



FIRE & EMS NEWS

June 2003

Volume 1 – Issue 12

Welcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! Summer and Fall registration has begun and classes are filling up quick (if not already full). Do not hesitate; make sure you sign up early for the classes you want to take. Some of you have been frustrated because the Firefighter 1 Academy filled up so quickly. I urge everyone to remain patient and to never put all of your eggs into one basket. By that, I mean you should always have a back-up plan in place. If you cannot get into the academy, maybe that means you should try to get some of your general education done, or take those other firefighting classes related to your degree, or maybe take some foreign language classes, or specialized rescue classes, or volunteer your time to be able to show a fire department that you are providing customer service. The list goes on and on.

Like it or not, registration is done on a priority number basis, which means that those students that have been attending Chabot the longest get first crack at registration. Good, bad, or indifferent, you might not like that idea, but you cannot say it is not fair. Think of it as seniority. Every firefighter will be the first to tell you that seniority counts for something (such as vacation picks, station bidding, etc.). You might as well get used to the seniority system because that is the way most (if not all) fire departments are set up to operate.

Some of the highlights of this issue include:

- Firefighter / Paramedic Employment Opportunity – Newark Fire Department
- Firefighter candidate resource – Perfect Firefighter Candidate Bulletin Board
- Firefighter Employment Opportunity – Las Vegas and North Las Vegas Fire Departments
- Firefighter Employment Opportunity – Sacramento City Fire Department
- Sacramento Fire Department Paramedic Student Internship Program

FIREFIGHTER / PARAMEDIC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Newark Fire Dept.

The City of [Newark Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter / Paramedic!** The final filing date is Friday June 20, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.

Minimum qualifications to apply include:

- A high school diploma (or equivalent)
- A valid California Driver's License (and a satisfactory driving record)

- 20/40 uncorrected vision in the weakest eye
- Normal color vision
- Normal hearing
- A valid California Paramedic license
- Successful completion of training and class hours necessary for firefighter 1 certification by the California State Board of Fire Services.

For more information, to download an application, and to view the job flyer, go to <http://www.newark.org/as/aspsjob.html>

FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATE RESOURCE – Perfect Firefighter Candidate Bulletin Board

Here is a valuable resource that will provide you with answers to your questions about the testing process as well as related topics to getting hired as a firefighter. Many of you may have heard about the [Perfect Firefighter Candidate](#) (also known as firecareers.com). They are an excellent service that is worth every cent. They charge around \$7.50 per month for access to nationwide firefighter testing opportunities. One of the services they provide to the firefighter candidate is a FREE Bulletin Board (sort of like a chat room) on their website.

Many future firefighters and current firefighters, company officers, and chief officers, view and contribute to this site on a regular basis. This is a forum for you to post your questions relating to the testing process, as well as look at the answers (and provide your own answers) to the questions other candidates like yourself may have asked of the audience. I frequently view the bulletin board and provide my input to questions I feel I have a worthwhile opinion for.

For example, one of our students contacted me one day about what type of written test the [Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department](#) was going to administer last month. I told him I did not have any idea and I directed him to this resource. He posted his question and I believe he had an answer within a few hours from a person that worked for that department. Take some time to look around and see what questions others have asked, as well as the answers that some people have provided for them. Once again, knowledge is power; and you will be amazed at how much education and assistance this resource can provide you!

To access the BULLETIN BOARD and see what I am talking about, go to <http://www.firecareer.com/forum> - I think you'll find something new every time you view it!

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – LAS VEGAS

The cities of **Las Vegas** and **North Las Vegas** will be accepting applications for the position of **FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE** during the period of December 1 to 31, 2003. This recruitment will involve a highly competitive process that includes a written exam scheduled for January 28, 2004 and a pass/fail physical ability exam scheduled for mid-March 2004. You might ask yourself, why am I listing this information so early? Well, because they are hosting free

Information Seminars to learn more about the positions (to the best of my knowledge, these seminars are voluntary, and not a required portion of the process). The schedule of Information Seminars is as follows:

Wednesday, June 11, 2003
West Las Vegas Theater
951 West Lake Mead Boulevard
6 pm to 8 pm

Thursday July 24, 2003
West Charleston Library, Lecture Hall
6301 West Charleston Boulevard
6 pm to 8 pm

Saturday, June 14, 2003
Clark High School, Room 200
4291 Pennwood Avenue
10 am to 12 noon

Thursday August 14, 2003
Sahara West Library
9600 West Sahara Avenue
6 pm to 8 pm

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Possession of an appropriate, valid driver's license on the date of application
- Equivalent to the graduation from high school and must be 18 years of age or older
- Must meet current physical condition requirements on date of appointment.
- Must possess an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic certificate on the date of job offer
- Some firefighting experience and college level course work in fire science, fire administration, or a related field is desirable but not required.

No applications, interest cards, or mailing notification lists are accepted at this time.

Continue to visit the City of Las Vegas website at <http://www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us> or call the F.I.R.E.S. hot line at (702) 392-2774 for updates.

For those of you that are not aware of what the Las Vegas Fire-Rescue Department has to offer, visit their website at <http://www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us/fire-rescue> - they are a rapidly growing fire department that currently has 15 fire stations with three additional fire stations currently under construction (and more planned). They are also one of about 45 fire departments nationwide that have received the prestigious Class-1 rating by the Insurance Services Organization (I.S.O.). The Las Vegas Fire-Rescue Department covers approximately 113 square miles and approximately 490,000 people. In 2001, the department went on approximately 66,000 responses. They are a busy fire department!

For those of you that are not aware of what the North Las Vegas Fire Department has to offer, visit their website at <http://www.ci.north-las-vegas.nv.us> – once you are on the city website, go to DEPARTMENTS and select FIRE DEPARTMENT. The North Las Vegas Fire Departments covers 78 square miles and approximately 123,000 people out of four fire stations (with additional stations planned for construction).

The Las Vegas Metropolitan area is one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. Why is this important to you, the firefighter candidate? Growth usually translates to more jobs! Other fire departments in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area include:

- [Boulder City Fire Department](#) (1 fire station)
- [Clark County Fire Department](#) (this is the fire department that actually protects the famous Las Vegas Strip with approximately 20 fire stations and many more planned for construction) Clark County Fire Department is the only Class 1 I.S.O. rated Fire Department in the United States!
- [Henderson Fire Department](#) (9 fire stations with more planned for construction)

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Sacramento City Fire Department

The [Sacramento City Fire Department](#) is one of the larger fire departments in the State. They operate out of 22 fire stations, protecting 458,000 people over 144 square miles. They are a full-service fire department that includes ALS transporting ambulance service. They will be testing quarterly for the position of FIRE RECRUIT. The remaining (tentative) year 2003 testing dates are:

- **July 12, 2003.** Cut off for filing for this test is June 13, 2003
- **October 18, 2003.** Cut off for filing for this test is September 19, 2003

Note: Cut-off deadlines and test dates are tentative and are subject to change without prior notification.

What is the position of fire recruit?

The Sacramento City Fire Department is responsible for the protection of life and property and for providing EMS to the community. Fire Recruits attend the Sacramento Fire Training Academy for 20 weeks and receive basic training in firefighting methods, equipment operation and maintenance, physical fitness, fire science concepts, and a variety of other subjects.

Candidates who satisfactorily complete the training and graduate from the academy are given probationary status and assignments as firefighters. Some graduates who hold current certification as paramedics may be assigned as Firefighter/Paramedics. In addition, all candidates must pass a background investigation, fingerprinting, medical examination, and drug testing prior to becoming a firefighter.

What are their requirements?

In order to qualify for entrance into the Recruit Academy, you must:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED equivalent.
- Have a current EMT-1 certificate or higher.

- Have 20 semester units or 30 quarter units from an accredited college or university. Three years as a paid firefighter may be substituted for the above college units.
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Pass a written examination.

Special qualifications:

- You have not smoked or used any tobacco products during the 12 months prior to testing.
- Possess a valid California Class C driver's license at the time of appointment.
- Ability to obtain a Class B driver's license with appropriate endorsements during the Sacramento Fire Training Academy. Failure to obtain the license will be cause for termination.
- Wear respiratory protective equipment at times. When assigned to such work, facial hair must be shaved when it interferes with the safe fitting of such equipment.
- Reside within a 35 air mile radius from the freeway interchange at W-X streets and 29th – 30th streets within one year following appointment as a firefighter.
- Pass the physical ability test each year as a condition of employment

Additionally you must

Pass a physical ability test which includes the following events:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| • Hose drag | • Smoke Ejector |
| • Hose Carry / Stair climb | • Citizen Rescue |
| • Hose Hoist | • Dry Hose Load |

A videotape of the physical ability test is available at the following locations:

- Any branch of the Sacramento City or County library system.
- American River College Library, 4700 College Oak Drive, Sacramento, CA 95841
- Consumnes River College Library, 8401 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95821

For more information you may contact:

- Sacramento City Personnel Department (916) 264-5726
- The Fire Recruit Hotline: (916) 264-8172
- The City 24-hour jobline: (916) 264-8568

To download an application:

Go to the JOB OPPORTUNITIES section of their website at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/fire/jobopportunities.html>

To find out more information about the Sacramento City Fire Department - Visit their website at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/fire/>

PARAMEDIC STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM – Sacramento City Fire Department

The [Sacramento City Fire Department](#) offers a unique opportunity for candidates desiring to become Paramedics and to ultimately gain employment as Firefighter / Paramedics. The Paramedic Student Intern Program requires a minimum of 18 month commitment. Paramedic interns attend classes at American River Community College in Sacramento for three semesters and do their clinical rotation at U.C. Davis Medical Center in Sacramento (a very busy Emergency Department that is also a level 1 Trauma Receiving Facility). In addition, interns precept on City ambulances for a minimum of 480 hours and work 20 hours per week for the department.

Compensation: The Department pays an hourly wage and part-time benefits for the 20 hours per week worked. The Department also provides reimbursement for the predetermined educational costs upon successful completion of each semester.

What do they require?

In order to qualify for entrance into the Intern program you must:

- Successfully pass the Fire Recruit written examination prior to July hiring. (See the Fire Recruit application packet for testing information).
- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED equivalent.
- Have a current EMT-1 certificate.
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Pass the physical ability test (see below).
- Not smoke or use any tobacco products.
- Possess a valid California Class C Driver license

Please note: *This program requires full time dedication. Your work schedule will be developed around the needs of the fire department and the required scheduled classes. The work, school schedule, and study time necessary to successfully complete this program makes it extremely difficult to supplement your income with other employment. This program requires a minimum 18 month commitment.*

The physical ability test includes the following events:

- Hose drag
- Hose Carry / Stair climb
- Hose Hoist
- Smoke Ejector
- Citizen Rescue
- Dry Hose Load

A videotape of the physical ability test is available at the following locations:

- Any branch of the Sacramento City or County library system.
- American River College Library, 4700 College Oak Drive, Sacramento, CA 95841
- Consumnes River College Library, 8401 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95821

For more information you may contact:

- Sacramento City Fire Dept. EMS Division: (916) 264-5352
- City Employment Office: (916) 264-5726

To notify the Fire Department of your interest in the Paramedic Student Internship Program, please send a letter of interest and an up-to-date resume to:

Sacramento Fire Department
3230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
Attn: Deputy Chief Rod Chong

***PARAMEDIC STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM –
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District***

Another Fire Department that offers a Paramedic internship program is the [Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District](#). The District is the 7th largest fire service organization in the State of California. The District provides services through 40 fire stations and over 600 uniformed personnel to nearly 600,000 people in a 417 square mile area. The varied demographics of the District provide opportunities for its personnel to respond to emergencies in rural, suburban, and urban settings. The wide diversity of emergency incidents require firefighters to be proficient in wildland firefighting, structural firefighting, aircraft

CSFM CERTIFIED AUTO EXTRICATION CLASS IN SUNNYVALE

[Sunnyvale Fire](#) (actually the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety) presents their 8th annual Auto Extrication Workshop that offers 2 ½ solid days of extrication training! This year's class features:

- California State Fire Marshal Certification
- International Recognized Instructors
- Friday half-day – new car technology workshop
- Valley Transit Authority (VTA) Busses – hands on extrication
- EMS / Patient considerations
- Free commemorative t-shirt
- Rescue equipment vendors
- Workbook
- BBQ lunch included on Saturday and Sunday
- Great local accommodations available

- WHEN:** Friday August 15, 2003
Saturday August 16, 2003
Sunday August 17, 2003
- WHERE:** Sunnyvale Fire Training Grounds (Wolfe Road at Arques)
- HURRY:** Registration is limited and FILLS FAST!
- REGISTRATION FEE:** **Two-day workshop** –
Saturday (August 16th) & Sunday (August 17th) - \$165.00
- New vehicle technology** –
Friday (August 17th) / Half day starting at 1800 hours - \$25.00
- Continuing Education (C.E.) Certificate** –
16 hours for EMT's and Paramedics - \$10.00
- MORE INFO:** Phone / Fax: 408-749-0228
Autoextrication@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us
- ACCOMODATIONS:** Special room rates of only \$50.00 per night have been arranged at:
- Corporate Inn
805 East El Camino Real
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408) 220-1000
- ** Mention “Sunnyvale Auto-Extrication Workshop” for group rate price. Refer any questions to Richard Dillon – Sales Manager
- NOTE:** This course is sponsored by the Southbay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium which will offer ½ unit of college credit. Course fee includes \$6.50 registration, materials, and State Fire Marshal Certificate and Registration fee of \$5.00. This workshop qualifies for 16 hours of continuing education for EMT's and Paramedics.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMTs & Paramedics

If you are a certified EMT (or licensed Paramedic), and are in need of EMT experience to enter paramedic school (or Paramedic experience), enhance your resume, or better prepare yourself to become a firefighter, I suggest the following websites to assist you in your pursuit (click on the blue links below):

[American Medical Response](#) – AMR is one the primary employers of EMTs and Paramedics across the State of California as well as throughout the United States. Around the Bay Area,

AMR has a presence in virtually every county. AMR is the primary 9-1-1 transport provider for the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Stanislaus. They also staff units in San Francisco County, San Joaquin County, Sacramento County, Yolo County, and Marin County. If you go to their home page, and then click on “EMPLOYMENT,” you can actually view what jobs they have available nationwide (including California). Employment opportunities are listed by each County, & the information contained includes number of vacancies, part-time or full-time positions, & contact information.

[American Ambulance](#) – American Ambulance is located in Fresno County is a company that will provide you with a great deal of experience. They are the 9-1-1 provider for Fresno County, and they hire both EMTs and Paramedics. In Fresno County, there are very few fire departments that provide ALS services. What this means for you (as an EMT or Paramedic) is that you will gain a lot of valuable experience. They are a very busy ambulance provider and if you actually get to work in Fresno, you will gain experience quickly.

[Bayshore Ambulance](#) – Bayshore Ambulance is located in Foster City. They primarily hire EMTs for BLS transfer services throughout the Bay Area.

[California Medical Transport](#) – CMT is located in Mountain View and primarily hires EMTs for BLS transfer services throughout the Bay Area.

[King-American Ambulance](#) – King American Ambulance is located in San Francisco and they hire both EMTs and Paramedics. They provide back-up service for the San Francisco Fire Department as well as ALS and BLS transfers.

[Palo Alto Fire Department](#) – They are hiring EMT’s to staff their BLS ambulance. The final deadline to apply for this position is **June 20, 2003**. For more information about this position, go to the website description at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/hr/positions/1035.html> - there you can view the full job description and apply on-line for the position. You can also call Kathy Lee at (650) 329-2582 or Kim Brown at (650) 329-2377 for more job description information.

[Priority One Ambulance](#) – Priority One Ambulance hires EMTs for their units that provide BLS and transfers throughout the Bay Area and Sacramento area.

[Riggs Ambulance](#) – Riggs is located in Merced and is the primary 9-1-1 transport provider for Merced County. They hire both EMTs and Paramedics. Another great area to work for experience since there are few (if any) fire departments in Merced County that provide ALS services.

[Westmed Ambulance](#) – Westmed Ambulance is located in San Leandro and is a BLS transport provider providing service throughout the Bay Area. I believe they primarily hire EMTs.

For information about Hospitals around the Bay Area that are hiring EMTs, go the Chabot College Fire Technology website and click on the [JOBS](#) link. While hospitals tend to pay more than private ambulance providers, they tend to want EMTs that have some field experience on an ambulance.

If you are interested in putting in applications at any of the above ambulance companies, I suggest you do it a.s.a.p. since most EMT programs have all graduated students in the last month or so, and you will be competing with numerous new EMTs for positions.

Do not be surprised if many of them tell you they are not presently hiring. Hiring goes in cycles. Just because they are not hiring today, doesn't mean they won't change their mind next week. Take the time to ask them if they at least accept applications on a continuous basis (many of them do), and then take the time to complete the application. Turn it in with a resume and any other required certifications, and they will keep it on file for anywhere from 6 months to a few years. When they are ready to hire again, they will notify you if they are interested in having you come down and interview.

Key point: Keep track of all of the applications and resumes that you turn in to various employers (including fire departments). To properly do this, you should always make a copy of *EVERY* application you submit, as well as make a copy of the resume that you submit. Put them together in a manila file (or other similar filing system) with the name of that employer as the heading. Within that file, you can also keep any other correspondence or information that the employer has provided you or you have obtained on your own. That way, if they call you for an interview 12 months after you submitted it, you can appropriately update your resume to include what you have done since you first turned it in. Also, remember to ask them if they allow you to turn in an updated application and resume (as well as any other relevant EMS certificates) every 6 months or 12 months (many employers allow you to do that).

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!

Steve Prziborowski, Fire Technology & EMS Coordinator - Chabot College

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:
<http://chabotde.clpccd.cc.ca.us/users/sprziborowski>

***** 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 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 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 and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.