

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

2014 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT | OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



AN OUTREACH UNIT OF THE
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

HISTORY & PURPOSE

OKLAHOMA FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, Oklahoma State Firemens Association (OSFA) held an annual state convention where its leadership determined a need for training. In the following years, training classes were held in conjunction with the convention to best equip fire persons throughout the state. The training became so popular it was not manageable by OSFA. At that point they approached Oklahoma A&M College — now Oklahoma State University — and asked they begin training Oklahoma's firefighters. Oklahoma A&M accepted the request and Fire Service Training (FST) was born in 1931.

Initially, FST was part of the Vocational Education department at the university. The program required leadership and W. Fred Heisler, a vocational instructor from Ponca City, OK, was hired to manage the program. Mr. Heisler had a knack for training and soon had developed a model program that other states began to emulate.

In 1933, FST was moved to the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology as an extension program of the college. The leaders of the Oklahoma Fire Service and the college understood that firefighting was a technical profession closely linked with engineering.

FST is one of the most prolific outreach programs at OSU, delivering nearly 2,000 direct training courses and reaching more than 37,000 students annually.

What began more than 80 years ago as a program to teach basic firefighting skills now provides training in ten professional skill areas, including:

- Firefighting
- Emergency medical services
- Officer/instructor
- Technical rescue
- Driver/operator
- Incident Command System
- Hazardous materials
- Industrial
- Emergency management
- Wildland firefighting
- National Incident Management System

FST works closely with the Oklahoma office of Emergency Management, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, the Oklahoma Department of Health and the National Fire Academy to deliver training to other emergency responders including, EMTs, police officers and emergency managers.

As the first university-based state fire service training program, OSU's FST established the model for training agencies in other states. Its tradition intertwines with the history of Oklahoma's fire service, providing influence with the fire service, the legislature and other stakeholders.

AS PRESIDENT OF THE OKLAHOMA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO WORK WITH OSU-FST THIS YEAR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. MOST IMPORTANTLY THE DEVELOPMENT AND ROLLOUT OF THE OKLAHOMA EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM. THE OFCA BOARD WILL CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH OSU-FST TO OFFER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA FIRE SERVICE THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THEY WANT AND DESERVE.

-MIKE KARLIN, INTERIM FIRE CHIEF
WEATHERFORD FIRE DEPT.



FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Council on Firefighter Training
Department of Forestry
Department of Public Safety
Emergency Management Institute
Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma
Fire Service Instructors of Oklahoma
Green Country Fire Chiefs Association
Metro Chiefs
National Fire Academy
Oklahoma Career Technology Centers

Oklahoma Department of Health
Oklahoma Emergency Management
Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association
Oklahoma Highway Patrol
Oklahoma Homeland Security
Oklahoma Insurance Department
Oklahoma State Fire Marshal
Oklahoma State Firefighters Association
Rural Fire Coordinators

“SINCE 1931, THE OKLAHOMA STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION HAS TEAMED UP WITH OSU FIRE SERVICE TRAINING TO PROVIDE OUR FIREFIGHTERS THE TRAINING AND SKILLS IT TAKES TO SAFELY GET THE JOB DONE ON THE FIRE SCENE. WITHOUT THE OSU FIRE SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM, WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE PROGRESSIVE TRAINING NECESSARY TO KEEP PACE WITH THE EVER CHANGING WORLD OF THE FIRE SERVICE. THANK YOU OSUFST!”

**-SCOTT VANHORN
OSFA PRESIDENT**

