

## Labor Market Assessment: 2133.00 – Fire Technology

### Fire Technology (Certificate)

Los Angeles County Center of Excellence, March 2022

#### Summary

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed: All Criteria Met</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed: Some Criteria Met</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Endorsed</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Program Endorsement Criteria</b>			
<b>Supply Gap:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (see comments below)	
<b>Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Education:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Emerging Occupation(s)</b>			
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

The Los Angeles County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide Los Angeles/Orange County regional labor market supply and demand data related to two middle-skill occupations:

- *Fire inspectors and investigators (33-2021); and*
- *Forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists (33-2022).*

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.<sup>1</sup> This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupations.

Due to inconsistencies in reporting automatically awarded, local low-unit certificates, it is unclear if there is a supply gap in the region for the two occupations of interest. Despite this, both occupations have entry-level wages that exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties. Additionally, the majority of the annual job openings for the occupations of interest typically require a postsecondary non-degree award. Finally, there are a few firefighting occupations that are not included in this supply/demand analysis due to the specific aims of this program differing from those of a typical firefighting program, namely *firefighters (SOC 33-2011)*. **Due to some of the criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

<sup>1</sup> The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

**Demand:**

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be approximately **50 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is less than the 2,903 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.
  - Over the past 12 months, there have been 290 online job postings related to the two occupations of interest.
- **Living Wage Criteria** – In Los Angeles County, both occupations have **entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage** (\$18.10/hour).<sup>2</sup>
- **Educational Criteria** – Within the LA/OC region, the majority of annual job openings (63%) typically require a postsecondary non-degree award.
  - National-level educational attainment data indicates that 47% of incumbent workers have completed some college or an associate degree.

**Supply:**

- Due to inconsistencies in reporting automatically awarded, local low-unit certificates, the number of awards conferred in the region may be overstated. Additionally, it is unclear whether these low-unit certificates adequately train for the occupations in this report when compared to higher-unit programs. Therefore, **the three-year average number of awards is overstated.**
  - Between 2017 and 2020, **12 community colleges** in the region have issued awards in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest, conferring an average of **2,903 awards.**
    - Supply data includes 6,220 low-unit certificates (6 < 18 semester units) automatically conferred (also known as auto-awarded) by Santa Ana College between 2017 and 2020. Awards were automatically conferred to both current and past students who had completed the unit requirements within the past few years. However, this low-unit program may not have adequately prepared students for the occupations within this report, as compared to higher-unit programs at Santa Ana College.
- Currently, there are no non-community college institutions in the LA/OC region that have conferred awards in programs training for the occupations of interest.

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<sup>2</sup> Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

## Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the two occupations of interest. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 9% through 2025. There will be approximately 50 job openings per year through 2025 due to job growth and replacements.

*This report includes employment projection data by Emsi which uses EDD information. Emsi's projections are modeled on recorded (historical) employment figures and incorporate several underlying assumptions, including the assumption that the economy, during the projection period, will be at approximately full employment. To the extent that a recession or labor shock, such as the economic effects of COVID-19, can cause long-term structural change, it may impact the projections. At this time, it is not possible to quantify the full impact of COVID-19 on projections of industry and occupational employment. Therefore, the projections included in this report do not take the full impacts of COVID-19 into account.*

**Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>3</sup>**

Geography	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	318	348	30	9%	39
Orange	73	79	6	8%	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>49</b>

## Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the hourly wages for the two occupations of interest in Los Angeles County, as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

**Los Angeles County** – Both occupations have entry-level wages **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$33.84 and \$46.57, while experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$54.72 and \$76.92.

**Orange County** – Both occupations have entry-level wages **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$30.95 and \$42.83, while experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$50.05 and \$70.74.

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<sup>3</sup> Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

## **Job Postings**

Over the past 12 months, there have been 290 online job postings related to the two occupations of interest. The highest number of job postings were for fire inspectors, fire alarm inspectors, commercial fire alarm and electronic systems inspectors, and fire systems inspectors. The top skills were fire protection, repair, wiring, building codes, inspection records, and inspection of safety equipment/alarm systems. The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were VFS Fire & Security Services, Bay Alarm Company, Interface Security Systems, Allied Universal, and Johnson Controls Incorporated.

*It is important to note that the job postings data included in this section reflects online job postings listed in the past 12 months and does not yet demonstrate the full impact of COVID-19. While employers have generally posted fewer online job postings since the beginning of the pandemic, the long-term effects are currently unknown.*

## **Educational Attainment**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

- **Postsecondary non-degree award:** *Fire inspectors and investigators (33-2021)*
- **HS diploma or equivalent:** *Forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists (33-2022)*

In the LA/OC region, the majority of annual job openings (63%) typically require a postsecondary non-degree award. National-level educational attainment data indicates that 47% of incumbent workers have completed some college or an associate degree.

## Educational Supply

**Community College Supply** – Exhibit 2 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest. The colleges with the most completions in the region are Santa Ana, Rio Hondo, and East LA.

**NOTE:** Supply data includes 6,220 low-unit certificates (6 < 18 semester units) automatically conferred by Santa Ana College from 2017 to 2020. Between these three years, the average was 2,073 for certificates 6<18 units at Santa Ana. Local awards were automatically conferred to both current and past students who had completed the unit requirements within the past 3-5 years. It is unclear if this number double-counts students who previously exited the program and are already working in the field, or if these students are necessarily prepared to work in occupations related to fire technology, as compared to students who completed higher-unit awards. Since this completion data is included within the regional average supply data, **the three year-average number of awards (2,903) is overstated.**

**Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2017-2020**

TOP Code	Program	College	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
2133.00	Fire Technology	Compton	1	-	-	0
		East LA	185	162	53	133
		El Camino	44	39	40	41
		Glendale	8	34	43	28
		LA Harbor	3	2	-	2
		LA Valley	16	21	10	16
		Long Beach	44	58	44	49
		Mt San Antonio	97	118	82	99
		Pasadena	18	8	2	9
		Rio Hondo	136	168	186	163
		West LA	2	2	8	4
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>545</b>
		Santa Ana	5,810	524	509	2,281
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>5,810</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>2,281</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>6,364</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>2,826</b>
2133.10	Wildland Fire Technology	Rio Hondo	8	22	13	14
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

TOP Code	Program	College	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
2133.50	Fire Academy	Compton	-	1	-	0
		East LA	9	7	14	10
		El Camino	19	35	27	27
		Rio Hondo	-	-	76	25
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>28</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>6,400</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>2,903</b>

**Non-Community College Supply** – Currently, there are no non-community college institutions in the LA/OC region that have conferred awards in programs training for the occupations of interest.

**Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county**

**Exhibit 3. Los Angeles County**

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Fire Inspectors and Investigators (33-2021)	213	228	15	7%	25	\$46.57	\$65.93	\$76.92
Forest Fire Inspectors and Prevention Specialists (33-2022)	105	120	15	14%	14	\$33.84	\$44.17	\$54.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Exhibit 4. Orange County**

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Fire Inspectors and Investigators (33-2021)	49	51	2	4%	5	\$42.83	\$60.64	\$70.74
Forest Fire Inspectors and Prevention Specialists (33-2022)	25	28	3	12%	3	\$30.95	\$40.39	\$50.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Exhibit 5. Los Angeles and Orange Counties**

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Fire Inspectors and Investigators (33-2021)	261	279	18	7%	31	Postsecondary non-degree award
Forest Fire Inspectors and Prevention Specialists (33-2022)	130	148	18	14%	18	HS diploma or equivalent
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>-</b>

## Appendix B: Sources

- O\*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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