

## **Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #3: Sunday December 22, 2024**

Good Day Spring 2025 FT 1 Students,

First...my sincerest apologies for the email from December 20 addressing you as "Fall 2024." That's the problem with cutting and pasting from the last semester and I just violated one of my own items I regularly preach - attention to detail. I'm human. Won't be the first mistake, won't be the last.

*NOTES:*

- *As we continue through the semester, since a large portion of what we post is cut and pasted from the previous semester, there is ALWAYS the chance that an error on my part will occur.*
- *As I'll regularly share, if you see an error or just are questioning something like this that isn't making sense - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE bring it to my attention in writing (email, text) with the specifics so I can attempt to correct it.*
- *We all make mistakes, especially me. But if I don't know about one, I cannot fix or update it. And if you know of a mistake and you don't say something (see something, say something, do something), then some would say you're part of the problem - AND not part of the solution. Leadership is about being a part of the solution and not the problem.*

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As previously mentioned, you should have received the emails I sent on December 18, 2024 & December 20, 2024 twice – once in your personal email account and once in your Zonemail / Chabot email account.

If you have registered since then, just go to our website [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) and then go to the page titled "Fire Technology 1 - Spring 2025 Info." You'll see them archived there.

### **So for this email, there are 4 items I want to focus on:**

If you want to get hired in the fire service, in ANY position, you need to be aware of the available positions. If you're not actively searching, how will you know when and where to apply?

One way to find positions is to pay for one of the many subscription services out there. There are numerous ones, do your research and your homework. They can be very beneficial and save you a lot of time and effort in the long run.

Another way to find positions to apply for is to use two of the best **free** services:

#### **1. Government Jobs (a nationwide service) - [www.governmentjobs.com](http://www.governmentjobs.com)**

- Once there, I encourage you to click sign up to create an account so you can then start working on filling out your next application to apply for a position! Many fire

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departments use this service. This means if say Oakland Fire Department is using them when they next accept applications, this is how you would apply. You should also be able to set up notifications for positions you may be considering to apply for in the future.

- To see the hundreds of positions available, in the job title/keyword box, just type in “fire” and then in the city/state or zip box, just type in “California” and hundreds of positions will be shown to you – from fire cadet (volunteer positions to firefighter to dispatcher to fire chief.

### **2. CalOpps (a California specific service) – [www.calopps.org](http://www.calopps.org)**

- Once there, I encourage you to click sign up to create an account so you can then start working on filling out your next application to apply for a position! Just like with Government Jobs above, many fire departments also use this service, and this is how you would apply. You should also be able to set up notifications for positions you may be considering to apply for in the future.
- To see the positions available, in the search box, just type in “fire” a number of positions will be shown to you – from fire cadet (volunteer positions to firefighter to dispatcher to fire chief.

Now this may get a little confusing, but bear with me and we will be discussing the process of getting hired in the fire service almost every week in class.

Above I exposed you to two separate places to locate and apply for open positions.

There are also two additional methods many fire departments are using to have applicants apply for open positions and submit their application materials through:

### **3. National Testing Network (NTN) – [www.nationaltestingnetwork.com](http://www.nationaltestingnetwork.com)**

- While CalOpps and Government Jobs are just ways to apply for open positions, NTN is a portal to apply for open positions, but is also a way for fire departments to have applicants schedule a written examination (one of the steps to typically pass to become a firefighter). So, NTN also offers a written examination for fire departments to use as a screening tool. For example, when I was working at the Santa Clara County Fire Department, for a few years, we used NTN when we were hiring firefighters. This meant you applied through the NTN website, took the NTN written examination, and then we selected those we wanted to move forward to the oral interviews.
- I encourage you to familiarize yourself with their website and look at what some of the fire departments in California (or elsewhere) are going to expect of you to apply so you can start seeing what will be expected of you.

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- NTN as you will see offers NATIONWIDE positions, not just from California.

### **4. Fire Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) – [www.fctconline.org](http://www.fctconline.org)**

- Just like mentioned above, some departments may use CalOpps or Government Jobs or even NTN to have applicants apply for their positions. FCTC is another portal some fire departments use to have applicants apply for positions.
- FCTC has their own written test (just like NTN does), but also offers Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) testing. As you will learn in class, to become a firefighter, most departments will have you complete a written test and a physical ability test.
- On the FCTC website, you will see they have four (4) locations around California you can take the FCTC written test AND the CPAT. The closest location is Livermore, and you will see they have testing scheduled into 2025.
- One of the other benefits of FCTC is they have a “Statewide Eligibility List” you can apply to be placed onto. This allows fire departments looking to hire to have access to your application materials, including proof of your completion of the FCTC written test and the CPAT.

That’s all for now, enough to keep you all busy and focused.....

Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Steve

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