



FIRE & EMS NEWS

April 2003

Volume 1 – Issue 10

Welcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! I hope each and every one of you is doing well in both your personal and professional lives. For those that are pursuing full-time positions in the fire service, I hope that you are moving closer to making that dream a reality! Some of the highlights of this issue include:

- Temporary Health 61 numbering change to Health 9913
- Firefighter employment opportunity – North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Fire Department profile – North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Fire Technology Display Board at Chabot College
- Summer and Fall Semester 2003 Chabot College registration information
- Free Firefighter Oral Interview preparation seminar with Captain Bob!
- Seasonal Firefighter employment opportunity – Marin County Fire Department

HEALTH 61 IS BEING TEMPORARILY CHANGED TO HEALTH 9913

If you plan to take **Health 61** (Emergency Response) in either the Summer 2003 semester, the Fall 2003 semester, or the Spring 2004 semester, you will not be able to find it listed under Health 61. Instead, it will be listed as **HEALTH 9913 (FIRST RESPONDER)**. We are in the process of changing over from the American Red Cross Emergency Response curriculum to the National Safety Council's First Responder curriculum. Here is more information:

- For the Summer 2003, Fall 2003, and Spring 2004 semesters, **Health 61 (Emergency Response)** will be known as **Health 9913 (First Responder)**. Thus when you attempt to register for Health 61, you will not find it on the schedule. Instead, you will find Health 9913. That is the class you need to register for to get into the EMT program (Health 81 and 83) and/or the firefighter 1 academy (Fire Technology 90A, 90B, and 90C).
- The reason the number is being changed is because the curriculum is being slightly altered. Presently we are using the American Red Cross Emergency Response curriculum, including CPR for the Professional Rescuer certification. The curriculum is not an issue. What is an issue is that it is taking those students attending Health 61 sometimes 4 months to 8 months to receive their certificates. That is unacceptable. It is not uncommon for students to get their EMT certificates *before* their Emergency Response and CPR for the Professional Rescuer certificates. Once you become an EMT, the Emergency Response (also known as First Responder) is basically useless. It is like a paramedic having EMT certification.

- What we have decided to do is change to the EMS First Responder curriculum that is endorsed and developed by the National Safety Council. The material is basically the same; the benefit is that you will receive your First Responder certificate (which is the same as the Emergency Response certificate you would have received through Health 61) immediately after completing the course. We are also changing the CPR certification to American Heart Association BLS / Healthcare Provider. This will benefit you because it is a 2 year certificate (versus the American Red Cross certificate which was only good for 1 year). The CPR certificates will also be distributed shortly after completing the course.
- Why are we doing this?
 - We are consistently trying to improve **YOUR** Fire Technology and EMS program here at Chabot College.
 - It frustrates me every semester when I hear students in the EMT program say they have not yet received their certifications from their Health 61 class. Realize this is not caused by the instructors or the College. It is an American Red Cross issue.
 - Whenever there is change in the title of a class (Emergency Response to First Responder) at the college, we have to present it to the College's curriculum committee for approval. The approval is not usually a problem; the problem is that the curriculum committee only meets once a year (Fall) and the changes that are requested are not implemented until the following Fall semester. If we had just switched the name and curriculum, we would have been violating school policies and procedures.
- Summary:
 - The instructors will stay the same; the classes will still be offered at the same time and dates; the course is just being updated to better serve you, the student.
 - This will not affect you in regards to entering the EMT program, firefighter 1 academy, or completing the Certificate of Achievement or A.A. Degree.
 - If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me on my cellular phone at 408-205-9006 or email me at sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu
 - Thank you for your time, assistance, and patience with this issue!

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

I received a request from Scott Whitham, a Firefighter / Paramedic with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (in the North Lake Tahoe area) to include this information. They are looking for motivated individuals to fill the following positions:

Position(s):	Part-time Firefighter and Part-time Firefighter Resident
Salary:	\$6.75 to \$7.25 per hour
Salary incentives: <i>(added to salary)</i>	\$1.00 per hour for ALS premium (if you're a licensed paramedic) \$2.50 per hour for possessing an Ambulance Drivers License \$1.50 per hour strike team assignment \$10.00 per hour for interfacility transfers
Benefits:	For resident position, free rent / utilities (excluding phone) in return for 48/96 coverage (48 hours on, 96 hours off)

<u>Additional:</u>	For those that work more than 1000 hours in a fiscal year, the department pays into your Retirement fund – PERS 3 % 50
<u>Minimum Qualifications:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years old • Completion of Firefighter 1 Academy (or equivalent) • Valid Class “C” California or Nevada Driver’s license • EMT-Basic • Be able to pass a background check and medical exam
<u>Typical duties:</u>	Under the general supervision of a company officer: respond to incidents; perform emergency activities including wildland and structural fire suppression, EMS services, rescue and salvage operations, and Hazardous Materials mitigation. Drive and operate ambulances and utility vehicles. Perform routine station duties including training, physical fitness, public education, fire prevention, minor maintenance, and other duties as assigned. Residents will be assigned to one of the three shifts. Residents are required to be at the resident fire station during their tour of duty.
<u>Schedule:</u>	Part-time firefighters are expected to respond to emergencies when available. Residents are assigned to a shift following a 48/96, three platoon schedule. Opportunities exist for district part-time personnel for both winter and seasonal full time employment being assigned to one of the three shifts. Compensation is the firefighter’s base salary (\$9.25 to \$9.75 per hour based on a 56 hour work week).
<u>Selection process:</u>	The selection process will consist of a Chief’s interview
<u>Filing:</u>	Open until filled (what that means is that you should not hesitate; you snooze – you lose!). Applications can be obtained by calling 530-546-8514 or 530-583-6913, Monday – Friday between 0800 and 1730 hours.
<u>If you have questions:</u>	Contact either Division Chief Poe at 530-546-8514 or Firefighter / Paramedic Scott Whitham at whitham@ntfire.net

This sounds like an excellent opportunity to obtain valuable on-the-job experience; especially if you need to get some EMT experience to get into paramedic school, want to be able to sell to the interview panel (when you are testing for full-time firefighter positions) that you have paid firefighter experience (even if it is part-time, it is still paid).

I worked for 1 ½ years as a part-time firefighter up near Sacramento. The pay was a little less; I think about \$5.00 per hour to start out. Before you complain that the pay isn’t worth it, think again. You have to make sacrifices to get ahead in life. You have to be willing to sometimes step back to go ahead. I had to take a \$20,000 a year pay cut when I quit my full-time management position so that I could go to back to part-time status at work, go to paramedic school, and spend more time taking tests, educating myself, and basically becoming the best firefighter candidate I could be. I loved using the fact in my oral interviews that I was willing to drive 2 hours up to Sacramento (for minimum wage) and that I had taken a \$20,000 pay cut. If

you were a firefighter on an oral board, would this prove that I was really driven and motivated to become a firefighter? You bet it would. Would it show that I was willing to do what I had to do to become a firefighter (within ethical, moral, and legal means)? You bet it would.

On a side note, notice that if you work at least 1000 hours, the District will pay your PERS contribution. Think about it – a chance to start in the standardized California Firefighter retirement system. That is awesome. It gets your foot in the door (which means start building retirement credit), while also getting you experience. Going back to when I was a part-time firefighter. The District I had worked for didn't pay my PERS portion; however they allowed me to pay my portion of the contribution (deducting from my monthly paycheck). Many other part-time firefighters didn't take advantage of that. Now, I have that 1 ½ years as service credit within the PERS system, which means that is blended in with my present retirement credit. Not bad, huh?

If you are thinking about attending Paramedic school, there is one school in the vicinity that offers a paramedic program, which is the Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno (which is only about 30 minutes away from the North Tahoe Fire Protection District. Their web site is <http://www.tmcc.edu/ems/paramedic.asp>

For those interested in job opportunities at the Reno area ambulance company, known as Regional Emergency Medical Services Agency, go to <http://www.remsa-cf.com> - FYI, Reno is only about 30 minutes away from the North Tahoe Fire Protection District. Also, it is my understanding that REMSA also has a paramedic program. I would suggest contacting them for more information. For more information about the North Tahoe Fire Protection District, read their profile below.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROFILE: North Tahoe Fire Protection District

North Tahoe Fire Protection District

<u>Fire Chief:</u>	Duane Whitelaw	
<u>Division Chiefs:</u>	Rod Collins (Operations) Peter Poe (Training) Bryce Keller (Fire and Life Safety)	
<u>Battalion Chief:</u>	Todd Conradson (EMS)	<u>Captains:</u> 9
<u>Firefighter / Paramedics:</u>	18	<u>EMT/Firefighters:</u> 3
<u>Part-time Firefighters:</u>	20-25	
<u>Number of fire stations:</u>	5 (3 staffed full-time, 1 mechanic shop/station, 1 resident station)	
<u>Staffing:</u>	10 per shift with a minimum staffing of 7 personnel	
<u>Square miles protected:</u>	31 (ambulance coverage also includes Alpine Meadows and Meeks Bay Fire Districts (to Emerald Bay)	
<u>Population:</u>	10,000 – Seasonal fluctuation up to 50,000 +	
<u>Apparatus:</u>	5 – 1500 gpm Type 1 Engines 3 – Type III Engines 1 – Water Tender	

	1 – OES Type II Engine 7 – Paramedic Type III Ambulances
Responses:	Year 2002: 2187 total calls (70% EMS) Year 2001: 2161 total calls Year 2000: 2097 total calls
Work Schedule:	48 / 96 (Which means they work 48 hours straight, and then get 96 hours off; also known as 2 days on, 4 days off)
Retirement:	PERS 3% at 50 (Paid by the district)
Union Affiliation:	International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3729
Union President:	Rick Russ
Website:	http://www.ntfire.net

FIRE TECHNOLOGY DISPLAY BOARD

Whenever you are at Chabot College, I encourage each and every one of you to stop by and view the glass showcase / display board that is located across from my office (building 1500, room 1556). Why should you spend the time to do so? Well, I put up flyers for training classes and job opportunities that are sent to me by fire departments and other educational institutes. Some of this information might not ever make it to the monthly Fire & EMS news, or the email mailing list I send out, due to time constraints. I try to keep it up to date as possible. Take a look, you might find an interesting or unique class to add to your resume and better market yourself as a firefighter candidate!

SUMMER 2003 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Presently, the following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this summer:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 95 (Work Experience) <i>**Must also be registered in FT 96</i>	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) <i>**Must also be registered in FT 95</i>	Tuesdays (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
Health 9913 (First Responder) NOTE: This is the same as Health 61 & will be the prerequisite to get into the EMT program as well as the firefighter 1 academy.	Mondays (am) & Wednesdays (am)	0900 – 1400 hours

Registration for the summer 2003 semester should begin in early May.

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Summer 2003 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at <http://www.chabotcollege.org>

FALL 2003 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

- Registration for the Fall 2003 semester should begin in early May.

Presently, the following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Fall:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (am)	0800 – 1200 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2200 hours
FT 51 (Fire Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1) <i>**State Fire Marshal certificate course</i>	Tuesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1) <i>**State Fire Marshal certificate course</i>	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Wednesday (pm)	1600 – 1850 hours
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 90B and 90C</i>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 90A and 90C</i>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 90A and 90B</i>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Interface Firefighting) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: December 2, 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 22, December 6 and 7	Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 13, 15, 18, 20, 25	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 96</i>	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 95</i> Note: Class only meets on the following dates: August 18, 25, September 29, November 17, December 1 and 15	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
Health 9913 (First Responder) Note: This class is the same as Health 61, and will be the prerequisite to get into the EMT program as well as the firefighter 1 academy.	Monday (mid)	1330 – 1820 hours
Health 9913 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 9913 (First Responder)	Friday (am)	0900 – 1250 hours
Health 81 (EMT) <i>**Must also be registered in Health 83</i>	Thursday (all day)	0800 – 1650 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) <i>**Must also be registered in Health 81</i>	Saturday (one day only – November 15)	0830 – 1620 hours
PE2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Fall 2003 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at <http://www.chabotcollege.org>

My suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and I with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. I would have liked to offer more classes in the summer time and in the fall; however the state budget crisis does not appear to be going away anytime soon. I think we are very fortunate if we get to keep the above courses that I have scheduled. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

Just remember that whichever college you plan to obtain a degree (or certificate) from, you need to have completed at least 12 units at that college (this is something that is required at every community college statewide. Don't be that one student I just dealt with last month who had taken fire classes at multiple colleges (which I commend him for – he did what he had to do to get everything done in the quickest time frame), but did not have at least 12 units at ANY college. Because of that, he was not eligible for a fire technology degree anywhere! He was eligible for an A.A. degree in Liberal Arts, but not fire technology. Proper planning will prevent you from being in that position!

FREE ORAL BOARD SEMINAR WITH CAPTAIN BOB

On Wednesday May 28, 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 916. 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.

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!

SEASONAL FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Marin County Fire Department

The **Marin County Fire Department** is now accepting applications for **Seasonal Firefighter!** There are currently several extra hire (temporary) positions in the Marin County Fire Department. Job assignments for Seasonal Firefighters may vary from Fire Suppression, Emergency Command Center and/or Lookout assignments. The normal work schedule is four (4) ten hour days and may include weekends, holidays, and odd hours. Extra Hire employees may be subject to extended overtime assignments.

The eligible list established from this recruitment will be used to fill the current vacancies and to establish an eligible list to fill future vacancies which may occur throughout the summer season. The eligible list will remain active for the duration of the summer months.

TENTATIVE EXAM SCHEDULE

Depending on the number of qualified candidates, a written exam, a performance exam, and/or a supplemental application screening may be used to determine which candidates will be invited to the Physical Ability examination. Those candidates that qualify on the physical ability test will be invited to an oral interview examination. Final ranking on the eligible list will be determined by the scores on the Oral interview.

PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST

The Physical Ability test will consist of one component: a physical endurance component – a three (3) mile hike over relatively level ground while wearing a 50 pound hose pack. The hike must be completed in 45 minutes or less.

Scheduled to occur on Saturday April 26, 2003 and Sunday April 27, 2003

ORAL INTERVIEW EXAMINATION

Scheduled to occur on Saturday May 3, 2003 and Sunday May 4, 2003

DUTIES *May include, but are not limited to the following:*

- Assists in fighting fires as a member of a fire crew, using tools and equipment
- Cuts, chops and removes brush and weeds and clears trails
- Assists in semi-skilled construction and maintenance at buildings, grounds, and equipment including minor repair and painting work
- Assists with landscaping tasks around fire department buildings
- Cleans and repairs fire hose and related equipment
- Performs general fire station housekeeping and kitchen duties

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

- High school graduation or GED equivalent
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, in accordance with State legal requirements
- Willingness to work weekends, holidays, and odd hours at any station assigned

- Must successfully pass the County Firefighter pre-placement physical prior to initial hire and must re-qualify on a regular basis.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE CERTIFICATIONS

- Firefighter 1
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

APPLICATION INFORMATION

To view the EXACT job flyer and announcement, go to the County of Marin website at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us> and then click on JOB POSTINGS on the left side of the page.

MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

For more information about the Marin County Fire Department, go to their website at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/FR/main/index.cfm>

For those of you that did not get a chance to put an application into CDF for this summer's hiring process, here is your chance to get some wildland firefighting experience in the bay area! Even if you did put in for CDF, there are no guarantees that you will be hired by CDF. Also, it is a great way to experience going through a firefighter testing process. You've got nothing to lose!

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 & EMS Coordinator - Chabot College

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Chabot College web site: <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.