tangible items and training.

Funding for these grants was continued to the same level of support as past years.

The 2017 Legislative session was extremely busy. Fire Commission legislation representatives continue to work hard to protect Kentucky's fire service as we know it today.

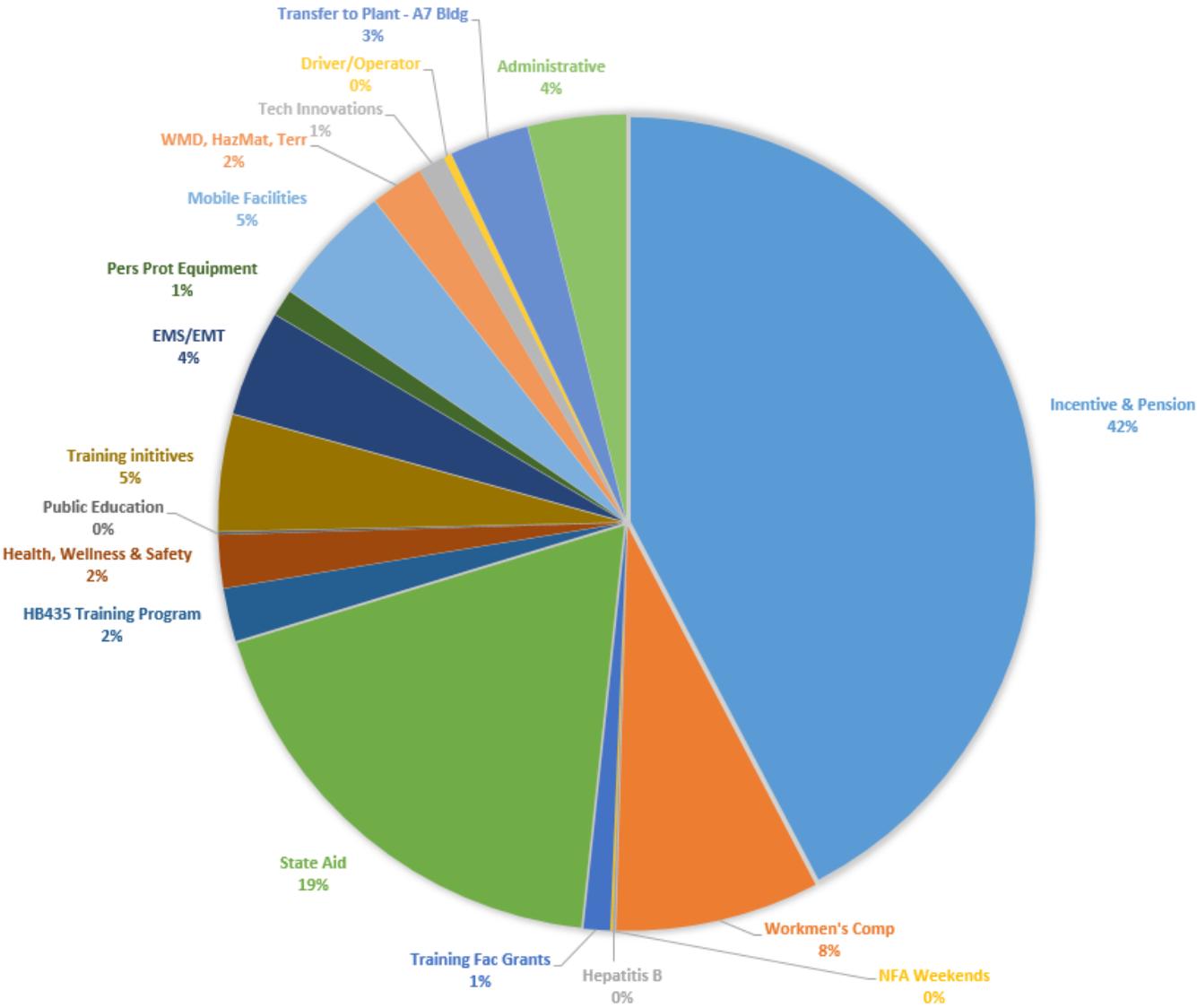
Highlights of this past session include:

- SB31 & HB60—Makes permanent the Annual Training Incentive Pay and State Aid increases. This bill was amended to add Fish and Wildlife employees to the legislation. DIED.
- HB14 – Gives a judge the right to declare an attack or killing of a firefighter, police officer or a member of EMS is a hate crime, if the member is in uniform and performing their duty as an officer. PASSED.
- SB104— Stops the calculation on retirement annuities at 10% of credible compensation, but allows firefighters to receive pay above the 10% in take home pay. Financial burden on the taxpayer is removed, provides relief for employers, and removes an employee's fear they could be penalized for legitimate increases in their compensation. PASSED.
- HB228— Makes barns for use as a public assembly building and exempt from the requirement to have sprinklers. Despite the opposition of fire industry personnel, this bill still PASSED.

Several other bills were introduced but did not pass. We will continue our efforts in Frankfort to support Kentucky's fire service.



Budgetary Breakdown



Program Participation FY2017

Major Event Participation

State Fire School

Kentucky State Fair

Governor's Safety & Health Conference

Junior Firefighter Camp

Bryant Stiles Officers' School

National Fire Academy Training Weekend



Building Partnerships



Courtesy Kentucky Department of Agriculture



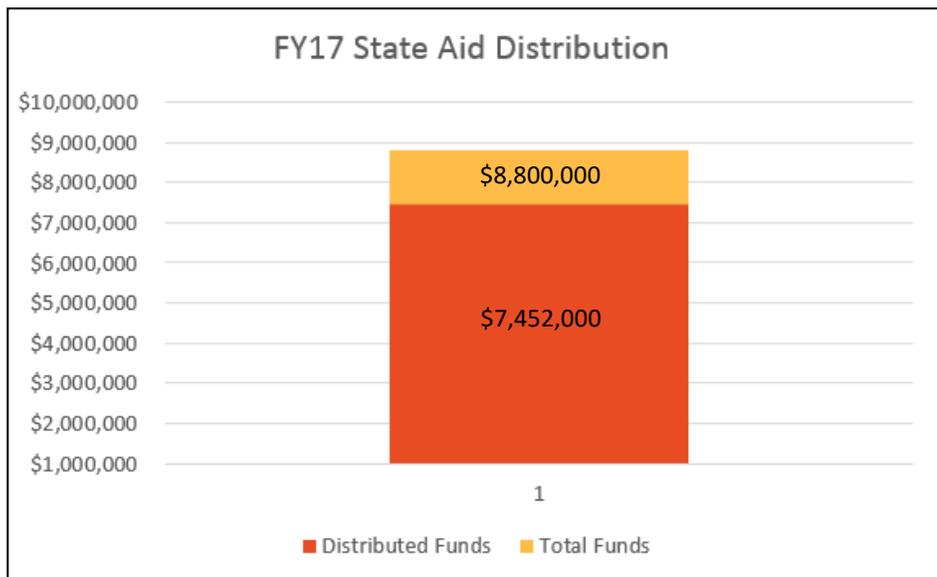
The Kentucky Fire Commission and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to promote farm safety in Kentucky. Components of this MOU include:

- The KDA will work to assist in recruitment of firefighters across the Commonwealth.
- The KCTCS/Fire Commission will serve as a resource for training in agricultural emergency responsiveness.
- The KCTCS/Fire Commission and KDA will assist fire departments in obtaining other resources such as personnel, funding, and equipment.
- The KCTCS/Fire Commission and KDA will be able to share equipment.
- The KCTCS/Fire Commission and KDA will work together to schedule farm rescue equipment usage.
- Representatives of the KCTCS/Fire Commission and KDA will appear together at state and local fairs, shows, and other available opportunities to promote farm safety and agricultural emergency response.



Program News FY2017

State Aid



**711 Volunteer
Departments
Received
State Aid Funds!**

Junior Firefighter Program

In November, the Fire Commission hosted the 1st Annual Kentucky Junior Firefighter Camp at JM Feltner 4-H Camp in London. Fifty one campers spent three days building hands-on skills, networking, and getting to know fellow juniors from across the Commonwealth.

In March, the junior program was put on temporary hiatus due to policy and procedure review, and was reinstated one month later.

The Fire Commission currently recognizes 247 junior programs.



Health & Wellness

In August, the Fire Commission again hosted the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge in Louisville. The Challenge seeks to encourage firefighter fitness and demonstrates the profession's rigors to the public.

145 individuals from 26 states participated in a timed series of tests including:

- Climbing a 5 story tower
- Hoisting
- Chopping
- Dragging hoses
- Rescuing a life-sized "victim"



It was announced this past Spring that the Combat Challenge would partner with the Kentucky Fire Commission to host the XXVI World Challenge in October 2017.



A children's course is set up at the Combat Challenge events to help promote physical fitness in America's youth

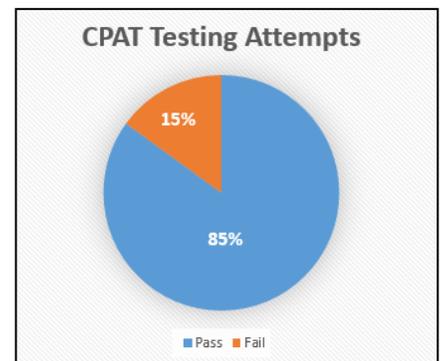
CPAT Testing

- 15 sessions
- 8 testing locations
- 1046 candidates attended orientation



- 687 attempted tests
- 585 passed tests

Coordinator: Rick Larkins



Program News FY2017

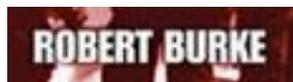
Curriculum Updates

Internal

- Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing

External

- 8 NFA/FEMA Courses
- 5 IFSTA Texts
- 4 Jones & Bartlett Texts
- 3 Robert Burke Programs

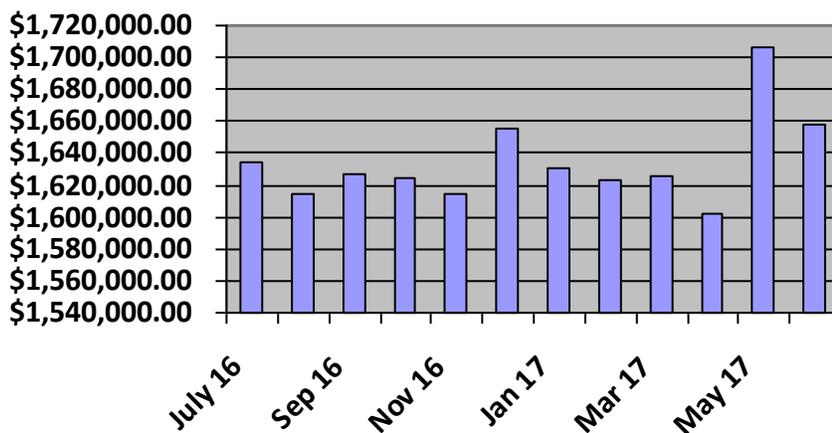


Incentive & Pension Fund

\$19,617,785.95
Distributed To Full-Time Firefighters During FY2017

Training & Incentive Pay Was Raised to \$4000

Incentive Funds Paid



Line of Duty Deaths

Kentucky line-of-duty death benefits were expanded beginning in FY2017 to allow families of fallen firefighters who battled certain cancers to be eligible to receive lump-sum death benefits. After more than a decade of campaigning, the Governor signed this bill into law.

The lives of Billy Ray Jarvis and Zachary Clevenger were honored on the Kentucky Fallen Firefighter Memorial Wall in October during the annual remembrance service.



Program News FY2017

Fire Department Audits

Beginning in FY2017, the Fire Commission took over auditing of financial records for those departments with annual revenue of less than \$100,000.

We continue to audit records of all departments for training hours compliance to ensure proper disbursement of both Incentive Pay and State Aid funds.

Our team of three auditors completed approximately 225 departmental audits in FY2017.

Audits are conducted by SFRT region.

Hepatitis B

The Fire Commission's voluntary Hepatitis B vaccination program assisted in providing funds for 199 firefighters to receive immunizations. This number has been steadily increasing over the past several years.



Low Interest Loans

11 low interest loans distributed in FY2017

\$565,005.37 distributed

Thermal Imaging Camera Grants

101 departments awarded grant monies for reimbursement of thermal imaging camera purchase



State Fire Rescue Training

Mission Statement

The mission of Fire Rescue Training is to plan, direct, and administer a quality, comprehensive and uniformly delivered training program through the most efficient use of available resources to assist in meeting the training needs of fire, rescue and other emergency services personnel so that lives and property may be saved more safely and effectively. In addition, to provide health and safety training programs for industries, institution, government agencies and other such entities to assist in meeting their training needs mandated by federal, state and local laws.

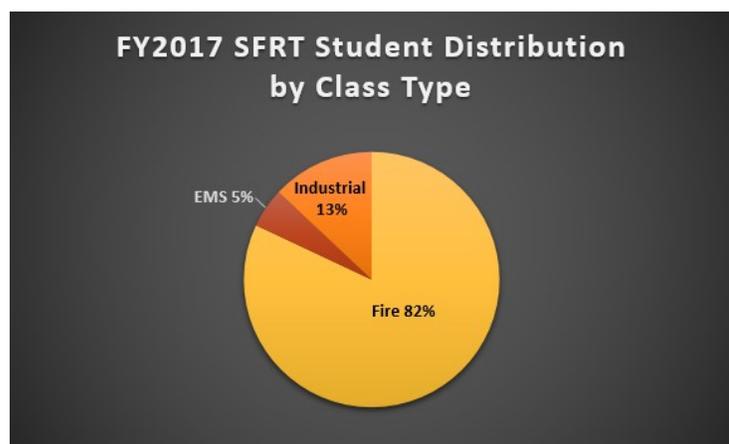
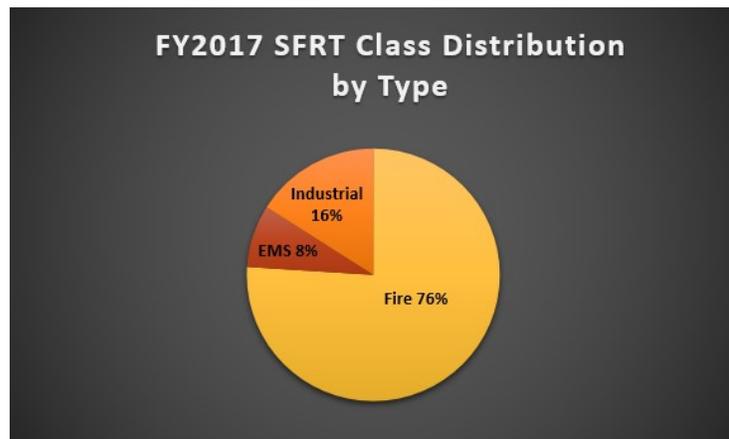
Vision

The vision of Fire Rescue Training is to be recognized as a national leader in providing comprehensive educational programs for current and future emergency responders at the local, regional, state and national levels.



SFRT By the Numbers FY2017

- 109,983 students served
- 8,486 classes delivered
- 32,277 classroom hours
- 654 of 805 departments trained



SFRT Area Offices



Area 1—Paducah

Charlie Lott, Coordinator
 Kelly Harris, Field Office Coordinator

Area 2—Princeton

Mark Boaz, Coordinator
 Kelly Bolin, Field Office Coordinator

Area 3—Calhoun

Jimmy VanCleve, Coordinator
 Mandy Ward, Field Office Coordinator

Area 4—Bowling Green

John Weatherbee, Coordinator
 Tamara Steele, Field Office Coordinator

Area 5—Elizabethtown

Rusty Todd, Coordinator
 Ashley McWaters, Field Office Coordinator

Area 6—Louisville

Mike Wallingford, Coordinator
 Susan Singleton, Field Office Coordinator

Area 7—Burlington

Bill Birkle, Coordinator
 Teresa Adamisin, Field Office Coordinator

Area 9—Morehead

Duane Suttles, Coordinator
 Tammy Duncan, Field Office Coordinator

Area 10—Ashland

Mark Hammond, Coordinator
 Pam McAllister, Field Office Coordinator

Area 11—Paintsville

Greg Gray, Coordinator
 Cheryl Fannin, Field Office Coordinator

Area 12—Hazard

Greg Reams, Coordinator
 Vacant, Field Office Coordinator

Area 13—London

Chantz McPeek, Coordinator
 Margaret Melton, Field Office Coordinator

Area 14—Jamestown

Josh Whitis, Coordinator
 Rob Garland, Field Office Coordinator

Area 15—Lexington

Brian Steele, Coordinator
 Casey Smith, Field Office Coordinator

Industrial Coordinators

Rick Larkins, Area 6
 Gary Hall, Area 13

SFRT Degree Program

The AAS Fire/Rescue Science Technology Program prepares for the challenges facing today's emergency responders. The program offers courses in:

- Fire Suppression
- Fire Prevention
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Medical Care
- Leadership

Students may enter the program with or without experience in emergency services. The degree, certificate, and diploma programs that are offered can help in obtaining employment in various emergency service fields, or if you are already a firefighter, help assist in promotional opportunities. The program may be continued as a 2+2 program with Western Kentucky University's Systems Management Program.

Academic certificates are also available for Emergency Medical Technician, Basic Firefighter, Advanced Firefighter, and Fire Officer. A Fire Chief diploma is offered as well.

Approximately 350 Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees were awarded to students completing in 2016-2017.

Further degree program information can be found on the Fire Commission's web page under the State Fire Rescue Training header.

KCTCS Fire/Rescue Science Technology Courses Offered At:

- Ashland CTC
- Bluegrass CTC
- Elizabethtown CTC
- Gateway CTC
- Jefferson CTC
- Madisonville CTC
- Maysville CTC
- Owensboro CTC
- Southcentral KY CTC
- Somerset CTC
- West KY CTC



SFRT's degree program has been accredited by IFSAC since 2004



National Responder Preparedness Center



The National Responder Preparedness Center continues to provide quality training for the Commonwealth, America's Armed Forces, and students from across the nation.

Training is delivered using various technologies and methodologies to meet the needs of the fire service, emergency medical services, the U.S. military and all other response agencies.

Coordinator: Marc Henderson

Field Office Coordinator: John Vessels



National Responder Preparedness Center



Notable trainings and events for FY2017 included:

- 29 fire classes
- 10 classes for SFRT Area 3 paramedic program students
- Exhibition booth presence for marketing purposes at regional fire schools, State Fire School and the Kentucky State Fair
- Executed a three day class for firefighters at Arnold Air Force Base in Tennessee
- Formed a task force to look at the Visions and Goals of the facility
- Hosted several train-the-trainer courses for new SFRT props and updated curriculum
- Hosted a Task Force 1 meeting for special response teams
- Hosted a FEMA/state logistics meeting



Fleet/Facility/Props



Major Equipment Purchases

- Flashover Trailer
- Pump Panel Simulators
- Max Fire Box Fire Behavior Trainer
- Ceiling Pull/Overhaul Prop
- Rosenbauer Fire Engine
- Turnout gear washing machines



Accredited Certification

Certificates Available:

- Hazmat Awareness
- Hazmat Operations
- Hazmat Core
- Firefighter I
- Firefighter II
- Fire Instructor I
- Fire Instructor II
- Fire Officer I
- Airport Fire Fighter
- Driver Operator
- Driver Operator Pumper
- Driver Operator Aerial
- Driver Operator
Mobile Water Supply

Kentucky recognizes the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) as its certification board. In addition to its certificate program, IFSAC also provides governing for the Fire Commission/State Fire Rescue Training's Fire-Rescue Science Technology degree program.

IFSAC accreditation is based on a peer-review process. During FY2017, Fire Commission employees participated in 7 site visits to review each entity's IFSAC program. Contingents also traveled to two IFSAC conferences during FY2017. Kentucky's program is up for review and reaccreditation in 2018.

Written tests are administered monthly in each area office as well as by appointment at the SFRT Area 9 office. Eight skills testing sessions were offered across the state during FY2017.

Coordinator: Larrel Alley

Testing Coordinator: Christy Rodgers





**KENTUCKY FIRE
COMMISSION**
STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING

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