

January 20, 2025

Welcome to the Chabot College Fire Technology 1 class! As the gateway class to get you pointed in the right direction, I want to welcome you and give you an overview of what to expect this semester and beyond.

You are about to embark on one of the most challenging and rewarding journeys of your life. As your instructor and facilitator, it is my duty and privilege to welcome you and guide you as you take your first steps toward a career in the fire service – a career built on courage, discipline and unwavering commitment to serve.

This class and this entire program is designed to push you beyond your limits: physically, mentally, and emotionally. It is NOT for the faint of heart, nor for those unwilling to give their all. Every lecture, every drill in classes that require hands-on skills completion, every moment will prepare you for the realities of a profession where lives depend on your skills, judgment, and resilience.

I will be clear: we demand excellence, not perfection. You will make mistakes, and when you do, we will use them as opportunities to learn and grow. However, complacency, laziness, or lack of respect for this profession or your fellow students will not be tolerated. You are training to be a part of a brotherhood and sisterhood that requires nothing less than your full dedication and respect.

That said, you are not alone in this journey. You will find comradery in your peers and guidance from our experienced instructors, all of whom have walked the path you now face. Together, we will forge you into the kind of firefighter the public can trust with their lives and safety.

This class and future classes (especially EMT, the Firefighter 1 Academy, paramedic school should you choose to also go down that road, and ultimately a fire department recruit academy) will challenge you, but it will also reward you in ways you cannot yet imagine. The knowledge and skills you will gain, the values you uphold, and the relationships you build here will stay with you for a lifetime.

As you prepare to begin, I encourage you to reflect on why you chose this path. Let that purpose drive you forward, especially on the tough days. Be prepared to work hard, to learn, and to grow. Most importantly, come ready to prove to yourself and others that you have what it takes to earn the rank of firefighter.

The fire service needs individuals who are not just willing to serve but determined to excel. I trust you will rise to meet this challenge with honor, integrity, and grit.

Welcome to Fire Technology 1. Let's get to work!

Respectfully,

Steve Prziborowski
Fire Technology 1 Instructor