



## ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**November 2005**

**Volume 4 – Issue 5**

**W**elcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! Some of the highlights of this issue include:

- A story from a responder that went to assist with the Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts!
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, NV!
- Volunteers needed around the Bay Area – EMS classes
- This month's written examination testing tips, courtesy of the Don McNea Fire School!
- FREE Firefighter Preparation Seminars at Chabot College!
- Volunteer/Community Service – what are you doing?
- Seasonal Firefighter employment opportunity – California Department of Forestry!

***A STORY TO SHARE FROM ONE OF THE RESPONDERS WHO  
WENT TO LOUISIANA TO ASSIST WITH THE HURRICANE  
KATRINA EFFORTS:***

**T**he following information is provided courtesy of Phill Queen, retired Captain with the Hayward Fire Department. Phill sent this email to me to apprise me and a number of others of his activities in Louisiana in September, while assisting with the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. If nothing else, one person's interesting and educational account of what he witnessed and experienced.

Hey Y'all:

Hope things are good.

Just got back from the disaster area after an interesting trip. Some of the guys are still in the area working hard. The house we had been staying in got destroyed and the firefighters in Cameron lost 100% of their homes. 80% in New Orleans, 50% in Biloxi and 100% in St. Bernard. All of Hacberry, Grand Lakes and Holy Beach got destroyed. We spent a lot of time in the Slidell area with the St. Tammany fire department. The Chief lost his home and him and his family along with the entire fire department and family was eating and taking showers at the command post in Lacombe. The Fish and Wildlife set up a IMT the day after the storm and then

got approval for pay from FEMA later. A lot of departments had been way behind on setting up while waiting for red tape to be cut.

We got in two weeks after the storm and the firefighters had been wearing the same cloths since the storm hit. Even then the firefighters would only except one or two items at a time until everyone had the basic needs.

On the second day we supplied everyone with enough cloths for a week at a time. The female firefighters got money and we took them shopping. We went into Waveland Mississippi on the 3rd day and found one station standing. Found a fire department from West Virginia setting on a cement pad that was the fire station. Found another station and all the firefighters were there with families living at the station. We started giving out uniforms and cloths when we got robbed the first time. We had weapons with us but we didn't think we should shoot someone over a pair of socks. Found our way to the Hancock County volunteer fire department that had nothing standing except a metal barn. They were washing cloths on the bay floor. We had been the first ones they have seen in two weeks that was delivering supplies. We gave them food and water and cloths. We saw no one from FEMA, Red Cross or Salvation Army anywhere.

A lot of boats showed up to do rescue but was turned away by local law enforcement. Some areas had been arguing over who's rescue zone it was. One Fire Chief hid his fire engines and claimed that they had been destroyed by the storm until someone found them hidden in a barn. Looters were everywhere, people that had been homeless and living in shelters were rude. They wanted fast food restaurant food instead of camp meals and MRE's. They threw trash on the floor were they were sleeping and fought all the time. The firefighters were disrespected and some had been called cracker, flipped off and cussed at when in the food line. The team we had been working for had 150 members. Lots of support from the IC's and staff.

Things got worse when Rita came to town. One of the firefighters from Reno had a house in Cameron. We left Slidell to go to his house when the storm turned and headed our way. We got some of his equipment out before the flood waters started to come in. We made our way to a brick house in Branch and hunkered down for the night. The storm hit us at about two in the morning. A tornado touched down about five hundred yards from us tearing out power poles and trees. I tried to take a picture with no luck with it being at night and stuff flying everywhere. The town of Sulphur recorded 28 small tornados in the area.

The next day we went back into Cameron and Lake Charles. We found trees and power poles down everywhere. Cameron was under water with no houses standing. We asked a local fire chief where the command post was at and he had no idea what I was talking about. There were over 5,000 dead cows in the Cameron area alone and over 15,000 that had been killed by Rita. We found dead animal everywhere, water 4 to five feet deep in most places. The water was smelling pretty bad. With sewage, fuels tanks turned over and vehicles. We had no power, sewer, water or electricity. For five days I did not see Red Cross, FEMA, any command system or the Salvation Army. They said that all these agencies had been staged ready to move in when the storm had passed. I did not see them at all. The firefighters house that we stayed in was under eight feet of water and we could not get to it for 3 days. We got a boat and dragged it across the freeway and did some rescues. Found people in houses that had collapsed but refused to go with us.

We made several runs to get supplies for the firefighters from our storage area at the Fire Apparatus plant. When we showed up we found that the workers had been stealing our supplies that was going to homeless firefighters. Needless to say I had a few words with the CEO. In all we delivered over \$10,000 worth of cloths and supplies to the firefighters who lost homes. That does not come close to what will be needed in the near future. We plan on going back in three weeks and do some long term work for the firefighters.

Most of the donations we received came from volunteer departments and small departments. Thanks to the Tracy Fire Department, the Half Moon Bay Fire Department, Nevada County fire departments as well as all the other individual donations from Orange County and East Bay Regional Parks Fire. We truly made a lot of firefighters life just a little bit better.

We have a long way to go and we will need more help so pass it on!!

One elderly lady we talked to that got back to her house that had been destroyed by taking back roads said she felt safer in her collapsed house than the evacuation centers. She said they had issues with crime and gang activity.

Thanks for the information and welcome back Phill!

## **FIREFIGHTER TESTING OPPORTUNITY:** **Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, NV**

### **F.I.R.E.S. 2006**



The cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas will be accepting applications for the position of Firefighter Trainee during the period of October 17 through November 17, 2005, at Las Vegas City Hall, Human Resources Department, 400 Stewart Ave, on the corner of North Las Vegas Boulevard and Stewart Avenue.

This recruitment will involve a highly competitive process that includes a written exam scheduled for January 25, 2006, and a pass/fail physical ability test scheduled for mid-March 2006. Early preparation for the written and physical ability exams is a must. The FSI Written Test Preparation Manual Order Form is available under related links below.

### **Experience and Training Requirements**

Age: 18 years or older on the date of application.

Experience: Some firefighting experience is desirable.

Training: Equivalent to graduation from high school. College level course work in fire science, fire administration, or a related field is desirable.

License, Certificate and Special Requirements:

- Possession of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic certificate on the date of job offer. If the applicant does not have his or her EMT certification at the time of offer, applicant can produce it by fax, hand delivery or mail within one week.
- Possession of an appropriate, valid driver's license on the date of application.
- Must meet current physical condition requirement on the date of appointment.

The EMT-Basic certification typically consists of 17 to 23 weeks of classroom and clinical training. Classes are on-going throughout the year, but are limited and on a first come, first served basis. Enrollment prerequisites and tuition fees vary. Contact the agencies below for more information.

American Medical Response - Gail Furtaw	(702) 671-6977
Community College of Southern Nevada - Westy Durant	(702) 651-5807
EMS Training Center of Southern Nevada - Jim McAllister	(702) 651-9111
Southwest Ambulance - Shannon Shumway	(702) 224-5063

**Monthly Salary**

Firefighter Trainees during academy: Las Vegas \$3,120, North Las Vegas \$3,343.  
Firefighters working ten 24-hour shifts per month: Las Vegas \$3,628, North Las Vegas \$3,927.

- **What is F.I.R.E.S.?**  
Firefighter Interagency Recruitment Examination and Selection is a screening and testing program sponsored by the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas to recruit, test and select firefighters. The program uses common testing procedures for entry-level firefighters and is administered by the collective efforts of the Human Resources and Fire Departments of these two cities.
- **What is the goal of F.I.R.E.S.?**  
To recruit the most qualified applicants while increasing our minority and female representation within the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas Fire Departments.
- **Who may use F.I.R.E.S.?**  
Anyone who can perform the essential functions of the Firefighter job description and who possesses a High School Diploma or G.E.D. Valid driver's license and eighteen (18) years or older. EMT certification is required at the time of job offer. If the applicant does not have his or her EMT certification at the time of offer, applicant can produce it by fax,

hand delivery or mail within one week. If timeframe cannot be met, the candidate will be removed from consideration at that time, but will remain on the list for future consideration.

- **What are some suggested study resources?**

You can purchase the FSI Test Preparation Manual by using the order form listed below under related links. If you prefer not to purchase the Candidate Test Preparation Manual for Entry-level Firefighters, the 8th edition is available at Las Vegas and North Las Vegas libraries and is the only publication endorsed by both cities. All reading ability questions will be derived from this manual. The reference number is TH9157.C36 2003.

Other general study resources include:

- ARCO - Firefighter by Fred M. Rafilson and Robert Andriuolo
- Math for Civil Service Tests by Jessika Sobanski
- Practical Math Success in 20 Minutes a Day by Judith Robinovitz

- **What are the physical requirements?**

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). See below under related links for videos providing a general overview and candidate instructions.

**M**ore information or to apply - please call the F.I.R.E.S. Hotline at (702) 392-2774 or visit their website at [City of Las Vegas F.I.R.E.S.](#)

**L**earn more about both departments by visiting their respective websites below:

- Las Vegas Fire – Rescue website: [CLICK HERE](#)
- North Las Vegas Fire Department website: [CLICK HERE](#)

### **EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:**

**T**he [San Francisco Paramedic Association](#) is looking for volunteers for the following upcoming EMS related classes:

## **Infrequently Used EMS Skills Training Classes at the San Jose Fire Department**

**V**olunteer victims are needed – 2 per session and there will be two sessions per day:

- 0900 to 1230 hours
- 1330 to 1700 hours

**Dates needing volunteers:**

November 1	November 15
November 2	November 16
November 3	November 17 (Half day – morning only)
November 4	November 21
November 8	November 22 (Half day – morning only)
November 9	November 29
November 10	November 30 (Half day - morning only)

**Location:**

FMC Plant  
 1125 Coleman Avenue (corner of Airport Blvd.)  
 FMC Gate 1, Building 10  
 San Jose, CA 95101

\*\* They will put an orange cone in front of the correct driveway. As you drive in the driveway, look for building 10.

**What they will cover:**

Geriatric medical/trauma with an emphasis on assessment and treatment of smoke inhalation and burns. Volunteers will be moulaged so wear clothing that you can get dirty. This should be a fun and interesting experience!

**How to register as a volunteer:**

Contact the SFPA Office at (415) 543-1161 or contact Dave Huseman with the San Jose Fire Department at [dave.huseman@ci.sj.ca.us](mailto:dave.huseman@ci.sj.ca.us)

## Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tuesday <b>November 15</b> from 0700 to 0930 hours</li> <li>- Wednesday <b>November 16</b> from 1230 to 1730 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>December 15</b> from 0700 to 0930 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>December 16</b> from 1230 to 1730 hours</li> </ul>
	<p><b>All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</b></p>
	<p>Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt and your choice of an SFPA rescue key chain or ALS field guide.</p>

<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sparamedics.org">director@sparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sparamedics.org/volunteer.htm">www.sparamedics.org/volunteer.htm</a>

## Advanced Medical Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	- Monday <b>November 7</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours - Tuesday <b>November 8</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt and your choice of an SFPA rescue key chain or ALS field guide.
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) , register via email at <a href="mailto:director@sparamedics.org">director@sparamedics.org</a> or register and see more information on their website at <a href="http://www.sparamedics.org/volunteer.htm">www.sparamedics.org/volunteer.htm</a>

### **FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION TIPS FOR THE MONTH:**

**J**anet Jackson sang a song about 15 years ago titled “what have you done for me lately?” Think of that song when you go in for your oral interview or chief’s interview. A good example is volunteering. I’ve seen candidates that have one eight-hour day of volunteering on their resume. That looks great over the next month or so, but as the months go by, and if you don’t put any more volunteer experience on your resume, the oral board and/or the Fire Chief is going to be asking “what have you done for me lately?” In some ways, I would rather see someone have one hour a month of volunteer experience on their resume versus one, eight-hour day of volunteering over an eight month period. Same time frame, but the continuous pattern over a period of time just looks better. Something to think about – just because you have achieved a goal or accomplishment, it doesn’t mean that you have to stop right there. To the contrary, you have to keep on striving for more!

## **THIS MONTH'S TESTING TIPS – Courtesy of the Don McNea Fire School**

Some more firefighter written examination testing tips courtesy of the [Don McNea Fire School!](#)

### **TEST-TAKING STRATEGY #1:**

#### **VISUALIZATION**

Visualization is the ability to picture a scene or object in your imagination. It includes the ability to picture changes in that scene or object. This type of test question asks, "Can you imagine...?" It is a test of your imagination. It requires you to think in pictures. If you have read a lot of comic books in your childhood, you may be quite skilled at thinking in pictures. In fact, if you think of yourself as an illustrator whose job it is provide pictures to illustrate written materials, you will find these questions easy to handle.

Often the key to a Visualization question is noting direction accurately: North, East, South and West. When direction is part of the material, put the traditional symbol on your drawing with North in the twelve o'clock position. Focus your attention on unchanging parts. Viewing objects from the opposite side reverses location of all parts of the object. For example, keep in mind that when objects are viewed from the back or inside, the parts of the object appear in reverse location.

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### **TEST-TAKING STRATEGY #2:**

#### **TEST ANXIETY**

A problem that many fire applicants are having that is causing a stumbling block in their pursuit of becoming a firefighter is test anxiety. Many applicants have completely prepared themselves for the examination only to be overcome with test anxiety when they walk into the room. This can be dealt with and brought under control. A small level of adrenalin at the beginning of the exam will keep your mind sharp. The problem occurs when the adrenalin and anxiety are too high, preventing you from concentrating and doing your best in the examination process.

What can you do to help control test anxiety?

- First and foremost, be well prepared for the exam. Nothing gives you more confidence than knowing you are adequately prepared for the exam. Remember that it is better to have a little anxiety and be well prepared than to have no preparation and no test anxiety.
- Weeks before the actual exam, visualize yourself walking into the exam, sitting down, and getting ready for the exam. For many applicants, this initial start of the exam causes the greatest anxiety. This first 15-20 minutes of the exam is valuable time that you don't want to waste. You may need it at the end of the exam to go over questions you weren't sure of.

- While you are sitting and waiting for the exam to begin, take deep breaths to relax yourself. Visualize yourself scoring well on the examination.
- As you anticipate the exam, think positive. Tell yourself that you are prepared and ready and that you have confidence in your abilities. Try not to put any negative thoughts in your mind such as, "I've never taken this type of exam before." Reverse the negative thoughts and turn them into positive ones: "This will be great practice for this type of examination; I will just do my best."
- Focus on the exam and not the people around you. Keep telling yourself, "I am going to do better on this exam than anyone else here." Tell yourself confident messages.
- Don't waste your time worrying about the consequences of not doing well on the exam.
- Take deep breaths to relax yourself. If you feel overcome by anxiety during the test, put your pencil down, close your eyes, and take a few deep breaths. It only takes 30-40 seconds. Inhale and exhale deeply. Don't worry about the people around you. Your goal that day is to do the best you can – if you need to relax and refocus, do it.
- The day before the exam, eat a good meal that is high in carbohydrates, such as pasta. On exam day, you will be nervous and your anxiety will use up needed energy.
- Be sure to get a good night's sleep.
- Have someone call you to make sure you don't oversleep the morning of the exam.
- If you have a friend who is also taking the exam, follow each other. If your car should break down on the way, you could ride along with your friend and still arrive for the exam on time.
- Be sure to allow yourself enough travel time to allow for traffic jams. Nothing will cause more anxiety than arriving for the exam 2-3 minutes late.

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**Since 1950, Don McNea Fire School has prepared over 40,000 fire applicants with their entry level seminars and products. Fireprep.com has over 250 pages of FREE information and careers articles to help you reach your goal of becoming a firefighter.**

**Go to [www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com) and register for their free fireprep e-mail newsletter that features career articles by the countries top entry level authors. You will also be informed at no cost of firefighter examinations be given across the country.**

**While at their website don't forget to review our award winning 'Ultimate Firefighter Exam Package'. This product has help hundreds of fire applicants finish in the top 2% of the exam process. Go to the link below to review the ultimate firefighter exam package. [www.fireprep.com/ultimate\\_firefighter\\_exam.html](http://www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_exam.html)**

## **Don McNea Fire School**

[dmfireschool@aol.com](mailto:dmfireschool@aol.com)

1-800-989-FIRE

[www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com)

**MORE FREE FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION SEMINARS!**

**Become a better firefighter candidate!**

**\*\*\*You are invited to attend a FREE seminars to help learn how to better prepare yourself to become a firefighter!\*\*\***

**DATES:**                    **Tuesday November 1, 2005**  
**Tuesday December 20, 2005**  
(You are free to attend one or both of the seminars!)

**TOPICS:**                    **November 1 Oral Board Preparation** – overview of the oral board process, tips on how to increase your oral board score, and also the chance to perform a mock oral interview!

**December 20 Oral Board Preparation** – overview of the oral board process, tips on how to increase your oral board score, and also the chance to perform a mock oral interview!

**Even though this seems like the same topic being covered on November 1, realize it will be different – you will learn something different by attending both of these seminars, I guarantee you won't be wasting your time!**

Facilitator: Steve Prziborowski, Fire Technology Coordinator at Chabot College and Captain with the Santa Clara County Fire Department.

**ADDED BONUS!!**

**Bring a copy of your resume and I will critique it for you free of charge, before the seminar or during one of the breaks (time permitting).**

**TIME:**                        6 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each night  
**LOCATION:**                Chabot College  
25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward, CA 94545  
Room 916 (in Building 900)

**REGISTRATION /  
MORE INFO:**            To register, email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) or if you do not have internet access, you can leave a message at (510) 723-6851. Thank you for your assistance; look forward to seeing you there!

Please visit the Chabot College Fire Technology website at [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) for more information on becoming a firefighter.

For directions to Chabot College, [CLICK HERE](#).

**\*\*\*\*\* REGISTER EARLY – SEATS ARE LIMITED!\*\*\*\*\***

## **VOLUNTEER / COMMUNITY SERVICE – WHAT ARE YOU DOING?**

**V**olunteering your time is almost expected of a future firefighter. Even if it is not expected, it is a great way to show your commitment to making this world a better place, to making someone's life better in some size, shape or form, and to the community. Many fire department oral boards even ask that question "what do you do in the way of volunteer or community service work?" The last thing you want to say is "nothing" or "I spent last weekend on the freeway performing cleanup as part of my court sentence for domestic violence (a.k.a. weekend warrior work)." You want to be able to have some answer to nail that question. Not having an answer will doom your overall score.

**T**hink of it this way – at some interview you probably have said or will say that you want to be a firefighter to help people. Besides being a clone answer and something every human being should be striving to do anyway in the course of their life, can you really back it up with volunteer or community service work? If you say you want to help people, you better put your money where your mouth is and be able to back it up on your resume.

**Y**ou may be wondering what should I volunteer in – something fire related or non-fire related? My recommendation is one or the other or both; whatever you can get yourself involved in. Something is better than nothing, even if it is just a couple of hours a month. If you think you don't have any time to volunteer, get over it and make the time. The obstacle is not the lack of time, but your lack of making the time. When I was testing to become a firefighter, I was working a full-time job, going to school full-time, having a social life, and even finding time to volunteer. Learn to multi-task now, if you can't, you're going to have trouble once you get hired (if you make it that far) because we'll expect you to multi-task.

**W**hen finding something to volunteer in, try to find something UNIQUE – that nobody else is doing. Don't be like every other candidate that is volunteering in the same place. Don't get me wrong, it is still volunteering, but when an oral board sees 20 candidates doing the same thing, it gets diluted down. Use your imagination.

**W**hat are some suggestions for volunteering in non-fire related areas? Here are some of the top websites I have found with a variety of opportunities:

- Habitat for Humanity – [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)
- Meals on Wheels – [www.feedingseniors.com](http://www.feedingseniors.com)
- San Francisco Bay Area Volunteer Information Center – [www.volunteerinfo.org](http://www.volunteerinfo.org)
- Volunteer Match – [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)
- Special Olympics – [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)
- Rock Med – [www.rockmed.org](http://www.rockmed.org)
- Oakland Fire Department’s Random Acts of Kindness – [www.ofdrandomacts.org](http://www.ofdrandomacts.org)

**F**or a list of fire departments around the San Francisco Bay Area that have volunteer or reserve firefighter programs, as well as other volunteer opportunities – visit the section on my website dedicated to Volunteer Opportunities – [www.chabotfire.com/VolOpps.htm](http://www.chabotfire.com/VolOpps.htm)

**M**any Fire Departments have opportunities such as:

- Volunteer or Reserve Firefighter
- Fire Explorer
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member

**R**ealize though, there is a catch. Becoming a volunteer firefighter or other person affiliated with a fire department DOES NOT guarantee you a job. Your experience there will either hurt you or help you when their next entry-level recruitment comes along. Make the most of the opportunity while you are there and don’t get too comfortable – remain focused, motivated, and remember that you are ALWAYS being watched, evaluated, and critiqued, whether you know it or not.

### **SEASONAL FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CDF**

**T**he [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection \(CDF\)](http://www.cdf.ca.gov) is now accepting applications for Firefighter I. Applications will be accepted **November 1, 2005 through January 31, 2006** for the 2006 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a [Firefighter I application \(CDF Form 215\)](#) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see next page for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.



**T**here are 21 units through-out the state and they are divided between two regions, North Region, and South Region. In the Northern Region you can mail the completed application to

each unit that you are interested in applying for. In the Southern Region they must be hand delivered. A list of the units can be found at the end of this announcement.

### **What you can expect working as a firefighter for CDF:**

**A** firefighter 1 is a temporary position. You work a 96-hour workweek, four days on and three days off. You work the same four days in a week. Your responsibilities will include responding to vegetation fires, vehicle fires, structure fires, vehicle accidents, medical aides, public assist calls, or any other emergency. You are responsible for maintaining equipment and tools, following oral and written directions, cooking and cleaning around the station and other duties as assigned. At some stations you may get only one call per shift and others may get as many as four or five calls on a busy day.

**B**ecause CDF is a statewide fire department, you can get sent to any area within the state on a strike team assignment. You may only be gone one or two days or as many as fourteen days depending on the needs throughout the state. You may be assigned to an incident, usually a large fire, or may be assigned to cover behind other engines on an out-of-county assignment.

**I**n addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state.

**T**here is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CDF to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CDF to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CDF personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

### **The hiring process:**

**A**fter submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid March you should receive a letter indicating weather you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of you score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

**T**ypically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid May you should have received a letter indicating weather or

not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

**T**he presumption is that a position may open up in the future and you would already be trained to take it. Typically a new hire academy is scheduled for the first or second week in June and consists of learning basic skills needed to work as a fire fighter. The end result is that by attending the class you can obtain the CDF 67 hour Certification.

**W**hat generally happens around August or September is some firefighters quit and go back to school opening up position to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people second chance to get hired. If you stay in contact with the hiring coordinator in each unit and are willing to start later in the season you might get picked up as a late hire. After you get hired with CDF and work three months you have automatic rehire rights. Meaning you don't have to go through the same process to get hired the next season.

### **What CDF can offer you?**

**C**DF is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment.

**Y**ou will have the opportunity to earn additional certifications including Incident Command Systems, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Haz Mat Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Auto Extrication, and many other classes. You will gain experience working with the ICS system as part of an engine company at small and large incidents.

**J**ust like anything else you can get out of CDF what you put in. Because of the number of people retiring you have a very good opportunity to gain a permanent position if you put the effort into it. It is now up to you to make the first step.

**To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CDF Careers website at:**

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/CDFCareers/SeasonalHiring.asp>

**For a list of Contacts including units and stations with in units:**

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/MiscDocuments/CDFContacts.asp>

### **Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:**

- Must be 18 years of age by time of appointment to a firefighter 1 position

**For additional information, contact:**

North Coast Region I: (707) 576-2275  
Cascade Region II: (530) 224-2472  
Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801  
Southern Region III: (951) 782-4140  
Sierra Region IV: (559) 222-3714  
Equal Employment Opportunity: (916) 653-7577

**CDF – NORTH COAST REGION I**

**File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:**

<b>Humboldt-Del Norte Unit</b> 118 S. Fortuna Blvd. Fortuna, CA 95540 (707) 725-4413	<b>Mendocino Unit</b> 17501 N. Highway 101 Willits, CA 95490 (707) 459-7414	<b>San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit</b> 6059 Highway 9 Felton, CA 95018 (831) 335-5353
<b>Santa Clara Unit</b> 15670 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037 (408) 779-2121	<b>Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit</b> 1199 Big Tree Road St. Helena, CA 94574 (707) 967-1400	

**CDF – CASCADE REGION II**

**File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:**

<b>Butte Unit</b> 176 Nelson Avenue Oroville, CA 95965 (530) 538-7111	<b>Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit</b> 13760 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 95603 (530) 823-4904	<b>Siskiyou Unit</b> 1809 Fair Lane Road Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 842-3516
<b>Lassen-Modoc Unit</b> 697-345 Highway 36 Susanville, CA 96130 (530) 257-4171	<b>Shasta-Trinity Unit</b> 875 Cypress Avenue Redding, CA 96001 (530) 225-2418	<b>Tehama-Glenn Unit</b> 604 Antelope Blvd. Red Bluff, CA 96080 (530) 528-5199

**CDF - SOUTHERN REGION III**

**Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below.  
Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Riverside Unit**  
210 W. San Jacinto  
Perris, CA 92570  
(909) 940-6900

**San Bernardino Unit**  
3800 Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92405  
(909) 881-6900

**San Diego Unit**  
2249 Jamacha Road  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(619) 590-3100

**San Luis Obispo Unit**  
635 N. Santa Rosa  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
(805) 543-4244

## **CDF – CENTRAL SIERRA REGION IV**

**Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below.  
Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Amador-El Dorado Unit**  
2840 Mt. Danaher Road  
Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-2345

**Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**  
5366 Highway 49 North  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 966-3622

**Tulare Unit**  
1968 S. Lovers Lane  
Visalia, CA 93277  
(559) 732-5954

**Fresno-Kings Unit**  
210 S. Academy Avenue  
Sanger, CA 93657  
(559) 485-7500

**San Benito-Monterey Unit**  
2221 Garden Road  
Monterey, CA 93940-5385  
(831) 647-6208

**Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**  
785 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
(209) 754-3831

**NOTE:** A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works as a firefighter for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

**I** hope you have found this newsletter somewhat valuable. If you have learned one new thing, then I think I've done my job. I truly want to see everyone succeed, and I also really enjoy doing what I do. This program is your program. It can only get better with your assistance. There is an old saying, don't just give me problems – give me solutions! I can't read your minds, so please provide me with feedback. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want me to clarify any rumors you might have heard. Thank you very much!

Steve Prziborowski, Fire Technology Coordinator - Chabot College

**Office:** 510-723-6851, Building 1500, Room 1556

**Cellular:** 408-205-9006

**Fax:** 510-782-9315

**Email:** [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu)

**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:** [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

**Chabot College website:** [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**\*\*\* PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-  
WORKERS\*\*\***

### **The Fine Print:**

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will add you to the list. Benefits of being on the mailing list include being notified when the latest Fire & EMS news is published, and being notified of firefighter testing opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or training opportunities.
- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.
- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – [sprziborowski@aol.com](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to over 1000 people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. I typically send a couple of things out per week; if you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.
- Thank you very much for your assistance and cooperation!