Youth Development Academy Fire Program

1011.1 INDIVIDUALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

Youth committed to the Youth Development Academy (YDA) will have an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) that addresses the highest assessed needs to formulate a fluid case plan that utilizes their personal strengths to maximize treatment and reduce the risk of re-offending. The IRP will be developed by a YDA Re-Entry Officer.

The YDA Fire Program will consist of youth in the highest phases to ensure a level of compliance and completion of CORE programming. The YDA Fire Program will have a training program that includes a period of assessments to determine each individual youth's level, as well as provide remediation and tutoring opportunities for tests and assessments. The training program will provide youth with career development and certifications needed for basic requirements for entry-level employment upon their completion of their YDA commitment.

The development of a training program will be the responsibility of a San Diego County Fire Captain, who will provide instruction and oversight of the training program and certifications.

1011.2 YOUTH SELECTION PROCESS

Each cohort of the YDA Fire Program will consist, optimally, of six to eight (6-8) youth. Participation in the YDA Fire Program can be voluntary, or as ordered by the Court.

Each cohort will be established by Probation and each youth will be notified by their YDA Re-Entry Officer.

Each youth must meet eligibility criteria:

- Minimum of 18 years of age and housed at East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (EMJDF).
- No pending charges/warrants or history of escape.
- Certain offenses will be automatically disqualifying.
- 18 months or more minimum to serve with consideration of downward deviations from the court. Exceptions made with Division Chief approval.
- Successfully completed high school or GED.
- Have no violent incidents in the past 90 days.
- No positive drug or refusals to test in the past 90 days.
- Must be in Phase 4 (Gold) minimum to be considered.
- Must be cleared for medical issues by CHP/Medical Provider.
- No severe behavioral health issues as determined by Behavioral Health Services Provider.
- Participate and pass panel interview.

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1011.3 STAFFING

Staffing for the YDA Fire Program will be as follows:

(a) San Diego Fire Captain, lead instructor.

(b) Probation Supervising Probation Officer (SPO), an armed position tasked with assisting with the oversight of armed officers while in the performance of their field activities, as well as the oversight of the Fire Program when engaged in programming/ training while at the facility.

(c) Senior Probation Officer (SrPO), an armed position tasked with assisting in providing security and transportation when out of the facility.

(d) Deputy Probation Officer (DPO), an armed position tasked with assisting in providing security and transposition when out of the facility, as well as supervise the youth while at EMJDF.

Probation must provide youth the following:

(a) Appropriate classroom and field attire.

  (a) Classroom attire will consist of khaki pants, a polo shirt with YDA Fire Program insignia, and black shoes.

  (b) Physical Training (PT) attire will consist of running shoes, shorts, and a dry-fit shirt with YDA Fire Program insignia.

  (c) Field attire will be approved and provided by San Diego County Fire.

(b) Meals while performing duties outside of the institution.

  (a) Youth performing duties outside of the institution will be provided with meals.

  (b) Youth will also have the opportunity to supplement their packaged meals by bringing additional snacks earned via the YDA Store.

1011.4 FACILITY

The YDA Fire Program will be run out of the EMJDF and will be available to youth committed to the YDA. All youth participating in the Fire Program will be housed in a unit with the other members of their fire crew where there will be a designated classroom for instruction, as well as storage space for all gear and training equipment.

1011.5 TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The YDA Fire Program will be a structured training and education program consisting of two main phases.

(a) Academy Phase

  1. While in the Academy Phase, youth will participate in a structured physical fitness and academic program.

  2. Upon successful completion of the Academy Phase, participants will earn a YDA Fire Program Completion certificate and graduate to a Crew Member position in the Work Phase.

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(b) Work Phase

1. When assigned as a Crew Member to the Work Phase, youth will engage in vegetation management projects around San Diego County.
2. Daily work call or check-out will be at 9:30 am (or as operationally feasible).
3. Daily check-in (return to the facility) will be determined as appropriate by the Division Chief.
4. Each youth participating in the Work Phase must be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), backpacks/hydration packs, work boots, and a work uniform that clearly identifies them to Officers' and CAL FIRE/San Diego Fire.

1011.6 REFERENCES

Date Last Reviewed	12/19/2025
Date(s) Revised	12/19/2025
Policy and Procedure References	Policy 1011 Youth Development Academy Fire Program
Attachments/Links	N/A

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