



FIRE & EMS NEWS

July 2003

Volume 2 – Issue 1

Welcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! This issue marks the second year of production! 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 this issue include:

- Chabot College Fire Technology website – important information!
- Paramedic school entrance examination information – Santa Cruz
- Various Firefighter Employment Opportunities
- Locating Firefighter Employment Opportunities

CHABOT COLLEGE FIRE TECHNOLOGY WEBSITE

Some of you might have noticed that the Chabot College Fire Technology website has not been available for about the last month or so. Well, there is a good reason for that and a lesson that all of us (including myself) can learn from! Somewhere around June 1, the college switched computer servers. I was not aware of this. Apparently I had received an email sometime in May stating that I should transfer my website over to the new server prior to June 1. Well, I must have deleted the email because a few students advised me that the site was not available. Even though I can't remember deleting the email, I still have to take responsibility and accountability for myself. Good, bad, or indifferent, everything was gone because I had not properly backed up the website data.

I guess I'm a hypocrite because I always preach to everyone to "back up, back up, back up!" I did not practice what I preach and I got burned. That was a tough lesson to learn the hard way. Needless to say, I've been attempting to put the website back together based on the information I had from the time I had last backed it up. This has not been a fun or easy process, just a process that has to be done.

To access the new Chabot College Fire Technology website, go to <http://www.chabotfire.com> Please go to this page and bookmark it. While it is still under construction, I hope to have it fully operational within a few weeks. In the meantime, I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. My goal is to have the website be a resource for you to use in more ways than one. The good thing about all of this is that I learned a valuable lesson and I ended up

having a shorter website address that will be easier for people to remember. Learn from others mistakes and don't make the same mistake twice is the lesson we can learn from this!

PARAMEDIC SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION INFORMATION –Northern California Training Institute (Livermore)

Northern California Training Institute (NCTI) is holding pre-entrance examinations for their upcoming Paramedic class in Livermore. 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. Prior experience as an EMT with an ambulance or fire service provider agency.

ADMISSION TESTING

\$50.00 application fee (non-refundable / non-transferable)

COURSE FINANCING

Special Financing and payment arrangements are available for qualified students meeting the conditions of each program. Please contact NCTI directly for further details on these options. Tuition may be paid by credit card as well.

COURSE CHARGES AND FEES

Course charges and fees will be provided to students prior to the start of the course.

TESTING DATES & TIMES

For their **Fall 2003 Paramedic Course** that will be held in Livermore, CA the examination dates are as follows:

- Wednesday August 13, 2003 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom
- Wednesday August 20, 2003 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at their Livermore Classroom

FOR MORE INFORMATION - Visit their website at <http://www.ncti-online.com>

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.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Just because there might not be many fire departments that are presently testing for the position of firefighter doesn't mean that you cannot prepare yourself for when they do. Many fire departments take "Interest Cards," which put you on their list of people to be notified when they do test again. Actually, the fire department usually does not accept the interest card. The city or county personnel or human resource office is usually the department that puts together the firefighter testing process for a fire department. Here are a few fire departments that are accepting interest cards:

[Long Beach Fire Department](http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/fire/index.htm) – The Long Beach F.D. is supposed to be testing in 2003 for entry-level firefighters. They recently opened up a recruitment for lateral firefighters, but I have been told they might also test for entry-level firefighters. To find out more about the position of Firefighter Recruit (their entry-level position), go to the F.D. section on their website at <http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/fire/index.htm> To file an on-line interest card to be notified when they will be testing, go to the City of Long Beach’s Human Resources Department at <http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/civilservice/index.htm> and click on the link for JOB DESCRIPTIONS (Including email notification). From there, you can navigate to the “F” section and click on the link for Firefighter Recruit.

[Los Angeles City Fire Department](#) – The L.A.F.D. is also accepting interest cards for their entry level firefighter positions. Click on the blue link above for complete information on how to become an LAFD Firefighter, as well as what benefits and opportunities they offer.

[Los Angeles County Fire Department](#) – The L.A. County Fire Department does not accept interest cards. However, they do have a 24 hour jobline that keeps candidates posted on when they will next be testing for various positions (including Firefighter). Their jobline is (323) 881-2308. You can also check their website for positions they are currently testing for. Click on the blue link above and you can find out more about the L.A. County Fire Department.

[San Diego Fire Department](http://sandiego.gov/fireandems/careers/sdflssops.shtml) – The San Diego Fire and Life Safety Services Department (a.k.a. San Diego Fire Department, is continuously testing for the positions of Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2. This recruitment opened on February 14, 2003 and could close at any time. For more information about the above positions (as well as other positions within the fire department) go to: <http://sandiego.gov/fireandems/careers/sdflssops.shtml> - once on that page, you can also click on [CURRENT CITY JOBS](#) in the center of the page to verify they are still accepting applications and for what positions. Just because it is open today doesn’t mean it couldn’t close at any given time.

[San Francisco Fire Department](#) – The S.F.F.D. last tested for firefighter (a.k.a. H-2 firefighter – their entry level firefighter position) in September, 2001. If you would like to be notified when their next application filing is open again (tentatively scheduled for 2004), you can complete an H-2 Interest card on their website by clicking on the blue link above and then clicking on JOB OPPORTUNITIES on the right side of the page. If you are a paramedic and are interested in their next H-3 Firefighter/Paramedic recruitment, you can also click on a separate link on the same page to submit an interest card. You can also obtain up-to-date information on their recorded job line at (415) 558-3260.

[San Jose Fire Department](#) – The S.J.F.D. is only presently testing for Firefighter / Paramedics and Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatchers. However, they are accepting interest cards for their entry-level firefighter position, assuming you meet the following minimum qualifications by the date of application:

1. At least 18 years of age by the written exam date.
2. Education: Graduation from high school or equivalent (GED or California Proficiency Certificate).
3. Possession of a valid driver’s license or equivalent.
4. Possession of a current and valid EMT certificate

For more information, click on the blue link above or contact the SJFD recruitment officer at (408) 277-3473 or via email at SJFDRecruiting@ci.sj.ca.us

[Dallas \(TX\) Fire-Rescue](#) - The Dallas (Texas) Fire-Rescue Fire Department does not accept interest cards; however, the Department offers their written examination on a weekly basis, and is continuously accepting applications for firefighter related positions. They have over 1500 uniformed personnel, serve a population of over 1 million citizens, and operate out of 56 fire stations. For more information, click on the blue link above or call (800) 510-FIRE.

What do you have to lose? Remember that some of these departments only test once every couple of years. In the early 1990's, the Oakland Fire Department went approximately 6 or 7 years between firefighter testing processes. That is a long time to wait if you miss it because of lack of preparation.

Not every agency accepts interest cards. I challenge each and every one of you to go to the **LINKS** page that I have put together on the Chabot College Fire Technology Website, and then click on each fire department's website that I have listed. Once on their home page, look for either words such as RECRUITMENT, JOBS, or EMPLOYMENT. Many progressive fire departments provide information on when they will next test, what their requirements are, and if they take interest cards or not. If nothing else, they should navigate you back to the City or County website that agency is a part of, since most fire departments do not put on their own testing processes. Usually the City or County Human Resource (H.R.) or Personnel Office puts on a firefighter examination.

LOCATING FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

If you are not being proactive in searching out fire departments that are hiring, you might miss out on having a chance to test for your dream department! Besides putting in interest cards to departments such as the ones listed in the previous paragraphs, I strongly suggest subscribing to various email services that notify you of firefighter testing opportunities. When I was testing, I actually paid for the services of two different companies. Why? Because I did not want to miss out on a test! These are the two services I subscribed to:

[Perfect Firefighter Candidate](#) - The Perfect Firefighter Candidate (also known as firecareers.com) has been in business over 20 years, providing firefighter candidates and firefighters with announcements of entry-level examinations, lateral-entry examinations, and promotional examinations. The service they provide is a notification via email whenever they discover a fire department that is holding an examination for a certain position. The charge for their service is only \$7.50 per month. When you think about it, that is a worthwhile investment into your future. The information they will provide you with includes: the name of the testing agency, the position title, the filing deadline, salary, requirements, and who to contact and/or how to get involved in the testing process. You can also phone them at (800) 326-8401.

[Careers in the Fire Service](#) – Careers in the Fire Service (also known as Firerecruit.com), provides nationwide fire department recruitment information for as little as \$5.00 per month. Their website is updated daily & they post all paid fire department positions from entry level to fire chief for Municipal, Federal & even Private Fire Agencies. Their website will provide you with the most up to date & detailed recruitment information available. How does it work? Once signed up, their subscribers choose a user name & password that allows them to access all of their postings. Their postings not only provide our subscribers with all the pertinent recruitment information, they also get a direct link to the Fire Department or City's web page. This allows the subscriber to gather information on the City or Fire Agency and in some cases even make travel & lodging accommodations for the examination. Click on their link above to take a look at their sample information to see the kind of information CFS provides. Don't miss another testing opportunity. Sign up today to gain the edge you need to succeed! You can also phone them at (800) 997-3373.

Both of the above companies provide nationwide information on fire departments that are accepting applications. They are both run by firefighters and usually provide information on how to obtain applications, information about the department, and what the minimum qualifications are to take the exam. Remember that you might not qualify to take every examination. That is ok. Look at what many departments are requiring so you can get an idea of what you should be striving for in the future so you can qualify to take more examinations. If I saw a large amount of fire departments requiring a paramedic license, then I would be striving to obtain my paramedic license!

There are other services out there that offer similar services, but I cannot vouch for their reliability or relevance to your situation. For a list of other companies, go to the Chabot College Fire Technology website [JOBS](#) section. This is not meant to endorse any one company, or say that one company is better than another company. This is just meant to provide you with some information to shop around with. Talk to other students to see what they are using, and then make your own decision. At the bare minimum, I strongly suggest that you spend the money and subscribe to at least one testing service to assist you in your search of finding departments that are testing.

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!

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:
<http://www.chabotfire.com>

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***** 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.