

Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #1: Wednesday December 18, 2024

Good day Spring 2025 Fire Technology 1 Students,

I will be serving as your Fire Technology 1 Instructor this coming spring semester – and I look forward to meeting and working with each of you starting on Thursday January 23rd at 7 pm!

- This will be one of a number of emails I will send out up until the first day of class – Thursday January 23, 2025 at 7 pm.
- Before we go any further – realize I am here for you. I am here to teach you to be resourceful so you can be your own, best advocate. I'm here to do my part to attempt to set you up for success. To some, I may come across as blunt or abrupt or a matter of fact. Please do not take it personally as I never intend my communication to be such. I prefer to be honest, direct, and realistic, and not sugarcoat things – so as there are no surprises or confusion. The expectations will be as clear as they can be so that you know what you need to do to successfully pass this class and more importantly, move onto the next phases of your training and education – which are way, way tougher (EMT, Firefighter 1 Academy, Paramedic, Fire Department Recruit Academy, etc.)
 - *If for some reason you are taken aback or not sure how to interpret or just are a bit confused by some of my words within this or future emails or in class, please give me the benefit of the doubt by having a conversation with me to let me know your thoughts and concerns so I can do my best to address those thoughts and concerns and put you at ease.*
 - *Again, I am here for you and if you are considering having a career in the fire service, thick skin and not taking things personally or getting easily offended will help you succeed.*
- You should have received this email TWICE. Once in the personal email address you submitted to the college (if not, check your junk/spam folder), and secondly in your ZONEMAIL account. If you have no clue what ZONEMAIL is, it's the email address the college assigned you upon registration. If you have NOT yet been checking it, and/or do not regularly check it, I encourage you to do so. That way, you WON'T miss out on key information that MAY have landed in your personal email address junk/spam folder.
- Since there will be students registering every day from this point on, I will be sounding a bit redundant for those who registered early, so please bear with me as I try my best to ensure each of you are set up for success – not just this coming semester, but as you move forward into your chosen career path.
- A few people have reached out about what to do or bring for the first night class, or what to expect in class. I'll keep it simple for now:
 1. As for **you**, bring yourself, your positive **and** can-do attitude, your smile, and your willingness to learn. Bring your excellent communication skills (verbal, written and interpersonal), people skills and social skills. Also, bring your willingness to be an

Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #1: Wednesday December 18, 2024

active participant in our discussions, which includes being prepared for class in advance by doing your assigned reading (you'll know the first day the reading for the rest of the semester), and by actively researching the fire service.

- A. If you don't like asking questions, answering questions, paying attention, being focused on what we are discussing, you will probably not be successful. Nothing personal, just reality based on over 30 years of instructional experience at various colleges and fire departments.
 - B. If you are an introvert and/or maybe struggle with social and people skills, there is also a good chance you will struggle as mentioned above. I'm an introvert by nature, but I try my best to have good social and people skills. Just like if you're a loner and don't like team related activities, the fire service may not be a good fit for you. If you have NO idea what an introvert or extrovert is, please research.
 - C. Ultimately YOUR success will be due to your personal character traits – not just those above, but also:
 - your ability to UNDERSTAND and FOLLOW instructions
 - your ATTENTION TO DETAIL
 - your ability to COMPLETE items expected of you, on time and with an all-in effort
 - your ability to not just be on time, but to be EARLY so that YOU are not a distraction or interruption to the class after it has started. Additionally, being late may result in your missing key information that could be detrimental to your success.
2. As for **taking notes**, bring something to take notes on. A lot of key information will be shared at every session and some studies have shown humans typically only retain about 20% of what they hear (without taking notes). *If you are using an electronic device to take notes on, PLEASE REMIND ME so I don't think you're screwing off and not being engaged in our discussion.*
 3. As for **books**, ideally you would have them before the first night. There is a link on the main college website www.chabotcollege.edu for the bookstore and you can go by class to see what books are required. You don't need them the first night of class (so don't stress...), but by the second session on Thursday January 30, you will need them because we start assigning weekly quizzes in early February which will require the books.
 4. As for **classroom**, CLASS WEB is showing 1613 in building 1600. There is always the chance the class could be moved before the first day due to several factors. If moved, it's usually to the next building over, 1500, specifically room 1560 with the door facing the outside.
 5. As for **Canvas**, the online college portal we will be using for you to submit all your assignments and complete all of your quizzes – you will likely NOT have access

Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #1: Wednesday December 18, 2024

before the first night, since our Fire Technology Coordinator Bob Buell (who also teaches the Thursday morning FT 1 class) will likely be putting finishing touches on this semester's material while we are meeting January 23. You'll know more the first night as I will.

6. As for which classes will be **in person or on Zoom**, I will let you know the first night the majority of which will be which so you can plan. Please be flexible as other days may pop up during the semester which will cause us to change from in-person to Zoom as I travel every week and as we know, many factors can affect travel plans. The good news is we have the ability to go to Zoom to stay connected. When those situations occur, I'll send out an Announcement in Canvas which emails you.

As of now, the first two sessions (Thursday January 23 and Thursday January 30) will DEFINITELY be in person at Chabot due to the amount of information we need to discuss in person as those first two sessions really set the stage for the rest of class. So, if you are late OR miss either of those first two sessions, not only are you setting yourself up for failure since you'll be missing key information that can't easily be repeated, you'll also be violating your student contract (expectations), putting me in a position to have to hold you accountable by dropping you. Nothing personal of course, just business. If for some reason you are not able to attend in person the first or second session, you need to reach out to me A.S.A.P. with what better be life or death justification to miss for me to consider.

7. As for which **days** we meet: 3 people have already reached out a bit confused, apparently not being able to read and understand the CLASS WEB information. If you can't interpret the college schedule, I don't mean to sound mean, but you're going to have a problem navigating not just the information we cover in class, but in life. Again, please don't take that personally.
 - A. Per CLASS WEB, we meet EVERY Thursday night from 7 pm to 9:50 pm, unless it is school holiday per the college schedule.
 - B. We ALSO have two Saturday sessions, currently scheduled for February 1 and April 19, from 9 am to 4 pm. More details will be covered on the first night of class.

Thank you,
Steve

Steve Prziborowski

Fire Technology 1 Instructor / Webmaster - Chabot College Fire Technology Program
Deputy Chief (Ret.) - Santa Clara County Fire Department
(408) 205-9006 – Cellular
sprziborowski@aol.com
www.chabotfire.com