

Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #4: Thursday December 26, 2024

Good Day Spring 2025 FT 1 Students,

As previously mentioned, you should have received the emails I sent on December 18, 20, and 22, 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 and then go to the page titled “Fire Technology 1 Info - Spring 2025.” You’ll see them archived there.

The first night of class is four weeks from today!

Before we go any further, a couple students reached out a bit concerned about the amount of information they may be expected to grasp this semester, given what I have already shared with you. I guess they were doubting themselves and what they signed up for. Well, if you think the training to become a firefighter is easy (some do), you may be in for a little bit of a surprise as to what you’re getting into. If you have a good, positive and can-do attitude that is willing to learn, willing to do the hard work (study, research, do the assignments), make the effort, show up and actually do the work, as well as go above and beyond, then your odds for success will greatly increase (just like with anything else in life....).

Let me set the record straight:

- **I am NOT here to see you fail, make you fail, or try to overload you with useless information.** But like with every other class I’ve taught in almost 35 years, we will start with either a full class or a pretty full class AND then we will end the semester with a much smaller class. Not because of me – but because of those that give up, can’t handle the pressure, can’t handle the workload, and can’t handle balancing school, life, work, etc. There is NO shame in starting but not being able to complete the class this semester. Many, and I say many have had to hit the reset button at some point during the class (even up to the last day) – BUT did what they had to do to regroup and come back in a future semester, much better prepared for what was being asked of them.

Not trying to sound negative, just realistic....

- As we will discuss regularly in class, to be successful in this class, AND basically with everything else worth having in life, you must have solid / great skills related to time management, planning, preparation, budgeting, attention to detail, tenacity, conflict resolution, persistence, organization, and communication (oral, written and interpersonal), among many others we will regularly discuss throughout the class.
- **I AM here to do my part to set you up for success.** Obviously, I won’t spoon-feed you and cannot do YOUR work. You must do the work. However, I will do my part and my best to ensure you are set up for success upon departure from this class at the end of the semester. I can’t guarantee success for you or anyone. Nobody can, not even yourself. Meaning let’s say you want to be a major league baseball player. You’ve been the best high school baseball player on your team, get to college and kick butt and then there is

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still a chance you never even get drafted; even if you're drafted and smoke the minor leagues, there is still a chance you never make the big leagues let alone have a successful career, even when you are trying your best.

.....Sometimes it's about timing, luck, opportunity and just stuff (or life) that happens. It's reality.

But....your odds for success obviously increase when you take advantage of what is given to you such as in this case, the information I'm sharing with you based on my experience and lessons learned.

As previously mentioned, you should have received the emails I sent on December 18, December 20 & December 22, 2024 twice – once in your personal email account and once in your Zonemail / Chabot email account.

- As we will be discussing almost weekly, there are certain skills we ALL need to be proficient in, with some of the key ones being planning and organizational skills. Meaning, please take the time to ensure you have an attention to detail when reviewing each email I send out so you don't miss any key details you may be able to benefit from.

So for this email, there are 3 items I want to focus on:

ITEM #1:

Television Shows & Movies related to the fire service:

There are several television shows and movies related to the fire service you should be aware of, so that you can have an educated conversation once you are on the job, and so that you can learn more about the career you are considering. Now, you also must realize that most (if not all) television shows and movies, while as realistic as they may be, are not 100% accurate. I will try my best to share and discuss those nuances in class as we go through the semester.

- Here is an article that calls out what the authors believe to be the 16 best television shows that are available on various outlets (streaming, YouTube, network television, internet, etc.): <https://www.cbr.com/best-firefighter-tv-shows-imdb/>

Of those, the one (#7 on the list in the link above) that probably is most talked about and has probably had the most influence on many on the job was Emergency, or Squad 51 as some called it. Emergency was based with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and really set the stage for today in regard to paramedics on fire apparatus providing emergency medical care outside of the hospital.

- Here is an article that calls out what the authors believe to be the 7 best movies related to the fire service: <https://www.firerescue1.com/entertainment/articles/the-7-best-firefighting-movies-of-all-time-PuEpoIbhL4qYFiZJ/>

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Again, besides learning more about the fire service, by at least watching these, you will also not look like an idiot when a firefighter asks you a question like “what did you think about Backdraft?” The last thing you want to say is “what the heck is Backdraft?”

ITEM #2:

For those that think being a government employee doesn't pay well, think again....

Yes, a firefighter is a governmental employee (well most are – there are a few firefighters working for private fire departments, but those numbers are small when it comes to career positions). Some firefighters are local government employees (such as working for the City of Hayward Fire Department), some are county government employees (such as working for the Alameda County Fire Department), some are state government employees (such as working for CAL FIRE), and some are federal government employees (such as working for the United States Forest Service).

In class we will talk about the differences and pros and cons of each. But the ones that usually have the best pay and benefit packages are those that typically work for local governments or county governments, or special districts (like my former department Santa Clara County Fire Department, or the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, or the Moraga-Orinda Fire District).

In today's world of “transparent government,” one of the requirements is to make public salaries of ALL governmental employees, including firefighters. Most of the newspapers usually publish these once a year.

- Here is a recent article from the San Francisco Chronicle showing the salaries and benefits of San Francisco employees (including firefighters) – you will see with overtime, some are making \$500,000 or more: https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2024/san-francisco-employee-pay/?sid=53b5ef6d9dbcd4ac640004bf&ss=A&st_rid=be418bfb-74a4-4035-b1c7-511cbb6ce92a&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=feature&utm_campaign=sfcn%20%7C%20editorial%20features
- There is a website Transparent California that you can do some research on how much firefighters or other governmental employees have made in past years. This is all legal and should be transparent since we are paid by tax dollars: <https://transparentcalifornia.com/>

But as we will discuss in class, please DO NOT become a firefighter for:

1. The money or benefits (\$100,000 plus in the bay area plus usually unlimited overtime).
2. The great schedule (usually 10 days a month).

The money and benefits can and do change, and the great schedule can also change for the better or the worse. We will discuss pros and cons of being a firefighter.

ITEM #3:

Additional FCTC & CPAT Info:

In the December 22, 2024 email, item #4 referenced the Fire Candidate Testing Center (FCTC), which has a statewide eligibility list to sign up for, an FCTC written test to take, and the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) testing they offer at four locations throughout the state, the closest being Livermore.

Below is one of their recent email updates so you can build upon the information I shared and to start learning more about what they offer and how by being on their statewide list, taking the CPAT and taking the FCTC written test can make you a more prepared candidate to be able to successfully apply at more fire departments.

Trouble viewing this email? [Read it online](#)



FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATE TESTING CENTER

Hiring Continues for California
Fire Departments!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- CPAT - Saturday, December 21, 2024 - South El Monte
- CPAT - Thursday, January 9, 2025 - Livermore
- CPAT - Thursday, January 9, 2025 - South El Monte
- Written - Saturday, January 11, 2025 - Livermore
- Written Test Prep Class - Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - Sacramento
- CPAT - Friday, January 17, 2025 - San Diego County
- Written - Friday, January 17, 2025 - Fresno
- Written - Friday, January 17, 2025 - Oxnard
- CPAT - Saturday, January 18, 2025 - Sacramento
- CPAT - Saturday, January 18, 2025 - South El Monte

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Written Test Prep Class - Wednesday, January 22, 2025 - South El Monte
Written - Thursday, January 23, 2025 - Sacramento
CPAT - Thursday, January 23, 2025 - South El Monte
Written - Friday, January 24, 2025 - Burbank
CPAT - Saturday, January 25, 2025 - Livermore

The following departments are currently recruiting with filing deadlines or will soon be [accepting applications](#). Applicants must be active on the FCTC's Statewide Eligibility List (SEL) to be considered:

- Ebbetts Pass Fire District (Firefighter/Paramedic Recruit)
- Monterey County Regional Fire District (Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Mountain View Fire Department (Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District (Firefighter/Paramedic Trainee)
- Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department (Firefighter) - EXTENDED
- San Francisco Fire Department (Firefighter) - EXTENDED

The following departments have positions that are open until filled or [continuously hire](#) from the **FCTC's Statewide Eligibility List (SEL)** :

- Barstow Fire District (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Cathedral City Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Colton Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- El Dorado County Fire Protection District (Firefighter and Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Georgetown Fire Protection District (Firefighter/EMT and Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Gilroy Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Humboldt Bay Fire Department (Firefighter)
- Kelseyville Fire District (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Marinwood Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Redwood City Fire Department (Firefighter and Firefighter/Engineer)
- Rio Vista Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- San Rafael Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- South Lake Tahoe Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Suisun City Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Ukiah Fire Department (Firefighter/EMT and Firefighter/Paramedic)

The following departments are currently hiring for the positions below that do ***not*** require placement on the FCTC Statewide Eligibility List (SEL), but

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do **require** the Cal-JAC Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT):

- CAL FIRE
- Central Marin (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Foresthill Fire District (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Northshore Fire Protection District (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Sonoma Valley Fire District (Firefighter/Paramedic)
- Sonora Fire Department (Fire Engineer)
- Tiburon Fire District (Firefighter Trainee and Firefighter/Paramedic)

Check the [Now Hiring](#) section of the FCTC website regularly to view current, upcoming and ongoing recruitment opportunities. Visit FCTOnline.org to view and schedule upcoming CPAT and Written Tests, apply for financial aid and view study materials.



Firefighter Candidate Testing Center
1780 Creekside Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833
(877) 648-2728 | fctc@cpf.org | fctconline.org

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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

Steve Prziborowski

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www.chabotfire.com

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