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Subject: Chabot College Fire Technology 1 - Fall 2025 Information - Email #8
Date: July 28, 2025 at 8:00 AM
To: sprziborowski@aol.com



Good Day Fall 2025 FT 1 Students,

We are 3 weeks away from the first night of class!

I will be serving as your Fire Technology 1 Instructor this coming fall semester – and I look forward to meeting and working with each of you starting on Monday August 18th at 7 pm!

Hopefully you have taken some quality time to digest and learn from the previous **SEVEN** emails I sent out (that are archived as shown below), this email, and the next emails I will send out before class starts.

NOTE:

If you just registered OR have registered but have NOT received those previous SEVEN emails (July 24, July 20, July 17, July 14, July 2, June 19 and June 17), please go to our website www.chabotfire.com and go to the page “**Fire Technology 1 – Fall 2025 Information**” as they are archived there.

- *You should have received each twice. Why twice? Once to your personal email AND once to your Chabot College (Zonemail) email account.*
- *If you haven't checked your Zonemail account lately (or at all), please do so as you may be missing important information.*
- *If you haven't received them in your personal email, check your junk/spam – something you should be doing regularly as you may be missing key emails that could be buried within the garbage found there.*

1. **Before we go any further – realize I am here for YOU:**

- A. I am here to teach you to be resourceful so you can be your own, best advocate. I'm here to do my part to attempt to set you up for success. To some, I may come across as blunt or abrupt or a matter of fact. Please do not take it personally as I never intend my communication to be such. I prefer to be honest, direct, and realistic, and not sugarcoat things – so as there are no surprises or confusion. The expectations will be as clear as they can be so that you know what you need to do to successfully pass this class and more importantly, move onto the next phases of your training and education – which are way, way tougher (EMT, Firefighter 1 Academy, Paramedic, Fire Department Recruit Academy, etc.)
- B. *If for some reason you are taken aback or not sure how to interpret or just are a bit confused by some of my words within this or future emails or in class, please give me the benefit of the doubt by having a conversation with me to let me know your thoughts and concerns so I can do my best to address those thoughts and concerns and put you at ease. This is called chain of command, a term you will learn in class that is a staple at every fire department.*
- C. *Again, I am here for you and if you are considering having a career in the fire service, thick skin and not taking things personally or getting easily offended will*

help you succeed.

2. **A few people have reached out about what to do or bring for the first night class, or what to expect in class. I'll keep it simple for now:**

- A. As for **you**, bring yourself, your positive **AND** can-do attitude, your smile, and your willingness to learn. Bring your excellent communication skills (verbal, written and interpersonal), people skills and social skills. Also, bring your willingness to be an active participant in our discussions, which includes being prepared for class in advance by doing your assigned reading (you'll know the first day the reading for the rest of the semester), and by actively researching the fire service.
- B. If you don't like asking questions, answering questions, paying attention, being focused on what we are discussing, you may struggle – not just in class, but in life and on the job. Nothing personal, just reality based on over 30 years of instructional experience at various colleges and fire departments.
- C. If you are an introvert and/or maybe struggle with social and people skills (which unfortunately is common), there is also a good chance you may struggle as mentioned above. I'm an introvert by nature, but I try my best to have good social and people skills. Just like if you're a loner and don't like team related activities, the fire service may not be a good fit for you. If you have NO idea what an introvert or extrovert is, please research as it is critical for you to know what type of personality you have so you can best navigate through your personal and professional life.
- D. Ultimately YOUR success will be due to your personal character traits – not just those above, but also:
- your ability to UNDERSTAND and FOLLOW instructions.
 - your ATTENTION TO DETAIL.
 - your ability to COMPLETE items expected of you, on time and with an all-in effort.
 - your ability to not just be on time, **but to be EARLY** so that YOU are not a distraction or interruption to the class after it has started. Additionally, being late may result in your missing key information that could be detrimental to your success.
- E. As for **taking notes**, bring something to take notes on. A lot of key information will be shared at every session, and some studies have shown humans typically only retain about 20% of what they hear (without taking notes). *If you are using an electronic device to take notes on, **PLEASE REMIND ME** so I don't think you're distracted on your technology and not being engaged in our discussion.*
- F. As for **books**, ideally you will have them before the first night. There is a link on the main college website www.chabotcollege.edu for the bookstore and you can go by class to see what books are required. You don't need them the first night of class (so

don't stress....), but by the second session on Thursday August 25, you will need them because we start assigning weekly quizzes in early September which will require the books.

- G. As for **classroom**, CLASS WEB is showing 1613 in building 1600. There is always the chance the class could be moved before the first day due to several factors.
- H. As for **Canvas**, the online college portal we will be using for you to submit ALL your assignments and complete all of your quizzes – you will NOT have access before the first night, since our Fire Technology Coordinator Bob Buell (who also teaches the Monday morning FT 1 class) will likely be putting finishing touches on this semester's material while we are meeting that first night or at least up until our first meeting since he has his first session that morning with the same material. You'll know more the first night as I will.
- I. As for which classes will be **in person or on Zoom**, I will let you know the first or second Monday night the majority of which will be on Zoom so you can plan. Please be flexible as other days may pop up during the semester which will cause us to change from in-person to Zoom as I travel every week and as we know, many factors can affect travel plans. The good news is we can go to Zoom to stay connected. When those situations occur, I'll send out an Announcement in Canvas which should then send you an email. In person OR Zoom sessions will also be referenced in Canvas in the Syllabus section and each weekly module.
- J. The first two sessions (Monday August 18 and Monday August 25) will DEFINITELY be in person at Chabot due to the amount of information we need to discuss in person as those first two sessions really set the stage for the rest of class. So, if you are late OR miss either of those first two sessions, not only are you setting yourself up for failure since you'll be missing key information that can't easily be repeated, you'll also be violating your student contract (expectations), putting me in a position to have to hold you accountable by dropping you. Nothing personal of course, just business. If for some reason you cannot attend in person the first or second session, you need to reach out to me A.S.A.P. with what better be life or death justification to miss for me to consider, so I can let you know if that will be acceptable or not.
- K. As for which **days** we meet: 2 people have already reached out a bit confused, apparently not being able to read and understand the CLASS WEB information. If you can't interpret the college schedule, I don't mean to sound mean, but you're going to have a problem navigating not just the information we cover in class, but in life. Again, please don't take that personally.
- Per CLASS WEB, we meet EVERY Monday night from 7 pm to 9:50 pm, unless it is school holiday per the college schedule (as will also be referenced in Canvas).
 - We ALSO have two Saturday sessions, currently scheduled for September 6 and April 19, from 9 am to 4 pm. More details will be covered on the first night of class. These are NOT mandatory but will count towards time missed (which

CLASS. THESE ARE NOT mandatory but will count towards time missed (which there is a maximum per college policy as is shown in your student contract), and of course, you'll miss out on valuable information.

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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