



FIRE & EMS NEWS

February 2005

Volume 3 – Issue 8

Welcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! My goal is to provide you with information about your Chabot College Fire Technology Program, the local Fire Departments, in addition to other information that might be beneficial to you in your pursuit of better preparing yourself for the career of your dreams! Some of the highlights of our biggest issue to date include:

- Free Firefighter Interview Seminar in Southern California!
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Union City Fire Department
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Berkeley Fire Department
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Modesto Fire Department
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
- Firefighter preparation tips – The Written Examination
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Riverside Fire Department
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Tracy Fire Department
- Paramedic school information – Redwood City
- Paramedic school information – Santa Cruz
- EMS Volunteer Opportunities
- Free Firefighter preparation seminar – Captain Bob: What is keeping you from your badge?
- Free Firefighter preparation seminars – Federal Firefighter employment opportunities and 25 steps to increase your chances of becoming a firefighter.
- Paramedic school information – Northern California Training Institute

FREE - FIREFIGHTER ORAL INTERVIEW WORKSHOP!

INTERVIEW WORKSHOP

Designed for Firefighter Candidates

Cost: FREE

Date: Saturday February 5th, 2005
Time: 8:00 am - 8:30 am (Registration)
Lecture: 8:30 am - ?
Location: El Camino College, Torrance, CA

Pre-register by e-mailing your name to the following address: cfern01@earthlink.net

- Practice oral interviews will be given throughout the day (First 100 candidates to register will be guaranteed an interview. All others will be interviewed time allowing.) Limited to 300 people.
- Make sure to bring a resume, notebook, and a positive attitude

Topics for the Day

Introduction – Firefighter Christian Fernandez / *Long Beach Fire Department*

Diversity in the Fire Service – Engineer Chris Robnett / *Long Beach Fire Department*

Education/Promotion – Firefighter Paramedic Ed Valdez / *Los Angeles City Fire Department*

Background Investigations – Captain Pete Hadley / *Newport Beach Fire Department*

Written Preparation – Captain Jack Nimen-Kimel / *Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department*

Physical Agility – Firefighter Paramedic Jerry Graham / *Orange City Fire Department*

Oral Interview Preparation – Battalion Chief Mike Sarjeant / *Long Beach Fire Department*

Academies/Reserve Program – Captain Stephen Horner / *Santa Ana Fire Department*

Situational/Orals – Battalion Chief Paul Lepore / *Long Beach Fire Department*

Chief’s Interviews – Deputy Chief Alan Patalano / *Long Beach Fire Department*

Rookie Firefighter Expectations – Captain Dave Shetland / *Long Beach Fire Department*
 Firefighter Josh Hogan / *Long Beach Fire Department*

Closing – Firefighter Paramedic Matthew Seybert / *Long Beach Fire Department*

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - Union City Fire Department!

The Union City (CA) Fire Department is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter / Paramedic as follows:

Final filing date **February 14, 2005**
 Salary: \$5,020 - \$6,213 month
 Plus 9% City Paid PERS

Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) card required to be considered for recruitment.

- Visit CPAT website for more information: <http://www.cpatonline.org>

The Position

The City is seeking a highly energetic, highly motivated Firefighter Paramedic. Under general supervision, the firefighter paramedic extinguishes fires and protects life and property endangered by fire; performs hazardous materials mitigation activities in support of the over all mission of the Fire Department; provides Advanced Life Support first responder pre-hospital emergency medical care and emergency medical assistance to victims of accidents, injuries or illness; assumes primary responsibility for patient care at the scene; maintains equipment and quarters, and does other related projects and work as required.

This examination is being given to fill three current vacancies and any other opening, which may occur during the next 12 months.

The Department

The Fire Department currently consists of 45 personnel. Twenty of the operations personnel are licensed paramedics. The Union City Fire Department is committed to providing our community with the finest fire protection possible. If you want to make a positive change in your career and you are up to the challenge, Union City might be the Fire Department for you.

The Community and Municipal Government

The City of Union City, a general law city is the gateway to the Silicon Valley and a recipient of the 1999 All-America City award. Union City is located in the San Francisco Bay Area and we are proud of our culturally diverse population of 70,000. We have safe and award winning schools, and we are close to shopping and transportation. The City of Union City offers home loans to those interested in residing in the community. Also, our community is near parklands such as Coyote Hills and the Alameda Regional Trails and in our residential community you will enjoy over 15 parks and our mild climate year round.

Requirements

Age: Must be at least 18 years old at the time of the initial oral interview.

Experience:

Any experience that could likely provide the required knowledge and abilities would be qualifying. A typical way to obtain knowledge and abilities would be graduation from high school. Paramedics must have 9 months or more of current (within the last 2 years) ALS experience as a paramedic

Licenses/Certificates/Other:

- Possession of/ability to obtain a Class "C" California Driver's License.
- Ability to obtain and maintain a valid Class B California Driver's License by completion of the probationary period.
- At the time of application, possession of and the ability to maintain a valid Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate and a valid California paramedic license.
- At the time of hire, possession of and the ability to maintain a valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and Basic. Trauma Life Support (BTLS) or Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) certifications.
- Firefighter I certification required or Certificate of Completion from CSFM accredited fire academy.
- Probation Period: (18) months
- Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) card required at time of application submission.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated using, in part, the criteria contained in this brochure. The selection process may consist of one or more of the following components: a written exam, an oral interview, psychological assessment, medical and physical evaluation. Only a very limited number of persons whose application materials clearly demonstrate that they meet the needs of the City in terms of training, experience, education, and other job related characteristics will be accepted to participate in the selection process.

The written exam process is tentatively scheduled on February 28, 2005. Upon successful completion of the written exam, applicants will be invited to the oral interview process, tentatively scheduled for the week of March 14, 2005.

Applicants who are invited to continue in the selection process will be notified by mail . Successful candidates' names will be placed on an employment eligibility list. The eligibility list will remain in effect for one year from the date the list is established. Additional vacancies that occur for this classification may be hired from the list.

Employee Benefits

- Flexible benefit option
- PERS 3% @ 50 plan
- Agency and employee PERS contribution paid by the City of Union City
- Majority paid medical, dental, and vision
- Fully paid disability insurance
- Fully paid \$50,000 life insurance
- \$500 annual uniform allowance
- Time and one-half overtime
- Educational Incentive (2.5-7.5%)
- Paramedic Incentive (12%)
- Holiday Pay (6.5%)
- Vacation days beginning at 158 hours per year increasing to a maximum of 295 hours per year
- 12 hours of sick leave per month
- Home ownership program
- No Social Security deductions (except 1.45% Medicare deduction)
- 4% pay increase on July 1, 2005

General Information

Obtaining applications: Applications may be obtained from:

City of Union City
Personnel Department
34009 Alvarado-Niles Road
Union City, CA 94587-4497
Job Hotline: 510-675-5339

By going to: <http://www.ci.union-city.ca.us/Employment/employment.pdf/employmentapp.pdf>

Filing of Applications:

Applications may be mailed or delivered to the Personnel Department, at the above address, no later than 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 14, 2005 . Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a completed application. Late faxed application material will not be accepted.

Authorization of Work:

Before an appointment may be made to the position, the person selected must provide proof of identity and authorization to work in the United States, according to Federal Law.

Medical Examination:

Before an appointment may be made, the person selected will be required to pass a medical examination given by a licensed physician designated by the City.

Special Note:

If you believe you have any physical limitation(s) that would require accommodations, contact the Personnel Department, within 3 days of testing, so that the necessary accommodations may be made.

For more information about the Union City Fire Department, visit their website at <http://www.unioncityfire.org/>

For more information about Union City, visit their website at <http://www.ci.union-city.ca.us>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY –
Berkeley Fire Department!

The Berkeley (CA) Fire Department will be accepting applications for Firefighter / Paramedic from Monday January 31 until February 28, 2005!

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Must possess a valid California Driver's License at time of appointment.
- Must have minimal uncorrected vision of 20/100 in each eye – corrected to 20/30 with normal color vision.
- Weight must be proportional to height.
- Must possess an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certificate
- Must possess either a Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certificate or a Pediatric Education for Pre-Hospital Personnel (PEPP) certificate.
- Must possess a California Paramedic license*

NOTE: Applicants who are registered for enrollment or are currently enrolled in a paramedic program by the final filing date of this recruitment will be accepted to compete for the firefighter/paramedic examination. In lieu of certificates, proof of registration for enrollment or current enrollment must be submitted with the application. The California Paramedic license must be obtained prior to appointment.

Testing Schedule:

Written Exam / CPAT Orientation: March 19 – 20, 2005
CPAT Practice: April 9, 2005
Oral Interviews: April 25 – 29, 2005
Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT): May 21 – 23, 2005

- The written examination may be carried over to March 20 if necessary.

- Applicants that possess a current (within 1 year of May 21, 2005) CPAT card will be waived from participation in the CPAT process (i.e., CPAT orientation, practice, and test).

TO APPLY:

Beginning Monday January 31, 2005, you can view the job opening on the City of Berkeley's Human Resources website at <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/hr/Jobs/joblist.htm>

To view the job flyer, go to http://www.chabotfire.com/BFD_FF_brochure_2005.pdf

To view the Berkeley Fire Department Recruitment Information Booklet, go to http://www.chabotfire.com/BFD_info_2005.pdf

For more information about the Berkeley Fire Department, visit their website at: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/fire>

For more information about the Berkeley Fire Department, specifically their Firefighters Union Local, Local 1227 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, visit their website at: <http://www.bffa1227.org/>

For more information about the City of Berkeley, visit their website at <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us>

***FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Modesto Fire
Department!***

The Modesto Fire Department will be accepting applications for **Firefighter** and **Firefighter Trainee** until February 9, 2005.

Minimum requirements:

- Graduation from high school or possession of a GED certificate at the high school equivalent level.
- Possession of a current CPR card.
- Possession of a current EMT card issued by the State of California or the National Registry is required at time of application. (**Editor's note: if you have an EMT card issued by a County EMS agency in California, this should be valid since a card issued by a County EMS agency is deemed equivalent to one issued by the State of California, per Title 22 of the State EMS regulations**).
- Possession of a California State Fire Marshal's Office Firefighter 1 Certificate **OR** graduation from a California State Fire Marshal's accredited firefighter 1 academy **OR** the completion of 15 semester units of college coursework in Fire Science "major" courses.
- Possession of an appropriate, valid California driver's license is required by final filing date.
- Must be a minimum of 20 years of age by final date and 21 years of age by hire date.

Recruitment Process:

Applicants will be assessed based on the completed employment application, supplemental application, and required documentation. All information received will be carefully evaluated.

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications will be invited to continue to the written examination. Based on the written examination scores, if the number of qualifying candidates is excessive, the physical agility and/or oral board interview may be limited. The selection process consists of the following events:

- **Written examination** (50% of your final score) – scheduled for March 15 and 16, 2005
- **Physical agility test** (pass/fail) – scheduled for April 5 through 7, 2005.
- **Oral board interviews** (50% of your final score) – scheduled for April 12 through 15, 2005.
- **Selection interviews** – scheduled for the week of May 2, 2005.

For more information, including downloading the application and supplemental application, visit their city personnel department website at <http://www.modestogov.com/per/joblist/>

For more information about the Modesto Fire Department, visit their website at <http://www.modestofire.com>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - Contra Costa County Fire Protection District!

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District is accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter / Paramedic** as follows:

SALARY

\$34.51 - \$41.94 Hourly

\$2,760.46 - \$3,355.38 Biweekly

\$5,981.00 - \$7,270.00 Monthly

FINAL FILING DATE: February 4, 2005.

THE POSITION

(Monthly Salary Steps Upon Graduation From Academy)

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District is seeking enthusiastic women and men interested in establishing a challenging career in the fire service. Firefighter-Paramedics employed by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District engage directly in firefighting, emergency medical care, technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, disaster response, fire prevention, public education, and community service. No prior firefighting experience is required to participate in this recruitment.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District currently has 28 fully staffed stations located throughout East, West, and Central Contra Costa County. Firefighter-Paramedics work three 24-hour shifts during a nine-day shift cycle resulting in an average work week of 56 hours. Employees are expected to live at their assigned stations while on duty.

The employment list established by this recruitment will remain in effect for 12 months.

Entry Level Appointment

Successful candidates will receive an initial appointment into the classification of Firefighter-Paramedic Recruit. Candidates continue to work in this classification until they have graduated from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Fire Academy. The Academy involves approximately 14 - 16 weeks of academic and manipulative skills training. While attending the Academy, Recruits receive a salary of \$5,476 per month. Recruit benefits are limited to sick leave and access to health insurance plans. Upon successful completion of the Academy, Recruits graduate and qualify for appointment to the classification of Firefighter-Paramedic. The County's retirement benefit begins upon appointment to Firefighter/Paramedic.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Certification: Valid California Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) certificate. (National Registry is acceptable but a valid CA EMT-Paramedic certificate must be obtained prior to appointment date.)

License: Valid California Motor Vehicle Operator's License.

Age: At least 18 years of age on the date of application.

Education: High school diploma, G.E.D equivalency, or high school proficiency certificate.

Physical: Ability to meet such health standards as may be established by the County Medical Consultant.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Competitive examinations are periodically announced for promotion to Fire Engineer (\$5,993 - \$7284 per month), Fire Captain (\$6,755 - \$8,211 per month), and staff jobs. Fire Engineers and Fire Captains may receive a 10% differential in addition to base pay for performing Paramedic assignments.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Contra Costa County values its employees' health and welfare and is pleased to offer full-range benefits plans and programs that assist in maintaining health and financial security. Benefits include:

- Medical plans available through CalPERS and dental plans provided through Contra Costa County
- County paid term life insurance included with health and/or dental plan enrollment
- Safety retirement (3% at 50) established under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937
- Vacation leave accrual at the rate of 14 hours per month
- Sick leave accrual at the rate of 12 hours per month with no limit on accrual amount
- Overtime credit for 13 holidays per year
- Overtime pay at 1.5x regular pay
- Monthly uniform allowance

SELECTION PROCESS - Calendar of Events

- Application Final Filing Date Friday, February 4, 2005
- Written Examination (Tentative) Saturday, March 5, 2005

Fire Team Test: All qualifying candidates will be scheduled for an exam designed to predict performance in the Academy and on the job. There are three components in the exam, which includes a total of 180 items administered in approximately 2.5 hours. The test consists of a 115 question multiple-choice video-based test of teamwork and human relations skills; a 40-item video-based/simulation test on mechanical aptitude and system learning; and a 25-item reading test. As indicated above, the written exam is tentatively scheduled to be administered on Saturday, March 5, 2005. Additional dates may be added to test all qualifying candidates. Notices will be mailed confirming the test date and specifying a time and location. (Weighted 100%)

The passing score is 70%, which may be an adjusted score in accordance with the County Personnel Management Regulations.

Final Selection: All successful examinees will be placed on the employment list for six months. Eligibles will be grouped into one of three bands (A, B or C bands) based on test scores and any applicable veteran's credits. Candidates in Band A will be invited to participate in the Candidate Physical Ability Test (see description below); Bands B and C will remain on the employment list and may be tested at a later date, if necessary. Eligibles who pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test will be invited to the departmental hiring interviews; eligibles who do not pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test will be removed from the employment list. Candidates who are successful in the departmental hiring interviews must also pass a comprehensive medical and psychological examination, and a thorough background investigation.

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) consists of eight separate events and requires that the candidate progress along a predetermined path from event to event in a continuous manner. The eight sequential events that comprise the CPAT are: stair climb, hose drag, equipment carry, ladder raise and extension, forcible entry, search, rescue, and ceiling breach and pull. While performing these events, the candidate wears a 50-pound vest to simulate the weight of self-contained breathing apparatus and firefighter protective clothing. An additional 25 pounds, to simulate a high-rise pack, are added for the stair climb event.

Throughout all events, the candidate must wear long pants, a hard hat with chinstrap, work gloves, and footwear with no open heel or toe. A video of the CPAT will be shown at the written test, and can also be viewed at Contra Costa County Libraries. Practice opportunities and a pre-test conditioning period will be provided. Notices will be mailed to candidates confirming the test date and specifying a time and location. This is a pass/fail test based on a maximum total time of 10 minutes and 20 seconds.

Certificates of completion of the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) issued within six months of the date of the CPAT (tentatively scheduled for the week of May 2, 2005) will be accepted in lieu of the test.

The Human Resources Department may make changes to the examination steps noted above in accordance with Personnel Management Regulations and accepted selection practices.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AND FILED ONLINE AT:

<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/hr/default.htm>

OR - Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm at:

651 Pine Street, 2nd Floor,
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-1701 - for any questions relating to the process
(925) 335-1700 - 24 hour job line

FIREFIGHTER EXAM PREPARATION TIPS – The Written Examination

Beginning this month, I would like to welcome an added benefit and resource to this monthly newsletter. Brent Collins, Assistant Chief of the Cleveland (OH) Fire Department and owner of the Don McNea Fire Prep School – <http://www.fireprep.com> – is going to be providing firefighter testing preparation tips on a monthly basis for you to learn from and hopefully increase your scores in the hiring process. Thank you very much and welcome aboard Brent!

TEST-TAKING TACTICS: EVALUATING ANSWER CHOICES

Answer on the basis of the information given in the question. When answering test questions, you must base your answer solely on the information contained in the test question. The test for a Firefighter requires no previous knowledge of the job. The test questions do not have to reflect the way the job is really done or the actual procedures of the Fire Department.

Problems arise when a person who is familiar with procedures of the fire department encounters a test question based on something that contradicts actual practices. It is in this kind of situation that you must ignore actual practices and answer on the basis of what the test question says. For example, you might know that kitchen stove fires are usually extinguished with a portable fire extinguisher; but a test question might describe a stove fire being put out with a fire hose attached to a hydrant. In this kind of test situation, never mind the actual practice; go by the information in the question.

Tell yourself the answer to a question before you look at the answer choices. Sometimes the question is too vague for you to anticipate the answer ahead of time. But often the question stem is a question precise enough for you to answer it before you look at the answer choices. For instance, suppose you had studied the diagram of an apartment and then the question asked, "The most direct route from the dining room to the fire escape is...." You should be able to answer this kind of question in your head before you look at the four answer choices. If you answer the question in your head before you look at any of the four answer choices, you are more likely to get the right answer.

Remember that part of the test maker's job is to provide three false answers for every correct one. It is a multiple-choice test, not a true/false test. A skillful test maker will offer you some false choices that seem pretty good in order to distract you from the correct answer. Among test makers these false choices are called "distracters." But if you have already decided what answer you should be looking for, you will not be distracted so easily by bad answers which might look pretty good and which come before the correct answer. A seductive (A) and a half-true (B) will not prevent you from reaching a correct answer (C) if you know what you are looking for.

Sort answers into three categories. As soon as you read a particular answer choice, decide if it is True, False, or Uncertain. If you are quite sure that an answer choice is True, use your pencil to write a "T" in front of that answer choice. But continue to read the other answer choices because you might find another True one and then have to make a final choice.

If you are quite sure that an answer choice is False, use your pencil to write an "F" in front of that answer choice. You may find that an answer is False even before you have finished reading the whole answer. Stop reading it as soon as you are sure it is false and mark with an "F".

If you are Uncertain about whether a particular answer choice is correct, use your pencil to put a question mark (?) in front of that answer choice.

When you have finished reading all four answer choices, each one should be preceded by a "T" or an "F" or a question mark (?). If there is only one with a "T", that is probably your answer. If you have more than one with a "T", or a "T" and a question mark, you may need to think a bit before choosing your final answer. But you should not have to bother any more with answers you have already given an "F".

Negative Questions: Using "T" and "F" to evaluate answer choices is better than using something like a check mark to denote a correct answer when it comes to answering negative questions. Negative

questions are questions that ask you to pick out an answer choice which is "not true." If you are evaluating each answer choice one by one and marking each one "T" or "F", negative questions will be easy for you to handle.

Half-true Answers: Sometimes an answer choice really contains two different statements. For instance, an answer choice might say, "there is a bedroom on the right and the kitchen is on the left." Maybe it is True that "there is a bedroom on the right," but False that "the kitchen is on the left." With this kind of answer choice, put a slash mark between the two different statements, and write "T" or "F" over each separate part of the answer choice. But out in the margin write "F" since an answer choice must be completely True to be valid.

When it is difficult to choose between 2 answer choices, look back at the question stem. Sometimes there are two answer choices which both look good. Or maybe all of the answer choices look bad. When you find yourself having trouble making the final choice of an answer, stop staring at the answer choices. Go back and look at the question stem and the information the question is based on.

A skillful test maker tries to make two or three of the answer choices look very good. All the answer choices may contain some truth, which make them tempting. Or all may look wrong. But the test maker has to have put some detail into the "fact pattern" of the question to justify the claim that one of these answers is better than the others. If reviewing the answer choices themselves has not helped, the clue to which answer is correct is likely to be in the question stem or "fact pattern" rather than in the answer choices. So go back to the question stem and the fact pattern the look for the deciding factor.

Choose the best answer. A very common problem for test takers is the problem of recognizing that the best possible answer to a question has not been included among the answer choices. None of the answer choices seems to be fully adequate to the situation. In part, this is often a result of the way multiple-choice questions are constructed. The exam maker does not have to include all the correct procedures in answer choices; that might make for terribly long answer choices. Hence, some correct answers are only partial answers. Sometimes you will be given more than one partial answer and asked to choose which is the best among these. In this sort of situation, work at eliminating the answer choices which are definitely wrong or most seriously incomplete. For your answer choose the best one remaining after this kind of elimination process.

Since 1950, Don McNea Fire School has prepared over 40,000 fire applicants with our 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 <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 our 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. http://www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_exam.html

Don McNea Fire School
dmfireschool@aol.com
1-800-989-FIRE

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY –
Riverside Fire Department

The Riverside (CA) Fire Department will be accepting applications for **Firefighter** and **Firefighter/Paramedic** positions from February 7 through February 11, 2005:

FIREFIGHTER

SALARY: \$3982 - 4177 - 4386 - 4604 - 4836 - 5077 - 5332*

VACANCIES:

There are current openings in the Fire Department and the establishment of an eligibility list for future vacancies.

POSITION:

Under supervision, to perform a variety of duties in the protection of life and property by combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and by providing emergency medical care; to participate in training and fire prevention activities; to operate and maintain firefighting, rescue equipment, and fire stations; to serve as a fire inspector; and to do related work as required.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade, and the completion of a California State Certified Fire Academy.
- One year full-time paid firefighter experience with a Municipal Fire Department may substitute for the Certified Fire Academy.
- **COPY OF FIRE ACADEMY DIPLOMA MUST BE ATTACHED TO APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Must have completed academy at time of application.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

(Only requested certifications should be attached to application)

- 1) Possession of, or the ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid Class “C” California Motor Vehicle Operator’s License.
- 2) Possession of a certified L.A. County or Orange County Fire Chief’s Physical Ability Certificate (Biddle) **or** CPAT Certificate from a CPAT testing facility within the last 6 months of application filing date.
- 3) Possession of a valid Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification from the American Heart Association.
- 4) Possession of a valid Emergency Medical Technician - 1 Certification. (An EMT - P Certification will not substitute for the EMT - 1 card.) Possession of a valid EMT – 1 Certification (Riverside County) is highly desirable.

COPIES OF VALID REQUESTED CERTIFICATIONS ONLY MUST BE ATTACHED TO ORIGINAL APPLICATION, OR IT WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED.

FILING PERIOD:

Original applications including required certificates will be accepted between **February 7-11, 2005, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and on February 12, 2005, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm only**. FAXED, PHOTO COPIED APPLICATIONS OR POSTMARKS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED. APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. Printable applications may be downloaded from the City website (www.riversideca.gov) but must be submitted in person to the Human Resources Department during the application period with the requested certificates.

APPLY TO:

City of Riverside, Human Resources Department, 3780 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501.

SELECTION PROCESS:

- 1) **Written Exam:** Candidates meeting the minimum qualifications, as stated above, shall be invited to a written exam.
- 2) **Oral Interviews:** Successful candidates from the written exam shall be screened and those best meeting the needs of the department may be invited to participate in an oral exam.
- 3) **Background Investigation:** Successful oral interview candidates may be selected by the Fire Department to have a background investigation conducted.

PLEASE NOTE: This selection process may change without notice.

Note: The City of Riverside does not reimburse candidates for any expenses incurred as a result of this recruitment.

* Appointment may be made at any step contingent upon the qualifications of successful candidate.

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

SALARY: \$3982 - 4177 - 4386 - 4604 - 4836 - 5077 - 5332*

In addition to the stated salary, there is an \$800 per month Paramedic pay differential.

VACANCIES:

There are current openings in the Fire Department and the establishment of an eligibility list for future vacancies.

THE POSITION:

Under general supervision, to perform a variety of duties in the protection of life and property by combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and by providing medical care and life support; to participate in training and fire prevention activities; to operate and maintain firefighting, medical, and rescue equipment, and fire stations; to serve as a fire inspector; and to do related work as required.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade, and the completion of a California State Certified Fire Academy.
- One year full-time paid firefighter experience with a Municipal Fire Department may substitute for the Certified Fire Academy.

- COPY OF FIRE ACADEMY DIPLOMA MUST BE ATTACHED TO APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Must have completed academy at time of application.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:*

(Only requested certifications should be attached to application)

- 1) Possession of, or the ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid Class “C” California Motor Vehicle Operator’s License.
- 2) Possession of a certified L.A. County or Orange County Fire Chief’s Physical Ability Test Certificate (Biddle) **or** CPAT Certificate from a CPAT testing facility within the last 6 months of application filing date.
- 3) Possession of a valid Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification from the American Heart Association.
- 4) Possession of a valid State of California Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) License.
- 5) Possession of a valid Paramedic Certification (Riverside County) is highly desirable.
- 6) Possession of a valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certification.
- 7) Possession of, or ability to obtain by the completion of the required probationary period, a valid Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Certification.
- 8) Possession of, or ability to obtain by the completion of the required probationary period, a valid Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) or Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Certification.

***While employed as a Firefighter/Paramedic, incumbents will be required to continuously maintain all licenses, certifications, & accreditations necessary to function as a paramedic in Riverside County. This requirement will be removed upon promotion to the rank of Fire Engineer or Fire Captain. Failure to maintain required licenses, certifications, & accreditations will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.**

(COPIES OF VALID REQUESTED CERTIFICATIONS ONLY MUST BE ATTACHED TO ORIGINAL APPLICATION, OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.)

FILING PERIOD:

Original applications including required certificates will be accepted between **February 7-11, 2005, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and on February 12, 2005, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm only.** FAXED, PHOTO COPIED APPLICATIONS OR POSTMARKS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED. APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. Printable applications may be downloaded from the City website (www.riversideca.gov) but must be submitted in person to the Human Resources Department during the application period with the requested certificates.

APPLY TO:

City of Riverside, Human Resources Department, 3780 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501.

SELECTION PROCESS:

- 1) **Written Exam:** Candidates meeting the minimum qualifications, as stated above, shall be invited to a written exam.
- 2) **Oral Interviews:** Successful candidates from the written exam shall be screened and those best meeting the needs of the department may be invited to participate in an oral exam.
- 3) **Background Investigation:** Successful oral interview candidates may be selected by the Fire Department to have a background investigation conducted.

PLEASE NOTE: This selection process may change without notice.

Note: The City of Riverside does not reimburse candidates for any expenses incurred as a result of this recruitment.

* Appointment may be made at any step contingent upon the qualifications of successful candidate.

For more information about the position, including how to get an application, visit the City of Riverside's Human Resource website: <http://www.riversideca.gov/human/jobline/>

For more information about the Riverside Fire Department, visit their website at: <http://www.riversideca.gov/fire/Default.htm>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY –
Tracy Fire Department

The Tracy Fire Department is accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter Trainee** (their entry-level firefighter position) until February 11, 2005.

Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Valid EMT certification
- Firefighter 1 State Certification or Firefighter 1 Academy Completion
- Valid Class C California driver license

Desirable Qualifications:

- Experience in an organized fire department
- Completion of fire science classes or training
- Bilingual skills
- Paramedic licensure (may be given priority consideration based on the needs of the department)

Selection Process:

Orientation – Candidates must pre-register and attend an information session about the Tracy Fire Department. Applications will only be distributed at these sessions. Completed applications will be accepted at the end of each session.

Candidates must pre-register to attend one of the following orientation sessions by February 11, 2005, before 1:00 p.m.

- Tuesday February 22, 2005 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Wednesday February 23, 2005 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Friday February 25, 2005 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

LATECOMERS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE SESSION!!!!

Pre-Registration Instructions:

- Dial 209-831-4000. When prompted to “place a network call,” dial 1235.
- Leave your name, mailing address, and session date you wish to attend.
- Notification will be mailed to you to confirm your registration. You must bring your notification letter and photo ID with you to be admitted to the session.

For more information about the position, visit the City of Tracy Human Resources Job page at <http://www.ci.tracy.ca.us/jobs/>

For more information about the Tracy Fire Department, visit their website at <http://www.ci.tracy.ca.us/departments/fire/>

For more information about the City of Tracy, visit their website at <http://www.ci.tracy.ca.us>

PARAMEDIC SCHOOL INFORMATION – Redwood City

The California EMS Academy in Redwood City, CA is offering a paramedic program as follows:

- Date & Time:** April 7, 2005 – September 12, 2005
Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays – 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Course Location:** Port of Redwood City
675 Seaport Boulevard
Redwood City, CA 94063
- Course Fee:** \$9,000.00 (Does not include internship fee, uniform, or National Registry exam fee.)
- Last Day to Register:** March 9, 2005

Pre-Testing Dates: Feb. 8, 22, Mar. 8 or 9, 2005 (Choose 1 date only). Testing starts at 12 pm.

Please bring a copy of your EMT card, CPR card, and a passport-sized photo to the pre-test.

The course is 1120 hours of classroom, hospital and field instruction in prehospital patient assessment and intervention at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level. The program is divided into 3 phases: 1) Didactic. 2) Clinical. 3) Field internship.

They are also offering a **Pre-Paramedic course** to prepare you for paramedic school:

Dates & Times: March 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2005
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
10 am to 7 pm each day

Course Location: Port of Redwood City
675 Seaport Boulevard
Redwood City, CA 94063

Course Fee: \$950.00

Last Day to Register: March 1, 2005

This class will consist of anatomy and physiology (A & P), EKG, patient assessment, medical terminology, pharmacology calculations. The last 4 hours of the course includes pre-testing for their paramedic program. Minimum passing standard of 80% on a written exam and successful completion of their skills exam is also required. Successful completion of this course will provide you with 64 hours of EMT continuing education.

For more information:

Email: mail@caems-academy.com
Website: <http://www.caems-academy.com>
Phone: 866-577-9197 or 650-701-0739

PARAMEDIC SCHOOL INFORMATION – Santa Cruz

Emergency Training Services (ETS) in Santa Cruz, CA offers two paramedic programs per year. They typically have one paramedic program in the spring and one in the fall. If you are an EMT with a high school diploma or equivalent, you can apply for their program. The Fall 2005 course begins in August and can be completed in one year. Applications will be available in April 2005. This program is accredited by the CAAHEP. For more information or to get placed on their mailing list, call them at 800-700-8444. You can also visit their website at <http://www.emergencytraining.com> for more information.

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

The San Francisco Paramedic Association is looking for volunteers for the following upcoming EMS related classes:

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wednesday February 23 from 0700 to 0930 hours - Thursday February 24 from 1230 to 1730 hours -Thursday March 24 from 0700 to 0930 hours - Friday March 25 from 1230 to 1730 hours <p>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model in Sausalito</p>
You will receive:	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.
Your role:	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.
Contact person(s):	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 director@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at http://www.sfparamedics.org/volunteer.htm

Advanced Medical Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday February 8 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Wednesday February 9 from 1030 to 1630 hours <p>Both of the above classes will be held at the <u>San Francisco Paramedic Association Office in San Francisco</u></p>
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You will receive:	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.
Your role:	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.
Contact person(s):	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 director@sfparamedics.org or register and see more information on their website at http://www.sfparamedics.org/volunteer.htm

WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM GETTING YOUR FIREFIGHTER BADGE?



On Wednesday April 13, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm, “Captain Bob” Smith will be providing a **FREE** Oral Interview seminar. This will occur at **Chabot College in room 510 (found in Building 500)**. Captain Bob is a retired Captain from the Hayward Fire Department who has been on numerous interview panels and has helped countless candidates obtain their badges.

He will provide you with tips on how to better prepare yourself for the oral interviews you will be taking or have already taken and not done as well as you possibly could have on. Remember that the oral interview is probably the **MOST** important phase of the firefighter hiring process since most fire departments score this portion 100% of your total score.

Register early – seats will fill up fast!

Why should you attend? To learn step by step, everything you need to know in the process, starting with the application, written, physical, oral interview, psych interview, background, polygraph, and medical to gain a badge. You will find the inside “Nuggets”, tips and resources you can’t get anywhere else to shorten the learning curve and the distance between you and that badge. This is information that has helped over 2100 candidates nail their badges!

For more information about Captain Bob, visit his website at <http://www.eatstress.com> He has numerous free tips and suggestions to score better on the oral interview. To register for this unique and excellent opportunity, email me at sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu and let me know how many people plan to attend. Hurry, seats are limited!

Oral interviews are the toughest thing for most people (going for jobs in any line of work, not just the fire department). Why not take this free opportunity to learn at least one new thing? If you learn something that even just raises your score by 1%, it was worth your time to attend!

For directions to Chabot College, go to:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?country=US&countryid=US&addtohistory=&searchtab=address&searchtype=address&address=25555+Hesperian+Blvd.&city=Hayward&state=CA&zipcode=94545&search=++Search++>

MORE FREE FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION SEMINARS!

Become a better firefighter candidate!

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

NOTE: The seminar originally scheduled for March 9, 2005 has been cancelled; that subject matter will now be delivered on May 11. Thank you for your understanding.

DATES: Wednesday May 11, 2005

Topics being covered include:

1. Firefighter employment opportunities with the Federal Government. Special guest speaker – Aaron Woods, Firefighter: Camp Parks (Dublin, CA) Fire Department.
2. 25 steps to success in the process of becoming a firefighter. Learn 25 valuable tips to better prepare yourself and earn more points in the overall process. Instructor: Steve Prziborowski, Fire Technology Coordinator at Chabot College and Captain with the Santa Clara County Fire Department.

NOTE: Topics listed above subject to change.

TIME: 6 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Chabot College: Room 2210 (In building 2200)
25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward, CA 94545

**REGISTRATION /
MORE INFO:**

To register, email me at 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 <http://www.chabotfire.com> for more information on becoming a firefighter.

**PARAMEDIC SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION INFORMATION –Northern California
Training Institute (Livermore, Roseville, Santa Barbara, Emeryville, and South Bay locations)**

Northern California Training Institute (NCTI) is holding pre-entrance examinations for their upcoming Paramedic classes in:

- **Livermore** - courses to be held on *Tuesdays and Fridays*
- **Roseville** - courses to be held on *Tuesdays and Fridays*
- **Santa Barbara** - courses to be held on *Tuesdays and Fridays*

Here is more information I downloaded from their website:

NCTI holds the HOBET entrance exam for all paramedic program placements. NO late arrivals are allowed at the exam. Please make arrangements to arrive early. All application information is accessible from the NCTI homepage at <http://www.ncti-online.com> – *Please return all materials prior to the test date!*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course fulfills all of the training requirements set forth by the State of California for Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be eligible to take the National Registry Exam which NCTI hosts throughout the year at our Roseville Campus. This certification can lead to employment in a wide range of fields, to include ambulance or fire paramedic, E.R. technician, special functions paramedic, sporting events, concerts, etc. NCTI is owned by American Medical Response, Inc. (AMR) and direct employment referrals are a benefit reserved for NCTI students.

TO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a high school diploma or GED certificate
- Complete an approved Anatomy and Physiology course within the last 5 years
- Possess a current CPR card and a current EMT-1 or EMT II certification

- Applicants whose certification expires less than twelve (12) months prior to the enrollment date are also eligible

SCHEDULE OF TRAINING

PHASE I - (Didactic & Lab)

400 Hours (approx. 6 months)

Course days and times will be announced at a later date.

PHASE II - (Clinical Rotations)

160 Hours (approx. 2 months)

individually, as arranged for each student, at one of several acute care hospitals in the area.

Guaranteed placement by NCTI.

PHASE III - (Field Internships)

480-720 Hours (approx. 4 months)

Depending on experience and performance individually, as arranged for each student. ***Guaranteed placement by NCTI. (This is a key selling point when shopping around for paramedic schools!)***

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

General knowledge of first aid and the ability to handle stressful situations and/or prior experience as an EMT with an ambulance or fire service provider agency.

ADMISSION TESTING

\$50.00 entrance exam fee (non-refundable / non-transferable)

COURSE FINANCING

Tuition may be paid by check, money order, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover.

TESTING DATES & TIMES

For their **Paramedic Course** that will be held in Livermore, CA, beginning in August 2005, the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday March 2, 2005 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom
- Wednesday March 9, 2005 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom

For their **Paramedic Course** that will be held in Roseville, CA, beginning in June 2005 (running Tuesdays and Fridays) the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday February 2, 2005 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at their Roseville Classroom
- Wednesday February 9, 2005 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at their Roseville Classroom

For their **Paramedic Course** that will be held in Santa Barbara, CA, beginning in June of 2005, the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday February 16, 2005 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Santa Barbara EMS Agency
- Thursday February 17, 2005 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Santa Barbara EMS Agency

FOR MORE INFORMATION - Visit their website at <http://www.ncti-online.com> – also, for links to those above tests and classes, go to: <http://www.ncti-online.com/courses.shtml>

This is not meant to be an endorsement or recommendation of their program. It is listed as a service and a resource for you to evaluate and determine on your own.

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

Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: <http://www.chabotfire.com>
Chabot College website: <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 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 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 and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.