



## ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

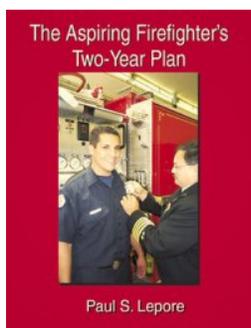
**December 2004**

**Volume 3 – Issue 6**

**W**elcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! It is hard to imagine another year has almost passed us by; it seems like we were just preparing for Y2K to hit. My goal is to provide you with information about your Chabot College Fire Technology Program, the local Fire Departments, in addition to other information that might be beneficial to you in your pursuit of better preparing yourself for the career of your dreams! News items covered in this issue include:

- Review of a new firefighter oral interview book that every firefighter candidate should own!
- Seasonal Firefighter employment opportunity – CDF!
- Firefighter employment opportunity – L.A. County Fire Department!
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Los Angeles Fire Department
- Holiday gift giving ideas for the firefighter candidate
- Live Fire Department Dispatch information – a great resource for the future and current firefighter!
- NCTI Paramedic school entrance exam information

### ***THE ASPIRING FIREFIGHTER'S TWO YEAR PLAN! – By Paul S. Lepore***



**T**here is a new firefighter career preparation book out now that every firefighter candidate should own! [The Aspiring Firefighter's Two-Year Plan](#), by **Paul S. Lepore**, is an excellent resource that should help the future firefighter candidate better prepare themselves and improve their scores in all phases of the hiring process. I recommend this book to anyone that is pursuing a career as a firefighter; it is something I wish I had available to me when I was testing for the position of firefighter!

**P**aul Lepore is a Battalion Chief with the [Long Beach Fire Department](#) in Southern California, where has worked since 1986. Chief Lepore has conducted hundreds of entry-level interviews as well as served as a rater for several Captains' promotional exams. He has conducted numerous seminars to coach and mentor both promotional and entry-level candidates alike. He also founded [EMS Safety Service, Inc.](#), a first aid and CPR training corporation that certifies over 100,000 students each year.

[The Aspiring Firefighter's Two-Year Plan](#) contains 274 pages of quality information to help you map out your career plan and best focus on becoming a firefighter.

**I**nformation covered within this book include:

- Your two-year plan
- What it takes to land a job as a firefighter
- Extenuating circumstances
- The importance of education
- Fire Station visits
- Ride-alongs
- Role models
- How to succeed in fire technology courses and the basic fire academy
- Friends and acquaintances
- Private interview coaching
- Written examinations
- Oral interviews
- Situational questions
- The chief's interview
- Resumes (including sample resumes)
- Physical fitness (including preparation and a sample physical ability test)
- Background investigations (including a sample background investigation questionnaire)
- Personal attributes necessary for a firefighter including:
  - Public speaking
  - Mechanical ability
  - Community service
  - Tattoos
  - Age
- What to expect in the following situations:
  - The first day on the job
  - Rookie life
  - Fire academy
  - Paramedic school
  - Station drills
  - Dangers of the job
- Other occupations:
  - Should I become a paramedic?
  - Becoming a police officer
  - Driving an ambulance
- Different perspectives:
  - Female firefighters
  - Firefighting: a wife's perspective
  - Having a firefighter for a parent
- Appendices:
  - Oral interview grading sheet sample
  - Probationary firefighter evaluation sheet

Chief Lepore wrote this book for individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in the fire service. Whether you are just starting out your pursuit to become a firefighter or you are a testing veteran that has not yet been hired, this book is for you!

To order a copy, or for more information, you can either call 800-215-9555 or go to the website: [www.aspiringfirefighter.com](http://www.aspiringfirefighter.com) – with the holidays coming up, this book would make an excellent gift for any future firefighter!

## **SEASONAL FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CDF**

The [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection \(CDF\)](http://www.cdf.ca.gov) is now accepting applications for Firefighter I. Applications will be accepted through January 31<sup>st</sup> for the 2005-2006 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a [Firefighter I application \(CDF Form 215\)](#) and return it to each unit you are interested in working for. Applications will **NOT** be accepted at their Sacramento Headquarters, Region Offices, or Conservation Camps.



There are 21 units through-out the state and they are divided between two regions, North Region, and South Region. In the Northern Region you can mail the completed application to each unit that you are interested in applying for. In the Southern Region they must be hand delivered. A list of the units can be found at the end of this announcement.

### **What you can expect working as a firefighter for CDF:**

A firefighter 1 is a temporary position. You work a 96-hour workweek, four days on and three days off. You work the same four days in a week. Your responsibilities will include responding to vegetation fires, vehicle fires, structure fires, vehicle accidents, medical aides, public assist calls, or any other emergency. You are responsible for maintaining equipment and tools, following oral and written directions, cooking and cleaning around the station and other duties as assigned. At some stations you may get only one call per shift and others may get as many as four or five calls on a busy day.

Because CDF is a statewide fire department, you can get sent to any area within the state on a strike team assignment. You may only be gone one or two days or as many as fourteen days depending on the needs throughout the state. You may be assigned to an incident, usually a large fire, or may be assigned to cover behind other engines on an out-of-county assignment.

In addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state.

**T**here is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CDF to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CDF to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CDF personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

### **The hiring process:**

**A**fter submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid March you should receive a letter indicating weather you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of your score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

**T**ypically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid May you should have received a letter indicating weather or not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

**T**he presumption is that a position may open up in the future and you would already be trained to take it. Typically a new hire academy is scheduled for the first or second week in June and consists of learning basic skills needed to work as a fire fighter. The end result is that by attending the class you can obtain the CDF 67 hour Certification.

**W**hat generally happens around August or September is some firefighters quit and go back to school opening up position to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people second chance to get hired. If you stay in contact with the hiring coordinator in each unit and are willing to start later in the season you might get picked up as a late hire. After you get hired with CDF and work three months you have automatic rehire rights. Meaning you don't have to go through the same process to get hired the next season.

### **What CDF can offer you?**

**C**DF is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience

working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment.

**Y**ou will have the opportunity to earn additional certifications including Incident Command Systems, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Haz Mat Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Auto Extrication, and many other classes. You will gain experience working with the ICS system as part of an engine company at small and large incidents.

**J**ust like anything else you can get out of CDF what you put in. Because of the number of people retiring you have a very good opportunity to gain a permanent position if you put the effort into it. It is now up to you to make the first step.

**To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CDF Careers website at:**

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/CDFCareers/SeasonalHiring.asp>

**For a list of Contacts including units and stations with in units:**

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/MiscDocuments/CDFContacts.asp>

**Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:**

- Must be 18 years of age by time of appointment to a firefighter 1 position

**For additional information, contact:**

Northern Region Headquarters:	(707) 576-2275
Northern Operations Center:	(530) 224-2445
Human Resources Office:	(916) 445-7801
Southern Region HQ	(559) 222-3714
Southern Operations Center:	(909) 782-4140
Equal Employment Opportunity:	(916) 445-8113

**NOTE:** Ranger unit locations listed on the next page

## **CDF - NORTHERN REGION**

**File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:**

### **Butte Unit**

176 Nelson Avenue  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-7111

### **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**

118 S. Fortuna Blvd.  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
(707) 725-4413

### **Lassen-Modoc Unit**

697-345 Highway 36  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-4171

### **Mendocino Unit**

17501 N. Highway 101  
Willits, CA 95490  
(707) 459-7414

### **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**

13760 Lincoln Way  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 823-4904

### **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**

6059 Highway 9  
Felton, CA 95018  
(831) 335-5353

### **Santa Clara Unit**

15670 Monterey Street  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
(408) 779-2121

### **Shasta-Trinity Unit**

875 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2418

### **Siskiyou Unit**

1809 Fair Lane Road  
Yreka, CA 96097  
(530) 842-3516

### **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**

1199 Big Tree Road  
St. Helena, CA 94574  
(707) 967-1400

### **Tehama-Glenn Unit**

604 Antelope Blvd.  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
(530) 528-5199

## **CDF - SOUTHERN REGION**

**Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below.  
Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

### **Amador-El Dorado Unit**

2840 Mt. Danaher Road  
Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-2345

### **Fresno-Kings Unit**

210 S. Academy Avenue  
Sanger, CA 93657  
(559) 485-7500

### **Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**

5366 Highway 49 North  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 966-3622

### **Riverside Unit**

210 W. San Jacinto  
Perris, CA 92570  
(909) 940-6900

### **San Benito-Monterey Unit**

2221 Garden Road  
Monterey, CA 93940-5385  
(831) 647-6208

### **San Bernardino Unit**

3800 Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92405  
(909) 881-6900

### **San Diego Unit**

2249 Jamacha Road  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(619) 590-3100

### **San Luis Obispo Unit**

635 N. Santa Rosa  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
(805) 543-4244

### **Tulare Unit**

1968 S. Lovers Lane  
Visalia, CA 93277  
(559) 732-5954

### **Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**

785 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
(209) 754-3831

**NOTE:** A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works as a firefighter for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

**FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – L.A. County Fire Department**

The [Los Angeles County Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications from December 2 through December 4! LACoFD is one of the largest fire departments in the state, and tends to only have a recruitment process every five or so years (give or take). Missing this test now means you will maybe have to wait another fire or more years for their next test! They are still hiring people off of their last test, awaiting arrival of a new hiring list. It is not uncommon for them to hire hundreds of people off of each list.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**A special Los Angeles County Fire Fighter Trainee employment application will be accepted on business days only between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning Thursday, December 2, 2004 through Saturday, December 4, 2004. Applications must be received\*, ONLY IN PERSON\*\* with a photo identification, by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of filing, at the following locations:**

Belvedere Community Regional County Park  
4914 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Social Hall  
Los Angeles, CA  
(Pomona Freeway, exit Atlantic & go to Cesar Chavez and make a left)

Athens Park  
12603 South Broadway  
Los Angeles, CA  
(Harbor Freeway, exit El Segundo Blvd., East 2 blocks)

Whiteman Airport  
12653 Osborne Street  
Pacoima, CA  
(Golden State Freeway, exit Osborne, East 1 mile)

Fire Department North County Regional Training Facility  
42110 6th Street West  
Lancaster, CA  
(Antelope Valley Freeway, exit Avenue M, North on 6th Street West)

Fire Department East County Regional Training Facility  
3325 Temple Avenue  
Pomona, CA  
(Orange Freeway, exit Temple, West ¼ mile)

San Pedro Skills Center  
920 West 36th Street  
Fort MacArthur, Building 933  
San Pedro, CA  
(Harbor Freeway to end, 2½ miles South on Gaffey Street)

\* It is not necessary to arrive before the start of the filing period since no preference will be given to applicants who arrive early. All applications received during the filing period will be processed.

To download the Fire Fighter Trainee Employment Application, click here: [Application](#)

## **FIRE FIGHTER TRAINEE (56-HOURS)**

**SALARY: \$3,690.17 MONTHLY**

**EXAM NUMBER: R0198B**

### **POSITION INFORMATION:**

Participates in an intensive training program in basic fire fighting, emergency medical treatment, and peace officer responsibilities.

### **ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:**

Under close supervision, participates in a fire fighting training course consisting of classroom and field training to learn proper fire fighting techniques and procedures for fighting structural, watershed, chemical, petroleum, electrical and other fires; receives instruction and participates in field training to learn proper procedures and acquire proficiency in the rescue or evacuation of persons endangered by fire or disaster in the provision of emergency medical care; receives instruction in pre-fire plan inspection and enforcement of the Fire Code; receives instruction and learns the proper care and operation of all fire apparatus; and receives instruction and prepares for Emergency Medical Technician I certification.

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

Graduation from high school or its equivalent by December 31, 2004.

### **LICENSE:**

A valid California Class "C" Driver License is required to perform job-related essential functions. Candidates must present license at time of appointment.

### **PHYSICAL CLASS: 4 - Arduous:**

Involves frequent heavy lifting over 25 pounds, often combined with bending, twisting, or working on irregular surfaces; and occasionally requires extraordinary physical activity.

### **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants must be in good general physical condition, free from any medical conditions that would interfere with the satisfactory performance of the position of Fire Fighter Trainee (56-Hours). Although there are no minimum or maximum height requirements, the height-weight relationship of each applicant must either (1) fall within the ranges in the following table or (2) if the applicant's height is not included on the table, be found to be acceptable after individual

evaluation. Height measurements are made without shoes. Weight measurements are made without shoes and coat. Applicants whose height falls between any of the measurements shown on the table must meet the weight requirements of the lower height. Individuals who do not meet the standard shall have their body fat measured. Female candidates whose body fat is 33% or less may be qualified. Male candidates whose body fat is 22% or less may be qualified.

<b>MALE</b>				
HEIGHT	WEIGHT		HEIGHT	WEIGHT
5ft. 0in.	110 lbs. to 143 lbs.		5ft. 10in.	144 lbs. to 185 lbs.
5ft. 1in.	112 lbs. to 146 lbs.		5ft. 11in.	148 lbs. to 191 lbs.
5ft. 2in.	115 lbs. to 149 lbs.		6ft. 0in.	152 lbs. to 197 lbs.
5ft. 3in.	118 lbs. to 152 lbs.		6ft. 1in.	156 lbs. to 203 lbs.
5ft. 4in.	121 lbs. to 155 lbs.		6ft. 2in.	160 lbs. to 209 lbs.
5ft. 5in.	124 lbs. to 158 lbs.		6ft. 3in.	164 lbs. to 215 lbs.
5ft. 6in.	128 lbs. to 163 lbs.		6ft. 4in.	168 lbs. to 221 lbs.
5ft. 7in.	132 lbs. to 168 lbs.		6ft. 5in.	172 lbs. to 227 lbs.
5ft. 8in.	136 lbs. to 173 lbs.		6ft. 6in.	176 lbs. to 233 lbs.
5ft. 9in.	140 lbs. to 179 lbs.		6ft. 7in.	180 lbs. to 239 lbs.
<b>FEMALE</b>				
HEIGHT	WEIGHT		HEIGHT	WEIGHT
5ft. 0in.	95 lbs. to 129 lbs.		5ft. 10in.	131 lbs. to 180 lbs.
5ft. 1in.	98 lbs. to 132 lbs.		5ft. 11in.	135 lbs. to 185 lbs.
5ft. 2in.	101 lbs. to 135 lbs.		6ft. 0in.	139 lbs. to 192 lbs.
5ft. 3in.	104 lbs. to 138 lbs.		6ft. 1in.	143 lbs. to 197 lbs.
5ft. 4in.	107 lbs. to 144 lbs.		6ft. 2in.	147 lbs. to 204 lbs.
5ft. 5in.	111 lbs. to 150 lbs.		6ft. 3in.	151 lbs. to 210 lbs.
5ft. 6in.	115 lbs. to 156 lbs.		6ft. 4in.	155 lbs. to 216 lbs.
5ft. 7in.	119 lbs. to 162 lbs.		6ft. 5in.	159 lbs. to 222 lbs.
5ft. 8in.	123 lbs. to 168 lbs.		6ft. 6in.	163 lbs. to 228 lbs.
5ft. 9in.	127 lbs. to 174 lbs.		6ft. 7in.	167 lbs. to 234 lbs.

**REQUIREMENT INFORMATION:**

**ELIGIBILITY FOR PEACE OFFICER STATUS** - In order to qualify for peace officer status under Government Code Section 1031, applicants must be: 1) a United States citizen or permanent resident alien who is eligible for and has applied for citizenship, 2) at least 18 years of age at time of appointment, 3) free of felony convictions, and 4) of good moral character as determined by a thorough background investigation.

To apply, applicants must be within six (6) months of their 18th birthday. Candidates must provide proof of education at time of appointment.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION:**

ONLY the Fire Fighter Trainee 2004 Application will be ACCEPTED for this examination. Candidates are responsible for filling out their application completely and correctly. All information is subject to verification. In order to expedite the filing process, applicants are encouraged to complete the Fire Fighter Trainee 2004 Application prior to arriving at the filing location.

Any change(s) in address or telephone number must be reported to the Department of Human Resources (see address on front page of this bulletin).

**SPECIAL INFORMATION:**

\*\*This examination requires applicants to apply in person. Military personnel on active duty, who cannot be present during the filing period due to their military assignment, may do the following: 1) Have their application submitted by another individual; 2) Mail their application, which MUST BE POSTMARKED WITH A DATE WITHIN THE FILING PERIOD OF DECEMBER 2, 2004 TO DECEMBER 4, 2004, to: Department of Human Resources, Centralized Examining and Test Research Division, 3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90010. Applications submitted by either of these two methods must include an official verification from the U.S. Armed Forces verifying their inability to appear during the filing period.

Appointees may be required to work any shift including evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays. Prior to appointment, a candidate must successfully complete a thorough background investigation, including a fingerprint check, and a medical examination. The medical examination will include a drug test.

Fire Fighter Trainees must successfully complete the Emergency Medical Technician I training program prior to graduation from the Los Angeles County Fire Department Academy.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Positive photo identification will be required at each step of the application and examination process.

**RECORD OF CONVICTIONS:** A full disclosure of all convictions is required. Failure to disclose convictions will result in disqualification. Not all convictions constitute an automatic bar to employment. Factors such as your age at the time of the offense(s), and the recency of offense(s) will be taken into account, as well as the relationship between the offense(s) and the job for which you apply. However, any applicant for County employment who has been convicted of workers' compensation fraud is automatically barred from employment with the County of Los Angeles (County Code Section 5.12.110). ANY CONVICTIONS OR COURT

RECORDS WHICH ARE EXEMPTED BY A VALID COURT ORDER DO NOT HAVE TO BE INCLUDED.

**VETERANS' INFORMATION:**

**VETERANS' PREFERENCE CREDIT** of 10 points will be added to the final passing grade in any open competitive examination if you are an honorably discharged veteran who served in the Armed Forces of the United States:

- During a declared war; or
- During the period April 28, 1952 through July 1, 1955; or
- For more than 180 consecutive days, other than for training, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976; or
- In a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal or expeditionary medal has been authorized and awarded.
- This also applies to the spouse of such person who, while engaged in such service was wounded, disabled or crippled and thereby permanently prevented from engaging in any remunerative occupation, and also to the widow or widower of any such person who died or was killed while in such service. A DD214, Certificate of Discharge or Separation from Active Duty, or other official documents issued by the branch of service are required as verification of eligibility for Veterans' preference. If you are unable to provide any documentation at the time of filing, the 10 points will be withheld until such time as it is provided.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Applicants who require special testing arrangements such as readers or interpreters must provide advance notice of their disability and required accommodation. Contact the Coordinator of Personnel Services for Disabled Persons by calling 213-738-2057. Hearing impaired applicants with telephone teletype equipment may leave messages by calling 800-899-4099 or 800-897-0077. The County will attempt to meet reasonable accommodation requests whenever possible.

**EXAMINATION INFORMATION:**

This examination will consist of a two-part written test that assesses a broad range of skills, aptitudes, and individual characteristics that have been found to be important for Fire Fighters to possess. The first part (evaluated on a pass or fail basis) will assess Mechanical Aptitude (ability to understand and learn mechanical principles such as leverage and force).

The second part (weighted as 100% of your final score) will assess Basic Skills (such as reading comprehension, writing, and mathematics); Practical Skills (ability to solve problems and use good judgment in defined situations); Individual Characteristics (such as integrity, dependability, initiative, respect for authority, etc.); and Interpersonal Skills (ability to work with a variety of people).

You do not need to have prior fire service knowledge, training, or experience to perform successfully on the test. You will be provided with a study guide at the time of application filing to assist you in your test preparation.

**CANDIDATES MUST ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE ON EACH PART OF THE EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO BE PLACED ON THE ELIGIBLE LIST.**

In accordance with Civil Service rules, names of candidates receiving a score of 70 or higher will be placed on an eligible list. As the need occurs, names from the highest ranking group(s) of eligibles will be selected to participate in the remainder of the selection process, which will consist of the following:

- A qualifying Candidates' Physical Ability Test (CPAT) composed of eight tasks related to actual duties performed by a Los Angeles County Fire Fighter. Tasks must be completed within specific time limits.
- A background investigation, which may include a polygraph examination.
- A Fire Fighter Trainee placement interview.

THE WRITTEN TEST IS NOT REVIEWABLE BY CANDIDATES PER CIVIL SERVICE RULE 7.19.

THE WRITTEN TEST FOR THIS EXAMINATION WILL BE ADMINISTERED FROM JANUARY 3, 2005 THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2005. Applicants will receive a letter in the mail notifying them of their test date and time.

**VACANCY INFORMATION:**

The resulting eligible list for this examination will be used to fill vacancies in the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

**EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:**

Employment is contingent upon verification of U.S. Citizenship or the right to work in the United States. Immigration law provides that all persons hired after November 6, 1986 are required to present original documents to the County, **within three (3) business days of hiring**, which show satisfactory proof of: 1) identity and 2) U.S. employment eligibility.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT COMPLIANCE PROGRAM:**

In an effort to improve compliance with court-ordered child, family and spousal support obligations, certain employment and identification information (e.g. name, address, Social Security Number and date of hire) is regularly reported to the State Directory of New Hires which may assist in locating persons who owe these obligations. Family Code section 17512 permits, under certain circumstances, for additional employment and identifying information to be requested. Applicants will not be disqualified from employment based on this information.

**F**or more information about the Los Angeles County Fire Department, visit their official website at [www.lacofd.org](http://www.lacofd.org) and their unofficial website at [www.lacountyfire.org](http://www.lacountyfire.org)

**FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY –**  
**Los Angeles Fire Department**

The [Los Angeles Fire Department](#) (City, not County) is also currently accepting applications for the position of Firefighter.

For more information on LAFD Firefighter positions, on the CPAT, on their hiring process, on preparing yourself for each of the phases of their hiring process, and their recruitment, go to [www.lacity.org/per/safety.htm](http://www.lacity.org/per/safety.htm)

Here is some information I found on their website about their current recruitment:

**Firefighter written test information (as of November 1, 2004)**

- Upcoming test dates and corresponding filing periods for Firefighter as follows:
- You may apply on-line from November 1, 2004 to January 10, 2005. There is no advantage to applying on the first day.
- You will not be scheduled for the written test until you submit proof that you have passed the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). Submit your CPAT proof immediately after applying in order to guarantee your spot at the written test. You will be given further instructions for submitting your CPAT proof at the time you apply.

<b>IF YOU SUBMIT PROOF OF CPAT FROM:</b>	<b>YOU MAY EXPECT TO BE SCHEDULED FOR THE WRITTEN TEST ON:</b>
Monday November 1, 2004 to Thursday December 9, 2004	Saturday January 8, 2005
Friday December 10 to Monday January 10, 2005	Saturday January 22, 2005

There is no guarantee that you will be scheduled for the above written test dates if you submit your CPAT proof **AFTER JANUARY 10, 2005**. The written test is anticipated to be given more than once a year, depending on hiring needs. If you apply after January 10, 2005, you may be scheduled for subsequent written test dates, which are yet to be determined.

Please note: The written test has not been administered in approximately four years; therefore, they anticipate the first group being larger than later groups.

For administrative purposes, filing may close periodically and reopen the following workday.

For more information about the Los Angeles Fire Department, visit their website at [www.lafd.org](http://www.lafd.org)

## **Where can I take the CPAT?**

There are three places I know of in California that offer the CPAT on a regular basis, and all are in Southern California:

- The [California Professional Firefighters \(CPF\)](#) has opened up a testing facility in the city of Orange (Orange County) that will host the CPAT year-round. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).
- Oxnard Community College in Ventura County. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).
- Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

All of these sites will provide you with a completion card that is valid for one year, and good anywhere that requires a CPAT completion card.

## **HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING!**

**W**ith the holidays coming up, here are some suggestions when people ask what they should get you:

- 1. Subscription to various Fire Service related publications such as:**
  - a. Firehouse magazine – [www.firehouse.com](http://www.firehouse.com)
  - b. Fire Engineering magazine – [www.fire-eng.com](http://www.fire-eng.com)
  - c. Fire Chief magazine – [www.firechief.com](http://www.firechief.com)
  - d. Fire Apparatus Journal – [www.fireapparatusjournal.com](http://www.fireapparatusjournal.com)
  - e. Journal of Emergency Services (JEMS) – [www.jems.com](http://www.jems.com)
- 2. Subscription to one or more Firefighter testing services that notify you when fire departments are testing:**
  - a. Perfect Firefighter Candidate – [www.firecareers.com](http://www.firecareers.com)
  - b. Careers in the Fire Service – [www.firerecruit.com](http://www.firerecruit.com)
- 3. Gift certificates to businesses that sell fire & EMS related books:**
  - a. Firefighters Bookstore – [www.firebooks.com](http://www.firebooks.com)
  - b. FSP Books and Video – [www.fire-police-ems.com](http://www.fire-police-ems.com)
- 4. Association memberships:**
  - a. California Firefighters Association (CSFA) – [www.csfa.net](http://www.csfa.net)
  - b. California Conference of Arson Investigators – [www.arson.org](http://www.arson.org)
  - c. Women in the Fire Service – [www.wfsi.org](http://www.wfsi.org)
  - d. Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association – [www.firepreventionofficers.org](http://www.firepreventionofficers.org)

5. **Gym membership:**

- a. Pick a gym that provides a full compliment of work out equipment and facilities so when asked how you have prepared yourself for the position, you can comment how you have joined a gym and have a workout plan in place (goes back to preparation and motivation).

6. **Thomas Brothers Maps:**

- a. If you have never heard what about a Thomas Brothers Map, then you have missed out on a valuable resource. Thomas Brothers Maps produce maps of specific counties throughout California and parts of the United States. Thomas Brothers Maps can be found at any major book store chain or on their web site at [www.thomas.com](http://www.thomas.com) – take a look to see for yourself. If you are a Costco member, they usually have them available for a very reasonable price.

- b. Why are they so valuable?

- **Number 1** – to become a firefighter, you are probably going to be doing a great deal of driving around the area if not the state and you'll need a map anyway.
- **Number 2** – when you take a test for a fire department, you should be doing some basic research such as stopping by fire stations or determining what types of target hazards are found in a community, etc. Besides target hazards, Thomas Brothers Maps list every governmental facility such as fire stations, police stations, city hall, etc. These maps can do a portion of your homework for you!
- **Number 3** – they are in a book format, thus they won't be easily damaged like regular fold-out maps will.
- **Number 4** – since many fire departments and ambulance companies use Thomas Brothers Maps in their vehicles, you will be getting a leg up on learning. Reading maps is almost like a lost art in the fire service. Many of the new firefighters we are hiring cannot read a map to save their life. When someone calls 911, we don't have every address memorized in our head – 99.9% of the time, we have to use a map to find the address. Start your training now!

- c. What types of maps do they sell? They usually produce a map of a county or multiple counties, such as:

- Alameda County
- Contra Costa County
- Alameda County and Contra Costa County (Best value – 2 counties in one book)
- Bay Area Metropolitan Area – All bay area counties in one book (Excellent value)
- State of California (an excellent book to supplement your other county books)

7. **Private Oral Board Coaching**

- a. [Battalion Chief Paul Lepore](#), (Long Beach Fire Department). [CLICK HERE](#) to go to his the coaching section on his website to learn more about this valuable service geared toward increasing your oral interview scores!

- b. [Captain Bob Smith](#), (Hayward Fire Department – retired). [CLICK HERE](#) to go the coaching section on his website to learn more about this valuable service geared toward increasing your oral interview scores!
- 8. Books to help you better prepare yourself to become a firefighter**
- a. [The Aspiring Firefighter's Two-Year Plan](#) by Paul Lepore. This book was reviewed on page 1 of this newsletter, and provides the future firefighter with a great game plan to best prepare yourself to become a firefighter.
- b. [Smoke Your Firefighter Interview](#) by Paul Lepore. This book was reviewed in the [December 2003 issue](#) of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News and is one of the best firefighter oral interview preparation books out today.
- c. [Become a Firefighter: The Complete Guide to Your Badge!](#) by Captain Bob Smith. This book was reviewed in the [October 2003 issue](#) of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News and is a great resource that provides a wealth of information for the future firefighter.

**A**dditional items geared for your friends and family members to help ensure they remain safe and sound year round!

- Smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers (car and home)
- Emergency escape ladders for the home
- Whistle and lanyard
- Carbon monoxide alarms
- Childproofing and safety latch, gate and lock items
- Earthquake and disaster supplies (food, water, self-help)
- Cordless telephone for the pool area
- New large reflective numerals for a home address
- Anti-scald and non-slip devices for the bath and shower
- First-aid kits
- CPR mini-mask (to provide a barrier instead of true mouth-to-mouth resuscitation)
- Registration for a free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class with the local fire department
- First aid and CPR training
- Sturdy work gloves, goggles, and face mask
- Scanner radio to listen to the fire department (and/or police department) in action
- An automotive safety check by a certified mechanic
- A chimney sweep and inspection service gift certificate

**T**hanks to **Brian Humphrey**, Public Safety Officer (Firefighter / Public Information Officer) with the [Los Angeles Fire Department](#) for providing the above suggestions for your friends and family members (and also yourself if you are in need of the items to keep yourself safe and sound!).

**E**ven if you don't get what you want for the holidays doesn't mean you can't invest in some of the above areas to better prepare yourself for your future career as a firefighter. To make money, you have to spend money. I'm not saying you're going to get rich being a firefighter – I'm just using a phrase that has been around for a long time. It basically means success in life doesn't usually fall into your lap. You're going to have to invest some time and money to get you where you want in life.

## **LIVE FIRE DISPATCHING INFORMATION**

**O**ne of the things I was glad I did at a young age was to obtain a scanner so that I could listen to fire and police radio traffic. Listening to fire and police radio traffic is not illegal (assuming you are not using it to commit a crime), it is actually something you can do to greatly increase your knowledge and understanding of the fire service. I learned a great deal of what not to say and what to say on the radio because of all of the radio traffic I have listened to over the years. I used to love listening to San Francisco Fire and Oakland Fire because of their high call volume and volume of fires. Unfortunately in San Jose, I cannot pick either city up on my home scanner. While it is hard to describe the knowledge you can obtain from listening to fire radio traffic, you should get some entertainment and enjoyment out of it (the adrenaline junky inside you will love this).

### **Where can I purchase a scanner?**

Scanners can be purchased at such places as

- **Radio Shack** - [www.radioshack.com](http://www.radioshack.com) (many locations around the Bay Area and California)
- **Scanners Unlimited** - [www.scannersunlimited.com](http://www.scannersunlimited.com) (located across the bay in San Carlos - an excellent supply of products and a very knowledgeable and helpful staff. They also sell new and used models).
- Other stores that sell such items as Ham Radios, CB Radios, etc. (look in the yellow pages and/or do a search on the internet).

**I**f you are interested in purchasing one, I would suggest going to both of the above locations and doing your research. I would almost lean toward a place such as Scanners Unlimited because that is what their business is (versus Radio Shack who sell scanners as a small part of their overall business).

**I**f you are still not sure whether you want to make an investment of a couple of hundred dollars to purchase one, then click on some of the following links below to hear some of what you are missing out on:

- **Mattlogic.com** – this website has numerous Northern California Fire Departments (including San Francisco FD, Alameda County FD, Sacramento FD, Livermore-Pleasanton FD, Stockton FD, CDF, and other Bay Area Departments) – [www.mattlogic.com](http://www.mattlogic.com)

- **Firefeeds.com** – this is a great resource that provides live dispatch from numerous fire departments across the nation, including San Jose FD, Las Vegas FD, Baltimore FD, Los Angeles County FD, Washington DC FD, Philadelphia FD, and many more – [www.firefeeds.com](http://www.firefeeds.com)
- **Firehouse.com** (an extensive listing of links to agencies providing fire, police, and EMS live dispatch feeds) - [www.firehouse.com/links/Live\\_Dispatch](http://www.firehouse.com/links/Live_Dispatch)
- **Boston Fire Department** Live Dispatch - [www.intap.net/~pcf/live/bos/bos.htm](http://www.intap.net/~pcf/live/bos/bos.htm)
- **Fire Department New York (FDNY)** Live Dispatch (listen to FDNY radio traffic in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan - [www.thebravest.com](http://www.thebravest.com))
- **Fire Dispatch.com** (an excellent Bay Area site that provides live dispatch feeds as well as a listing of current fire/EMS incidents occurring with the San Ramon Fire Protection District, San Mateo County Fire Departments, and Santa Cruz County Fire Departments. Another unique feature about this site is that you can sign up for free emails of significant incidents that are occurring within those three regions, as well as find out extensive information about the departments served within those three regions). Go to [www.firedispatch.com](http://www.firedispatch.com) for more information.
- **Memphis (Tennessee) Fire Department** Live Dispatch – [www.memphisfire.net](http://www.memphisfire.net)
- **San Antonio (Texas) Fire Department** Live Dispatch - [www.sanantoniofire.org/safd\\_dispatch.htm](http://www.sanantoniofire.org/safd_dispatch.htm)
- **Seattle (Washington) Fire Department** Listing of Active Incidents - go to [www.seattle.gov/fire/](http://www.seattle.gov/fire/) and click on the REAL TIME 911 DISPATCH link on the right side of the page.

***PARAMEDIC SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION INFORMATION –Northern California Training Institute (Livermore, Roseville, Santa Barbara, Emeryville, and South Bay locations)***

Northern California Training Institute (NCTI) is holding pre-entrance examinations for their upcoming Paramedic classes in:

- **Livermore** - courses to be held on *Tuesdays and Fridays*
- **Roseville** - courses to be held on *Tuesdays and Fridays*
- **Santa Barbara** - courses to be held on *Tuesdays and Fridays*
- **Emeryville** – courses to be held on *Wednesdays and Saturdays*
- **South Bay (San Jose area)** – courses to be held on *days TBA*

**Here is more information I downloaded from their website:**

NCTI holds the HOBET entrance exam for all paramedic program placements. NO late arrivals are allowed at the exam. Please make arrangements to arrive early. All application information is accessible from the NCTI homepage at [www.ncti-online.com](http://www.ncti-online.com) – ***Please return all materials prior to the test date!***

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course fulfills all of the training requirements set forth by the State of California for Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be eligible to take the National Registry Exam which NCTI hosts throughout the year at our Roseville Campus. This certification can lead to employment in a wide range of fields, to include ambulance or fire paramedic, E.R. technician, special functions paramedic, sporting events, concerts, etc. NCTI is owned by American Medical Response, Inc. (AMR) and direct employment referrals are a benefit reserved for NCTI students.

## **TO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION APPLICANTS MUST:**

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a high school diploma or GED certificate
- Complete an approved Anatomy and Physiology course within the last 5 years
- Possess a current CPR card and a current EMT-1 or EMT II certification
- Applicants whose certification expires less than twelve (12) months prior to the enrollment date are also eligible

## **SCHEDULE OF TRAINING**

### **PHASE I** - (Didactic & Lab)

400 Hours (approx. 6 months)

Course days and times will be announced at a later date.

### **PHASE II** - (Clinical Rotations)

160 Hours (approx. 2 months)

individually, as arranged for each student, at one of several acute care hospitals in the area.

***Guaranteed placement by NCTI.***

### **PHASE III** - (Field Internships)

480-720 Hours (approx. 4 months)

Depending on experience and performance individually, as arranged for each student.

***Guaranteed placement by NCTI. (This is a key selling point when shopping around for paramedic schools!)***

## **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS**

General knowledge of first aid and the ability to handle stressful situations and/or prior experience as an EMT with an ambulance or fire service provider agency.

## **ADMISSION TESTING**

\$50.00 entrance exam fee (non-refundable / non-transferable)

## **COURSE FINANCING**

Tuition may be paid by check, money order, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover.

## **TESTING DATES & TIMES**

For their **Paramedic Course** that will be held in Livermore, CA, the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday March 2, 2005 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom
- Wednesday March 9, 2005 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom

For their **Paramedic Course** that will be held in Roseville, CA, the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday February 2, 2005 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at their Roseville Classroom
- Wednesday February 9, 2005 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at their Roseville Classroom

For their **Paramedic Course** that will be held in Emeryville, CA, the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday January 5, 2005 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom
- Thursday January 12, 2005 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom

For their **Paramedic Course** that will be held in Santa Barbara, CA, the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday February 16, 2005 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Santa Barbara EMS Agency
- Thursday February 17, 2005 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Santa Barbara EMS Agency

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** - Visit their website at [www.ncti-online.com](http://www.ncti-online.com) – also, for links to those above tests and classes, [CLICK HERE](#).

**T**his is not meant to be an endorsement or recommendation of their program. It is listed as a service and a resource for you to evaluate and determine on your own.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

**I** hope you have found this newsletter somewhat valuable. If you have learned one new thing, then I think I've done my job. I truly want to see everyone succeed, and I also really enjoy doing what I do. This program is your program. It can only get better with your assistance. There is an old saying, don't just give me problems – give me solutions! I can't read your minds, so please provide me with feedback. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want me to clarify any rumors you might have heard. Thank you very much!

## To everyone:

I hope you and your families have a very Happy Holiday season!

Happy New Year and good luck to each and every one of you in your pursuit of the becoming a firefighter!

Steve Prziborowski, Fire Technology Coordinator - Chabot College

**Office:** 510-723-6851, Building 1500, Room 1556

**Cellular:** 408-205-9006

**Fax:** 510-782-9315

**Email:** [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu)

Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

Chabot College web site: [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**\*\*\* PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-WORKERS\*\*\***

### The Fine Print:

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will add you to the list. Benefits of being on the mailing list include being notified when the latest Fire & EMS news is published, and being notified of firefighter testing opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or training opportunities.
- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name from the list.