



FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

2020 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



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

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

In the Early Years of the 20th Century, Oklahoma State Fireman's 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 personnel throughout the state. The training became so popular it was not manageable by OSFA. At that point, they approached Oklahoma A&M and accepted the request resulting in the inception of Fire Service Training (FST) in 1931.

Initially, FST was part of the Vocational Educational department at Oklahoma State University. The program required leadership and W. Fred Heisler, a vocational instructor from Ponce City, OK was hired to manage the program. Mr. Heisler 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 over 3,000 direct training courses and reaching more than 30,000 people annually.

What began more than 90 years ago as a program to teach basic firefighting skills now provides training in ten professional skill areas including:

Firefighting

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Officer/Instructor

Wildland Firefighting

Technical/Rescue

NIMS National Incident Management

Hazardous Materials

Industrial

Arson Investigation and Inspection

Emergency Management

As the first university based state fire 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, the legislature and other stakeholders.

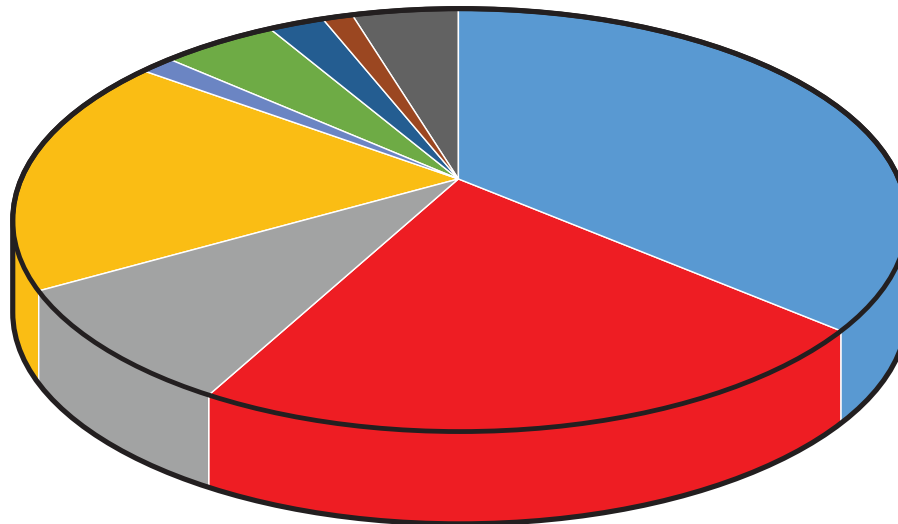


2020 FACTS

2,966
Courses

29,155
Emergency Responders Trained

FY 2020 PROGRAM DELIVERIES



EMS

TESTING

NIMS ICS

FIREFIGHTER

INSTRUCTOR OFFICER

INDUSTRIAL

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

RESCUE

SUPPORT COURSES

62,931
Trailer Delivery Miles

259
Trailer Deliveries

123,895
Miles Driven

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with much excitement and pride that we bring you this annual report from Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training for the year ending June 30, 2020. This year has been full of challenges and triumphs for us all. Before the pandemic hit, we were on our way to a record-breaking year in course delivery; these deliveries slowed down until we were able to safely deliver training to emergency responders. With our new COVID-19 policy, we were still able to deliver 2,966 courses, reaching 29,155 emergency responders. We are still delivering courses. Although our numbers are significantly down from the previous year, we are acting responsibly and moving forward.

Our department took advantage of the down time by researching new funding opportunities. We were successful in finding over one million dollars in grant awards for training and equipment. These awards include a new fire truck, fire pump, training programs in hazardous communication for grain facilities and first responders, COVID-19 supplies for local fire departments, an AFG prevention grant that will support a new national wellness program for emergency responders, and a National Fire Academy grant for local firefighter training.

Other new items include online and blended learning programs; Firefighter I and II, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Hazardous Materials Operations and Technician refresher programs. These allow us to support our firefighters with much needed training, even if they cannot train outside of the station. We also developed training videos and a YouTube channel for local departments to enhance in-house training during the pandemic. We partnered with IFSTA to create an audio version of the Essentials manual for our Chief Pete App; this audio book is free for all Oklahoma Firefighters. We are working hard every day to find new ways to train emergency responders. Currently we are updating our website and Chief Pete App for iOS and Android devices; if you have a chance download the app it is free and available through Google Play and Apple's App Store.

Staffing has changed as well. We've had several retirements, welcomed new program managers and coordinators, as well as a new director. We are working together well and are excited for the future. Together OSU FST is reinventing our department and creating quality advanced training that will support all emergency responders to keep Oklahoma citizens and first responders safe.

Caroline Reed - *Director*

RESCUE PROGRAMS

2020 has been a great, albeit stressful year in the Rescue Program. This program is tasked with dealing with some of the most diverse and challenging scenarios that firefighters can encounter on any given day in Oklahoma. We were happy to work closely with Homeland Security, OK-TF1, and the Regional Response team to host the first operational readiness exercise. This 3-day event challenged teams from across the state in many of the disciplines. This event showcased swiftwater rescue, structural collapse, rope rescue, ICS, and radio functions, and many more. This event proved to be a great learning tool for all teams that attended. There were more than 175 participants from over 15 organizations in attendance. Homeland Security and OSU offer classes to the entire regional response system statewide in trench rescue, confined space rescue, structural collapse, and swiftwater. Without continued support, these communities may not see the needed training to insure a safe Oklahoma.

Another great partnership is OSU FST and OSFA. Training dollars are tight among volunteer agencies and it can be a burden to leave communities to attend training. With this partnership, and a grant from AFG, we have been allowed to teach 16 vehicle extrications statewide. We are teaching courses from Guyton to Hugo to Altus to Tahlequah. This will allow us to teach around 250 firefighters the skills to extricate victims from wrecks on 1000's of miles of Oklahoma roads. These partnerships are what make Oklahoma great.

Lastly, I would like to promote our up and coming swiftwater program. It is no surprise to anyone that year after year Oklahoma is hit with damaging and life threatening floods. At OSU FST, we have listened to firefighters and have encouraged them to enroll in our swiftwater program. We hosted six swiftwater classes. We teach them in Broken Bow, Copan and at Riversports in OKC. We currently have swiftwater ops, swiftwater tech and boat operations. We trained over 100 students in this dangerous field from all over Oklahoma, Houston Fire Department, Missouri, and Utah. We truly believe that we are the best in the business when it comes to swiftwater.

We at OSU are building a brand that you can be positive will bring the best, most qualified instructors, props, and training available, and remember "We Bring the Training to YOU".

Dean McFadden - *Assistant Director*





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INSTRUCTOR/OFFICER PROGRAM

2020 has been far from a normal year in fire service education, but the Fire Officer/Fire Instructor cadre have been as busy as possible in the midst of this global pandemic. We have had the opportunity to teach Fire Officer and Fire Instructor courses in 23 cities and multiple departments. The success rate of students still meets expectations and the feedback from the students has been positive. The data indicates that the curriculum we are providing is meeting the standard.

Our course of action for 2021 will be to revise the instructor and officer curricula due to the standard change. We hope that in the coming months an SME committee will be able to meet and complete this revision process for both curricula. We have taken into consideration the potential of adding to both programs, and we are hoping that by 2022 we will be able to offer Fire Instructor III, Fire Officer III, and Fire Officer IV courses.

This instructor group has also been busy delivering leadership training across the state. The Leadership for Small Departments track is comprised of leadership courses that are offered in eight-hour blocks. The leadership topics include department administration, training, recruitment and retention, and tactics. We are also looking forward to adding budgeting and financial planning to the list of topics available as well.

Rodney Foster - *Assistant Director*

EMS & AHA TRAINING CENTER

OSU FST's EMS program houses one of the largest American Heart Association Training Centers in the Central United States. Currently we support 174 AHA training sites that are reporting through our Center here at Oklahoma State University. We have supported over 700 CPR classes this year alone. We also provide direct deliveries of Emergency and Medical Services EMS courses which include First Responder, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Basic Life Support (BLS) courses. We are a primary provider of Continuing Education courses that support both basic and advanced level credentialed first responders. During the pandemic that occurred this year, we have worked closely with health departments to assist with COVID-19 policies and procedures that have allowed us to continue to train in a safe manner.

Mike Duncan - *EMS Coordinator*

FIRE PROGRAMS

Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training (OSU FST) has partnered with Oklahoma State Firefighters Association to deliver Fire Training Classes for the Assistance to Firefighter (AFG) SAFER Grant. The focus of the grant is recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Last year through this grant we were able to deliver 10 fully funded blended learning Firefighter I programs throughout the state. We have trained over 200 new firefighters to serve in volunteer departments throughout the state. This partnership also has allowed us to provide basic training courses to volunteers through our Regional Training Specialists. This upcoming year, OSU FST will be delivering Firefighter II programs throughout the state. By increasing the level of trained volunteer Firefighters, we are improving safety on scenes and lowering the ISO ratings for citizens in Oklahoma communities, which will lower insurance costs for Oklahomans.

OSU FST is still committed to providing regional schools throughout the year. Our schools are held in all four quadrants of the state using I-35 and I-40 as barriers. We meet with our stakeholder groups in each area to get input on the classes that are needed for each area of the state. We will continue to deliver to these schools in the upcoming year.

Fire Programs is working closely with our State Fire Marshal to develop and deliver Inspector I and II certification courses. With the success of these new programs, OSU FST will continue to partner with the State Fire Marshal to develop a full training track of courses for local fire inspectors and investigators. This track of programs will support both large and small communities paid and volunteer departments. By providing this advance training, we will help keep Oklahoma Safe.

Paddy Metcalf – *Fire Program Coordinator*

HAZMAT PROGRAM

This has been a challenging yet exciting year for the hazmat training programs. The year started with us updating all of the curricula we offer and they are near completion. The successful partnership we have with Homeland Security and Oklahoma Emergency Management has allowed us to deliver an abundance of hazmat classes throughout the state. We are proud to announce that the Hazmat Program is working on two new live fire classes with OERB and OKPERI-OPAL that we will begin delivering this year.

The last quarter of our fiscal year brought us numerous challenges with COVID-19, which resulted in the Hazmat Program to shut down from March until the beginning of June. This challenge gave Fire Service Training an opportunity to look at how we can still provide training during these trying times. This led us to develop some blended learning solutions as well as virtual training options for the delivery of our hazmat programs. The first of the virtual training classes is near completion and will be available soon. It has been an honor to serve the first responders of our state this year during these trying times and we look forward to facing these continued challenges to bring you quality training.

John Carpenter - *Hazmat Program Manager*



OSU-FST Certification is IFSAC and ProBoard Accredited to 12 NFPA Certification levels currently:

NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter I

NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter II

NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Awareness

NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Operations

NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Technician

NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I

NFPA 1021 Fire Officer II

NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I

NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor II

NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector I

NFPA 1002 Driver Operator Pumper

NFPA 1002 Driver Operator Aerial

During the FY2020, Certification conducted 207 Certification Testing events and 388 Certification written retests. Within those events, FST issued 1,800 Certification seals to successful candidates.

Jason Louthan - *Professional Services Manager*





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OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY FIRE SERVICE TRAINING PARTNERS

Oklahoma State Firefighters Association

Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association

Oklahoma Department of Homeland Security

Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management

Oklahoma Department of Career and
Technology Education

OSU Fire Protection Publications

International Fire Service Training
Association

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal

Rural Fire Coordinators

Fire Service Instructors of Oklahoma

Fire Marshal's Association of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Department of Forestry

Metro Chiefs

Green Country Chiefs

Oklahoma Insurance Department

Oklahoma Department of Health

Oklahoma Department of Public Safety

Oklahoma Fire Departments

Oklahoma Fire Fighters

National Fire Academy

Emergency Management Institute

Industrial Partners



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