



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

**December 2003**

**Volume 2 – Issue 6**

**W**elcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! It is hard to imagine another year has almost passed us by; it seems like we were just preparing for Y2K to hit. 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! News items covered in this issue include:

- Engineer Steven Rucker of the Novato Fire Protection District Memorial service information and trust fund information.
- Review of a new firefighter oral interview book that every firefighter candidate should own!
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Alameda County Fire Department!
- Seasonal Firefighter employment opportunity – CDF!
- Firefighter employment opportunity – Sacramento Fire Department 2004 testing dates!
- Holiday gift giving ideas for the firefighter candidate

### ***LET US TAKE A MOMENT OF SILENCE TO REMEMBER.....***

**E**ngineer Steven Rucker of the [Novato Fire Protection District](#), who died in the line of duty on Wednesday, October 29, 2003, while defending a home in the Cedar Fire near the Town of Julian in San Diego County. Engineer Rucker had been a former Chabot College Fire Technology student (1984-1985). Engineer Rucker had gone through the Chabot College Firefighter 1 Academy in the Winter/Spring of 1985 and had done his Student Firefighter Work Experience (Fire Technology 95 & 96) with the [City of Alameda Fire Department](#).



Engineer Rucker, 38 years old, was an 11 year veteran of the [Novato Fire District](#). He began his career with the District as a Firefighter/Paramedic in 1992. He previously worked as a paramedic with [American Medical Response](#) in Concord, California (Contra Costa County). He promoted to Engineer in 2003 and served as an Acting Captain. He was in charge of the District's Easter party for children of employees, and was the Chief Elf in the District's Toys for Tots program. Steve recently participated in the "People helping People" program, helping senior citizens reduce fire hazards around their home.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

Captain McDonald received burns to over 18% of his body & was still being treated at a San Diego burn facility at the time I put this article together. He is still listed in critical condition and expected to recover. Engineer Kreps & Firefighter/Paramedic Smith have been treated & released.

The memorial service for Engineer Rucker was held on November 12, 2003, at the Marin County Civic Center Veteran's Auditorium in San Rafael.

A trust fund for the family of Steven Rucker has been set up at the [Bank of Marin](#):

The Steven Rucker Fund  
[Bank of Marin](#)  
1450 Grant Avenue  
Novato, CA 94945  
(415) 899-7338

Additionally, a fund has also been set up for the family of Captain Doug McDonald also at the Bank of Marin:

The Doug McDonald Fund  
[Bank of Marin](#)  
1450 Grant Avenue  
Novato, CA 94945  
(415) 899-7338

### ***SMOKE YOUR FIREFIGHTER INTERVIEW! - by Captain Paul S. Lepore***

There is a new firefighter oral interview book out now that every firefighter candidate should own! [Smoke your firefighter interview](#), by **Captain Paul S. Lepore**, is an excellent resource that should help the future firefighter candidate better prepare themselves and improve their scores for the most important phase of the hiring process, the oral interview. I recommend this book to anyone that is pursuing a career as a firefighter; it is something I wish I had available to me when I was testing for the position of firefighter!

Paul Lepore is a Fire Captain with the [Long Beach Fire Department](#) in Southern California, where has worked since 1986. He is also presently on the promotional list for Battalion Chief. Captain Lepore has conducted hundreds of entry-level interviews as well as served as a rater for several Captains' promotional exams. He has conducted numerous seminars to coach and mentor both promotional and entry-level candidates alike. He also founded [EMS Safety Service, Inc.](#), a first aid and CPR training corporation that certifies over 100,000 students each year.

[Smoke your Firefighter Interview](#) contains 330 pages of quality information to help you receive the highest score you possibly can on the oral interview portion of a firefighter examination. Virtually every fire department requires the entry-level candidate to successfully pass an oral interview where you will be asked a series of standardized questions by anywhere from three to seven raters. Since the oral interview usually accounts for 100% of your total score (and

resulting placement on the hiring list), it is imperative that you get your hands on as much information as you can that pertains to firefighter oral interviews.

Captain Lepore wrote this book for individuals who are interested in pursuing a career with the fire service. The majority of his book is made up of a series of questions and corresponding answers that are designed to familiarize candidates with situations and scenarios that typify life in the fire service. His goal in using the question and answer format is to help candidates think about the reasons they are interested in joining the fire service while preparing their responses to questions that will be a part of the interview process.

[Smoke your Firefighter Interview](#) is intended to provide candidates with a strong foundation on how to approach the more common scenarios and themes that come up during the interview process. It is important to note that although the book has been reviewed and endorsed by dozens of fire service “experts,” it’s still only one source of information. It is critical that each candidate analyze each situation, read the rationale for the answer, and develop his/her own thoughts and ideas. The candidate may not always agree with his approach to handling a situation, but at least they will have an opportunity to digest most of the common scenarios before the interview.

To view some of the favorable comments made by people that have already purchased this book, [CLICK HERE](#). These comments were made on the bulletin board of [www.firecareers.com](http://www.firecareers.com)

To order a copy, or for more information, you can either call 800-215-9555 or go to the website: [www.smokeyourffinterview.com](http://www.smokeyourffinterview.com) – with the holidays coming up, this book would make an excellent gift for any future firefighter!

***FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Alameda County Fire Department***



The [Alameda County Fire Department](#) is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter Recruit!

**Last day for filing:** Monday, December 8, 2003

***NOTE:*** Applications must be in the possession of the Human Resources Department by 4:30 p.m. on the Last Day for filing! Postmarks are NOT accepted.

**Date of examination:** Examination will be held by appointment with applicant.

**The position:** The [Alameda County Fire Department \(ACFD\)](#) is actively recruiting for the position of Firefighter / EMT and Firefighter / Paramedic. The Department serves the unincorporated areas of Alameda County, the City of San Leandro, and the City of Dublin. The area comprises approximately 500 square miles and serves a population of 234,500. The Fire Department has a budget in excess of \$44 million with a staff of 230 firefighting personnel and 18 fire stations.

**The requirements:**

The following are entrance requirements for admission to the examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. A candidate's performance in the examination will be judged in comparison with the performance of other candidates.

**Education:**

Graduation from high school or possession of an acceptable equivalency certificate, such as a G.E.D. certificate (State of California), **AND**

**Applicants must meet at least one of the following requirements:**

- Must be a paid Firefighter / EMT or Firefighter / Paramedic in a fire department (seasonal employment is eligible); **OR**
- Current member of the [Alameda County Fire Department Reserve program](#); **OR**
- Must be a nationally registered paramedic

**License:**

Possession of a valid California Motor Vehicle Operator's license, and possession of a **current and valid** California EMT-1 certificate or Certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians as an EMT-B (basic).

**Special requirements:**

Applicants must have visual acuity correctable to 20/30 in either eye. Job offer will be contingent upon passing a medical examination, a thorough background investigation, and a psychological evaluation.

**Age:**

Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

**The Examination:**

THIS IS A CONTINUOUS EXAMINATION. The eligible list resulting from this selection process will last approximately one year but may be extended as needed. ***This eligible list may also be used by other fire departments within Alameda County.*** This examination may be reopened as necessary and the names of additional candidates merged onto the existing list according to examination score.

This examination will consist of the following components: A review of candidates' applications to verify possession of minimum requirements; a supplemental questionnaire; a Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT); and an oral interview. The oral interview may contain situational exercise. **THEY RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO ANNOUNCED EXAMINATION STEPS.**

**NOTE:** ***If you have taken and passed the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) within the past twelve (12) months and can produce written documentation from the testing agency, you will not need to re-take the CPAT.***

**To apply:**

Applications may be obtained at Alameda County Human Resource Services, 1405 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612. The application is also available on their website at <http://www.acgov.org>

***CDF IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SEASONAL FIREFIGHTER***

The [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection \(CDF\)](#) is now accepting applications for Firefighter I. Applications will be accepted through January 30<sup>th</sup> for the 2004-2005 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 return it to each unit you are interested in working for. Applications will **NOT** be accepted at their Sacramento Headquarters, Region Offices, or Conservation Camps.



There 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.

Because 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.

In 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.

There 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 your 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:**

Northern Region Headquarters: (707) 576-2275  
Northern Operations Center: (530) 224-2445  
Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801  
Southern Region HQ (559) 222-3714  
Southern Operations Center: (909) 782-4140  
Equal Employment Opportunity: (916) 445-8113

**CDF - NORTHERN REGION**

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

**Butte Unit**  
176 Nelson Avenue  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-7111

**Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**  
118 S. Fortuna Blvd.  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
(707) 725-4413

**Lassen-Modoc Unit**  
697-345 Highway 36  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-4171

**Mendocino Unit**  
17501 N. Highway 101  
Willits, CA 95490  
(707) 459-7414

**Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**  
13760 Lincoln Way  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 823-4904

**San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**  
6059 Highway 9  
Felton, CA 95018  
(831) 335-5353

**Santa Clara Unit**  
15670 Monterey Street  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
(408) 779-2121

**Shasta-Trinity Unit**  
875 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2418

**Siskiyou Unit**  
1809 Fair Lane Road  
Yreka, CA 96097  
(530) 842-3516

**Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**  
1199 Big Tree Road  
St. Helena, CA 94574  
(707) 963-3601

**Tehama-Glenn Unit**  
604 Antelope Blvd.  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
(530) 529-8548

## **CDF - SOUTHERN REGION**

**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

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

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

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

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

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

**San Diego Unit**  
2249 Jamacha Road  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(619) 588-0364

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

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

**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 California Department of Forestry. I appreciate your time and assistance!

## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – LAS VEGAS**



The cities of **Las Vegas** and **North Las Vegas** will be accepting applications for the position of **FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE** during the period of December 1 to 31, 2003. This recruitment will involve a highly competitive process that includes a written exam scheduled for January 28, 2004 and a pass/fail physical ability exam scheduled for mid-March 2004.

This bi-annual recruitment is known as Firefighter Interagency Recruitment, Examination and Selection (F.I.R.E.S.), and 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 the two cities. The goal of F.I.R.E.S. is to recruit the most qualified applicants while increasing our minority and female representation within the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas.

**Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:**

- Possession of an appropriate, valid driver's license on the date of application
- Equivalent to the graduation from high school and must be 18 years of age or older
- Must meet current physical condition requirements on date of appointment.
- Must possess an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic certificate on the date of job offer. If the applicant doesn't have his or her EMT certificate at the time of offer, applicant produce it by fax, hand delivery or mail within a week.
- Some firefighting experience and college level course work in fire science, fire administration, or a related field is desirable but not required.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the City of Las Vegas website section that has more information about this recruitment process, or call the F.I.R.E.S. hot line at (702) 392-2774 for updates.

**Some suggested study materials for this examination include:**

- Test Preparation Manual. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the F.I.R.E.S. page and obtain an order form for this manual (found on the bottom of the page under RELATED LINKS. ***Highly recommended to purchase if you are going to take this examination!***
- ARCO – Firefighter by Fred M. Rafilson and Robert Andriuolo
- Math for Civil Service Tests by Jesskia Sobanski
- Practical Math Success in 20 Minutes a Day by Judith Robinovitz

**F**or those of you that are not aware of what the Las Vegas Fire-Rescue Department has to offer, visit their website at <http://www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us/fire-rescue> - they are a rapidly growing fire department that currently has 15 fire stations with three additional fire stations currently under construction (and more planned). They are also one of about 45 fire departments nationwide that have received the prestigious Class-1 rating by the Insurance Services Organization (I.S.O.). The Las Vegas Fire-Rescue Department covers approximately 113 square miles and approximately 490,000 people. In 2001, the department went on approximately 66,000 responses. They are a busy fire department!

**F**or those of you that are not aware of what the North Las Vegas Fire Department has to offer, visit their website at <http://www.ci.north-las-vegas.nv.us> – once you are on the city website, go to DEPARTMENTS and select FIRE DEPARTMENT. The North Las Vegas Fire Departments covers 78 square miles and approximately 123,000 people out of four fire stations (with additional stations planned for construction).

**T**he Las Vegas Metropolitan area is one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. Why is this important to you, the firefighter candidate? Growth usually translates to more jobs! Other fire departments in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area include:

- [Boulder City Fire Department](#) (1 fire station)
- [Clark County Fire Department](#) (this is the fire department that actually protects the famous Las Vegas Strip with approximately 20 fire stations and many more planned for

construction) Clark County Fire Department is the only Class 1 I.S.O. rated Fire Department in the United States!

- [Henderson Fire Department](#) (9 fire stations with more planned for construction)

**CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR.....**

Chabot College Fire Technology Student **Dennis Bucholz**, who was hired as a *Firefighter* with the [Contra Costa County Fire Department](#). Dennis started their training academy on November 18, 2003. Way to go Dennis; congratulations and good luck!

**FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Sacramento City Fire Department**

The [Sacramento City Fire Department](#) is one of the larger fire departments in the State. They operate out of 22 fire stations, protecting 458,000 people over 144 square miles. They are a full-service fire department that includes ALS transporting ambulance service. They will be testing quarterly for the position of *FIRE RECRUIT*. The (tentative) year 2004 testing dates are:



- **January 10, 2004.** [Cut off for filing for this test is December 12, 2003](#)
- **May 8, 2004** [Cut off for filing for this test is April 9, 2004](#)
- **August 21, 2004** [Cut off for filing for this test is July 23, 2004](#)
- **October 16, 2004** [Cut off for filing for this test is September 17, 2004](#)

**Note:** Cut-off deadlines and test dates are tentative and are subject to change without prior notification.

**What is the position of fire recruit?**

The [Sacramento City Fire Department](#) is responsible for the protection of life and property and for providing EMS to the community. Fire Recruits attend the Sacramento Fire Training Academy for 20 weeks and receive basic training in firefighting methods, equipment operation and maintenance, physical fitness, fire science concepts, and a variety of other subjects.

Candidates who satisfactorily complete the training and graduate from the academy are given probationary status and assignments as firefighters. Some graduates who hold current certification as paramedics may be assigned as Firefighter/Paramedics. In addition, all candidates must pass a background investigation, fingerprinting, medical examination, and drug testing prior to becoming a firefighter.

**What are their requirements?**

In order to qualify for entrance into the Recruit Academy, you must:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED equivalent.
- Have a current EMT-1 certificate or higher.

- Have 20 semester units or 30 quarter units from an accredited college or university. Three years as a paid firefighter may be substituted for the above college units.
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Pass a written examination.

**Special qualifications:**

- You have not smoked or used any tobacco products during the 12 months prior to testing.
- Possess a valid California Class C driver's license at the time of appointment.
- Ability to obtain a Class B driver's license with appropriate endorsements during the Sacramento Fire Training Academy. Failure to obtain license will be cause for termination.
- Wear respiratory protective equipment at times. When assigned to such work, facial hair must be shaved when it interferes with the safe fitting of such equipment.
- Reside within a 35 air mile radius from the freeway interchange at W-X streets and 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> streets within one year following appointment as a firefighter.
- Pass the physical ability test each year as a condition of employment

**Additionally you must**

Pass a physical ability test which includes the following events:

- Hose drag
- Hose Carry / Stair climb
- Hose Hoist
- Smoke Ejector
- Citizen Rescue
- Dry Hose Load

**A videotape of the physical ability test is available at the following locations:**

- Any branch of the Sacramento City or County library system.
- American River College Library, 4700 College Oak Drive, Sacramento, CA 95841
- Consumnes River College Library, 8401 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95821

**For more information you may contact:**

- Sacramento City Personnel Department (916) 264-5726
- The Fire Recruit Hotline: (916) 264-8172
- The City 24-hour jobline: (916) 264-8568

**To download an application** - Go to the JOB OPPORTUNITIES section of their website at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/fire/jobopportunities.html>

**To find out more information about the Sacramento City Fire Department** - Visit their website at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/fire/>

## **HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING!**

**W**ith the holidays coming up, here are some suggestions when people ask what they should get you:

1. **Subscription to various Fire Service related publications such as:**
  - a. Firehouse magazine – <http://www.firehouse.com>
  - b. Fire Engineering magazine – <http://www.fire-eng.com>
  - c. Fire Chief magazine – <http://www.firechief.com>
  - d. American Fire Journal – <http://www.americanfirejournal.com>
  - e. Fire Apparatus Journal – <http://www.fireapparatusjournal.com>
  - f. Journal of Emergency Services (JEMS) – <http://www.jems.com>
  
2. **Subscription to one or more Firefighter testing services that notify you when fire departments are testing:**
  - a. Perfect Firefighter Candidate – <http://www.firecareers.com>
  - b. Careers in the Fire Service – <http://www.firerecruit.com>
  
3. **Gift certificates to businesses that sell fire & EMS related books:**
  - a. Firefighters Bookstore – <http://www.firebooks.com>
  - b. FSP Books and Video – <http://www.fire-police-ems.com>
  
4. **Association memberships:**
  - a. California Firefighters Association (CSFA) – <http://www.csfa.net>
  - b. California Conference of Arson Investigators – <http://www.arson.org>
  - c. Women in the Fire Service – <http://www.wfsi.org>
  - d. Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association – <http://www.norcal-fpo.org>
  
5. **Gym membership:**
  - a. Pick a gym that provides a full compliment of work out equipment and facilities so when asked how you have prepared yourself for the position, you can comment how you have joined a gym and have a workout plan in place (goes back to preparation and motivation).
  
6. **Thomas Brothers Maps:**
  - a. If you have never heard what about a Thomas Brothers Map, then you have missed out on a valuable resource. Thomas Brothers Maps produce maps of specific counties throughout California and parts of the United States. Thomas Brothers Maps can be found at any major book store chain or on their web site at <http://www.thomas.com> – take a look to see for yourself. If you are a Costco member, they usually have them available for a very reasonable price.
  
  - b. Why are they so valuable?
    - **Number 1** – to become a firefighter, you are probably going to be doing a great deal of driving around the area if not the state and you'll need a map anyway.

- **Number 2** – when you take a test for a fire department, you should be doing some basic research such as stopping by fire stations or determining what types of target hazards are found in a community, etc. Besides target hazards, Thomas Brothers Maps list every governmental facility such as fire stations, police stations, city hall, etc. These maps can do a portion of your homework for you!
  - **Number 3** – they are in a book format, thus they won't be easily damaged like regular fold-out maps will.
  - **Number 4** – since many fire departments and ambulance companies use Thomas Brothers Maps in their vehicles, you will be getting a leg up on learning. Reading maps is almost like a lost art in the fire service. Many of the new firefighters we are hiring cannot read a map to save their life. When someone calls 911, we don't have every address memorized in our head – 99.9% of the time, we have to use a map to find the address. Start your training now!
- c. What types of maps do they sell? They usually produce a map of a county or multiple counties, such as:
- Alameda County
  - Contra Costa County
  - Alameda County and Contra Costa County (Best value – 2 counties in one book)
  - Bay Area Metropolitan Area – All bay area counties in one book (Excellent value)
  - State of California (an excellent book to supplement your other county books)

7. **Private Oral Board Coaching**

- a. [Captain Bob Smith](#), (Hayward Fire Department – retired). [CLICK HERE](#) to go the coaching section on his website to learn more about this valuable service geared toward increasing your oral interview scores!
- b. [Captain Paul Lepore](#), (Long Beach Fire Department). [CLICK HERE](#) to go to his the coaching section on his website to learn more about this valuable service geared toward increasing your oral interview scores!

**E**ven if you don't get what you want for the holidays doesn't mean you can't invest in some of the above areas to better prepare yourself for your future career as a firefighter. To make money, you have to spend money. I'm not saying you're going to get rich being a firefighter – I'm just using a phrase that has been around for a long time. It basically means success in life doesn't usually fall into your lap. You're going to have to invest some time and money to get you where you want in life.

***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!

## To everyone:

I hope you and your families have a very Happy Holiday season!

Happy New Year and good luck to each and every one of you in your pursuit of the becoming a firefighter!

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**Chabot College web site:** [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 from the list.