

## **Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #8: Friday January 10, 2025**

Good Day Spring 2025 FT 1 Students,

As previously mentioned, you should have received the emails I sent on December 18, 20, 22, 26, 29, 2024, January 2 and 5, 2025 twice – once in your personal email account and once in your Zonemail / Chabot email account.

**If you have registered since then or did not receive the emails, just go to our website [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) and then go to the page titled “Fire Technology 1 Info - Spring 2025.” You’ll see them archived there.**

Archiving them on chabotfire.com will hopefully make it easier for me and for you as I send out additional emails in the future since I plan to do the same once each “New” email is sent out. Once the semester starts, information like is found in these emails will instead be in the form of “Announcements” in Canvas.

**For this email, there are 2 items I want to focus on:**

1. Various career related opportunities to consider.
2. The recent wildfires in Southern California.

### **ITEM #1:**

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One of the things you’ll continuously hear me say in class is “you can’t get hired as a firefighter, unless you start applying for positions you qualify for NOW.” If you haven’t figured it out by now, we don’t offer job placement services. That’s on you. I will do my best to guide you in the right direction of how to apply, where to apply, etc., you need to do the hard work – actually take the time to locate positions AND then take the time to fill out the applications.

So, here are a couple positions to investigate and consider:

- A. The **Santa Clara County Fire Department** (my former fire department I retired from in December of 2021), is accepting applications for the following positions:
  - a. Hand Crew Member
  - b. Administrative Assistant

Go to: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sccfd?>

As of now, if you take the time to research what is be asked in the way of qualifications, I bet most of you will qualify right now to apply. Before you say “I want to be a firefighter,” not one of those positions – realize MANY personnel around the country have gotten a foot in the door in “non-firefighter positions” and then after demonstrating they were good people with a good work ethic, when the dream firefighter position at that department opened up, they were not given the job, but they had a great chance to get the job of their dreams. For example, one of our firefighters was hired as an Administrative Assistant, did that position for a couple years while also taking his EMT and some fire technology classes and waiting for our firefighter testing to open up. Well once it opened, since he already knew most if not all department members, and since he was a person that

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was always someone nice to be around, with a positive attitude, with a great work ethic, he scored high enough on the oral interviews the then promote to firefighter. He took the Administrative Assistant position as a foot in the door and it worked for him.

- B. As you may know **CAL FIRE**, is a state agency providing fire protection for state responsibility area (SRA) - as opposed to city fire departments like Hayward that provide fire protection for local responsibility area (LRA). CAL FIRE has mostly seasonal employees in their Firefighter positions (Captains and Fire Apparatus Engineer positions are full-time positions that usually do training in winter when it is not fire season, as well as maintenance on facilities and other related duties).

Traditionally EVERY November 1, CAL FIRE opens up their application period for the next fire season hiring (fire season used to be typically April to about October but as you can see now – fire season is virtually year-round...). They usually accept applications throughout November, sometimes into December and January and even later if they don't get enough people applying and/or that meet their needs. I encourage you to go to their website and look more into the position – it's a GREAT WAY to make some money, and start building valuable experience for your resume and to use to your advantage during your oral interview for career firefighter positions. MANY current city and county firefighters across the state started out as CAL FIRE seasonal firefighters.

Go to: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/join-calfire/seasonal-firefighter>

CAL FIRE is also not in EVERY California county. There are six counties in California without CAL FIRE presence (facilities or personnel); those are known as "Contract Counties," and are Marin (the only one up in Northern California), Los Angeles, Orange, Kern, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Basically in those contract counties, CAL FIRE actually pays those respective county fire departments (Marin, Los Angeles, Orange, Kern, Santa Barbara and Ventura) to offset the costs of providing that additional level of wildland response in the form of hand crews, aircraft and/or helicopters, bull dozers, water tenders, type 3 and/or 6 wildland fire engines, etc. It doesn't mean CAL FIRE cannot or will not respond to assist when a fire occurs in those six counties (they will).

As a prospective firefighter, to keep on your radar screen is that those six county fire departments ALSO hire seasonal firefighters every year, and could be a great way to get a foot in the door with those respective fire departments.

For example.....

- C. **Orange County Fire Authority** appears to be accepting applications continuously for Hand Crew Firefighter (their version of Seasonal Firefighter):  
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ocfa>

**WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE - GO FOR IT!!**

**ITEM #2:**

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I sure hope you've been paying attention to the tragic wildfires occurring in Southern California, specifically Los Angeles County. This will affect you in several ways – in your personal and your professional life. Obviously more so when you become a firefighter. If you haven't paid much attention, please take the time to do so. Every class I try to discuss current events (especially large-scale disasters and emergencies) that affect the fire service and how you may be impacted. Last semester we discussed a lot about the Florida hurricanes and how it impacts public safety and emergency responders, as well as the communities involved.

Below are some links with some information to learn more about the devastation and the challenges those firefighters (and the firefighters from Northern California and other parts who have responded via our mutual aid system) are facing:

*Here is one of the most up-to-date ones on the status of all the fires occurring in the Los Angeles area:* <https://www.firerescue1.com/wildfire-and-wildland-urban-interface/over-10-000-structures-destroyed-as-firefighters-make-gains-on-socal-wildfires>

*Los Angeles 'not prepared' for size, growth of raging wildfires:*  
<https://abc7news.com/post/los-angeles-not-prepared-size-growth-raging-wildfires-fire-chief/15779557/>

*Orange County Fire Chief Brian Fennessey spoke to Fox news to report that California wildfires are shaping up to be a big problem:* <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6366801150112>

*Megyn Kelly blasts the woke Los Angeles Fire Chief for focusing on diversity as opposed to preparing for disaster:*  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14264435/Megyn-Kelly-blasts-Los-angeles-female-fire-chief-focusing-diversity-wildfire-kristin-crowley.html>

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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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