

Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #10: Thursday January 16, 2025

Good Day Spring 2025 FT 1 Students,

As previously mentioned, you should have received (**AND READ**) the 10 emails (and the draft Syllabus and Student Contract) I sent on December 18, 20, 22, 26, 29, 2024, January 2, 5, 10 and 13, 2025 twice – once in your personal email account and once in your Zonemail / Chabot email account.

All of the above are archived on our website www.chabotfire.com - on the page titled “Fire Technology 1 Info - Spring 2025.”

For this email, there are three (3) items I want to focus on:

1. First day items for Thursday January 23, 2025 at 7 pm (1900 hours)
2. Start thinking of questions to ask throughout the semester.
3. A request to get you thinking and to help us both out on the first class.

ITEM #1:

We are less than one week away from the first day of class!

Please take the time (especially if you’ve never been to Chabot) to:

- ensure you know how to get there, leaving adequate time for evening traffic (which is worse since the holidays are over and because many companies are reducing/eliminating work from home options).
- ensure you know where to park (if driving).
- ensure you know where to go (right now Class Web shows classroom 1613 in building 1600).
- ensure you have something to write with and write on as many key things will be said and may not be repeated.
- ensure you dress appropriately. Someone asked about a dress code – there is none, as long as what you are wearing is not offensive to anyone. Classrooms can either be too cold or too hot, depending on a number of factors, so keep that in mind when deciding what to wear.
- ensure you find a good seat (obviously the later you arrive, the less seat options you have – and it will get very tight given the number of students and the number of seats available).

Most importantly – be in class seated and ready to go BEFORE class begins so you are not “that person” that causes a distraction and loses out on key information that could be critical to your success.

Failure to show up at the first, class will result in you putting me in a position to drop you for a few reasons: there are numerous people who have expressed an interest to add and have been told to show up and take their chances if someone fails to show they will get their spot, you miss out on too much critical information that just cannot be easily repeated, and because every semester across the college, there are potentially fraudulent enrollees that need to be removed as soon as possible to not cause any interruption to the rest of the class who is here ready to learn.

Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - EMAIL #10: Thursday January 16, 2025

ITEM #2:

Questions? I know you have some. I hope you have some. I want to hear them so I can answer them for you and for others as chances are many have similar questions. If you don't have any questions, I'm concerned you don't care or don't want to learn and gain knowledge. If you don't have any, start thinking of some.

- Start thinking about what questions you may have about what Chabot has to offer and about a career in the fire service.

Bob Buell, our Fire Technology Coordinator is the BEST and MOST APPROPRIATE person to answer college specific questions because he is the most knowledge one and has the most up-to-date knowledge. He tries to show up on the first night, but you won't get to really see him Thursday nights because of his commitments at the Academy and other classes. He can be hard to track down, so make sure you take advantage of his time in person when you can.

- If you have any, **Chabot College specific questions** related to the Academy itself, getting into the Academy, prerequisites, other classes, etc., this first class will probably be the best to hit him up with those questions so ALL in the class can benefit.
- About the only other day you'll see Bob for any length of time (unless you take one of his classes), is the FIRST Saturday session on February 1 when we are over at the Hayward Fire Department/Chabot College Training Center getting exposed to an example of a physical ability test.

For questions **related to this class (FT 1), and the career itself**, I can and will obviously assist you throughout the semester.

ITEM #3:

Please reply to this email with the answers to the following 3 questions by Wednesday January 22, 2025 at 11:59 pm:

1. **Your name and how you want to be addressed in class (if different than your name) when I take roll and interact with you.** *Also include any special pronunciation tips so we don't embarrass each other.*

For example, my real first name is Stephen, but I go by Steve. Some have asked how to address me: Mister? Steve? Prziborowski? Captain? Chief? Good question that is always the right thing to do. Ask when in doubt to not be disrespectful or rude. Feel free to call me Steve, Chief, or Chief Prziborowski. Don't call me Captain because that would demote me to a previous rank I was in before getting promoted to Chief Officer. I don't really like Mister or Mister Prziborowski because it's too formal and that's not how you would address someone in the fire service.

You will typically address fire officers (company officers and chief officers) by rank.

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- Company officers are usually captains or lieutenants in charge of a fire company – engine, truck, rescue, etc.; while chief officers could be the rank of battalion chief, division chief, assistant chief, deputy chief or fire chief.

For those positions, you typically address them as Captain Buell (Bob Buell’s last rank that he retired at from the Alameda Fire Department), or in my case, Chief Prziborowski since my last rank was deputy chief.

My last name is pronounced “Priz – bor – ow – ski” in case you wonder.

For the ranks of firefighter and engineer (the driver), since those are not considered to be fire officers and who do not supervise anyone, you typically don’t say Firefighter Smith or Engineer Jones. First names are most often used for firefighters and engineers.

- 2. What type of fire service position are you interested in achieving to start out with and maybe in the future at some point?**

Obviously, I don’t expect you to have a crystal ball for the future, but what type of position are you aspiring to achieve? There are no wrong or right answers. Many of you may want to become firefighters, some may want to eventually promote through the ranks to the positions of company officer or chief officer, some may choose other related positions such as in the fire prevention bureau, a fire investigator, a dispatcher, an instructor, etc.

- 3. One (1) thing you hope or expect to get out of Fire Technology 1 when the semester concludes in May of 2025.**
- 4. Not required – but feel free to also provide any questions you may be thinking of so I can start putting together answers that I can share with the entire class since the rest of the class will probably be able to also benefit from hearing the answers to questions some might also have.**

Please use 1, 2, 3 and 4 (if adding 4) when replying, so I know you’re following instructions and so I can easily determine those 3 or 4 items to ultimately better serve you this semester.

I don’t need a dissertation – a sentence or two for each should suffice. Let’s see how well you can follow instructions, which will be one of the keys to your success as I’ll continuously suggest.

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

Thank you,
Steve

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