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Subject: Chabot College - Fire Technology 1 Class Info for Spring 2026: Email #3
Date: December 30, 2025 at 6:51 PM
To: sprziborowski@aol.com



Good Day Spring 2026 Fire Technology 1 Students,

And those on the wait list and/or hoping to get on the wait list....

We are 3 weeks away from the start of the spring semester and I hope this finds you doing well. I will be sending out additional emails, but for now don't stress about anything regarding the Fire Technology class, especially about what to do before or what to bring the first night of class – Thursday January 22, 2026, at 7 pm.

I will cover more as we get closer.

For now, please just take some time to digest and learn from the previous **two** emails I sent out, 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 two emails (December 18 and December 26), please go to our website www.chabotfire.com and to the page "Fire Technology 1 – Spring 2026 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.*

There are 4 items I want to focus on in this email:

ITEM #1:

GETTING THE BADGE OF YOUR DREAMS!

If you want to get hired in the fire service, in ANY position, you need to be aware of the available positions. If you're not actively searching, how will you know when and where to apply?

One way to find positions is to pay for one of the many subscription services out there, one of which is www.firecareers.com. I don't get paid to endorse them - they are a service I paid for 30 plus years ago when I was testing to become a firefighter as they seemed to be the best and I think they still are. There are numerous ones, do your research and your homework. They can be very beneficial and save you a lot of time and effort in the long run.

Another way to find positions to apply for is to use ALL three of the best **FREE** services:

1. Government Jobs (a nationwide service) - www.governmentjobs.com

- Once there, I encourage you to click sign up to create an account so you can then start working on filling out your next application to apply for a position! Many fire departments use this service. This means if say Oakland Fire Department is using them when they next accept applications, this is how you would apply. You should also be able to set up notifications for positions you may be considering to apply for in the future.
- To see the hundreds of positions available, in the job title/keyword box, just type in "fire" and then in the city/state or zip box, just type in "California" and hundreds of positions will be shown to you – from fire cadet (volunteer positions to firefighter to dispatcher to fire chief.

2. CalOpps (a California specific service) – www.calopps.org

- Once there, I encourage you to click sign up to create an account so you can then start working on filling out your next application to apply for a position! Just like with Government Jobs above, many fire departments also use this service, and this is how you would apply. You should also be able to set up notifications for positions you may be considering applying for in the future.
- To see the positions available, in the search box, just type in “fire” several positions will be shown to you – from fire cadet (volunteer positions to firefighter to dispatcher to fire chief.

3. Careers in Government (a Nationwide service) – www.careersingovernment.com

Now this may get a little confusing but bear with me and we will be discussing the process of getting hired in the fire service almost every week in class.

Above I exposed you to three separate FREE places to locate and apply for open positions.

There are also two additional methods many fire departments are using to have applicants apply for open positions and submit their application materials through:

4. National Testing Network (NTN) – www.nationaltestingnetwork.com

- While CalOpps and Government Jobs are just ways to apply for open positions, NTN is a portal to apply for open positions, but is also a way for fire departments to have applicants schedule a written examination (one of the steps to typically pass to become a firefighter). So, NTN also offers a written examination for fire departments to use as a screening tool. For example, when I was working at the Santa Clara County Fire Department, for a few years, we used NTN when we were hiring firefighters. This meant you applied through the NTN website, took the NTN written examination, and then we selected those we wanted to move forward to the oral interviews.
- I encourage you to familiarize yourself with their website and look at what some of the fire departments in California (or elsewhere) are going to expect of you to apply so you can start seeing what will be expected of you.
- NTN as you will see offers NATIONWIDE positions, not just from California.

5. Fire Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) – www.fctconline.org

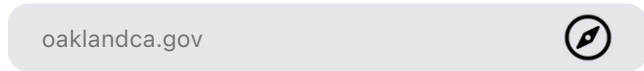
- Just like mentioned above, some departments may use CalOpps or Government Jobs or even NTN to have applicants apply for their positions. FCTC is another portal some fire departments use to have applicants apply for positions.
- FCTC has their own written test (just like NTN does), but also offers Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) testing. As you will learn in class, to become a firefighter, most departments will have you complete a written test and a physical ability test.
- On the FCTC website, you will see they have four (4) locations around California you can take the FCTC written test AND the CPAT. The closest location is Livermore, and you will see they have testing scheduled many months ahead.
- One of the other benefits of FCTC is they have a “Statewide Eligibility List” you can apply to be placed onto. This allows fire departments looking to hire to have access to your application materials, including proof of your completion of the FCTC written test and the CPAT.

ITEM #2:

The Oakland Fire Department (OFD) is accepting applications January 5 through 11, 2026. You do NOT need your EMT to apply. I encourage ALL of you to fully review the link below as it contains valuable information that is applicable to the hiring process and that we will be discussing in class to better

information that is applicable to the hiring process and that we will be discussing in class to better prepare you for a career in the fire service.

When you click the below link, you'll see a lot of blue web links. Either scroll down OR to make it easier, just click the box at the very top left titled "SKIP TO MAIN CONTENT." That will take you to the Oakland Fire Department recruitment and hiring process information:



When you read the information on the above website link, you will see that the OFD is using National Testing Network (as mentioned above) for their written test. They are also requiring a current CPAT card that you can obtain at one of the Fire Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) locations mentioned above.

ITEM #3:

The Marin County Fire Department is hosting some upcoming Zoom sessions to provide information on their upcoming Seasonal Firefighter hiring process in January 2026.

- Taken from the Marin County Fire Department Instagram page: @marincountyfire:

Interested in joining our team?

Take the first step toward a seasonal career in the fire service by joining one of the Department's upcoming online information sessions. These interactive Zoom sessions give you the chance to ask questions and gain insight into the culture and responsibilities of the Department's seasonal positions.

Whether you are just beginning a career in the fire service or continuing to grow professionally, seasonal opportunities provide a meaningful pathway to gain hands-on experience, develop skills through mentorship, and contribute as a vital member of the team by delivering critical services to local and state communities.

Upcoming Zoom Information Sessions:

- 17 January 11 at 11:00 a.m.
- 17 January 12 at 5:30 p.m.
- 17 January 14 at 12:00 p.m.

Register today using the link in our bio. Applications open January 25, 2026, on GovernmentJobs.com. For questions, please contact FirePersonnel@marincounty.gov

ITEM #4:

As mentioned in Item #1 above, you cannot get hired if you do NOT even take the time to research openings and then actually apply for those openings. A must for today is to take advantage of all five of those items I mentioned above, and consider adding a paid service to ensure you don't miss any opportunities to apply as many departments only accept applications once every few years.

Even if you don't qualify (now), start looking at EVERY job announcement like these so you can start learning about different departments, what departments are looking for to apply, the benefits they offer, the different hiring process items (such as oral interview, written examination, etc.) they will make you go through to get a job offer.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE TO LOOK INTO THESE POSITIONS & APPLY IF YOU MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS!!!!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Take care,
Steve

Steve Prziborowski

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