

FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 2002

Volume 1 – Issue 5

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Fire & EMS News! One of the new things you will see this issue is a fire department profile on the City of Newark Fire Department. You might be wondering – why is this important? Well if you are going to be testing for a department, you need to do some research on that department. Research will better prepare you for the oral interview, the Chief’s oral interview, and will allow you to find out more about what you are getting yourself into. I’ve heard many people say “I’m just taking the test for experience.” Then they either get a job offer or even worse, find out if they had done a little bit of research, they might have done better on the test and maybe would have ended up in the running to maybe get the job. You’ve probably heard of that saying..... “So close, yet so far away.”

Congratulations are in order to the following individuals

- **David McPartland** (Former student as well as current EMT instructor) was hired as a **Firefighter / Paramedic** by the Berkeley Fire Department
- **Nuronn King** (Former student) was hired as a **Firefighter** by the Alameda County Fire Department
- **Kailin Waterman** (Former student) was hired as a **Firefighter** by the San Francisco Fire Department
- **Benjamin Peek** (Former student) was hired as a **Firefighter / Paramedic** by the Newark Fire Department
- **Richard Aguilar** (Former student) was hired as a **Firefighter** by the Oakland Fire Department
- **If you are aware of anyone else that has been recently hired by a fire department or has accomplished something else that is newsworthy, please let me know so I can put it in a future issue.**

Free Oral Board Seminar!

On Monday November 25, 2002, “Captain Bob” Smith, retired Captain with the Hayward Fire Department, will be providing a free oral board seminar to assist you in preparing for the most difficult portion of the testing process – the oral interview. The seminar will last for 2 hours, starting at 6:00 pm and ending at 8:00 pm. It will be held in Building 1900, Room 1908 at Chabot College. To attend, you must reserve a seat. Hurry! Seats are limited and going fast. To reserve a seat, email Steve Prziborowski at sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu For more information about Captain Bob, visit his web site at <http://www.eatstress.com>

Fire Department Profile – NEWARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

Headquarters:

Newark Fire Department
6170 Thornton Avenue, Unit D
Newark, CA 94560
510.790.7248 – Business number

Personnel / Human Resource Office:

City of Newark, City Hall
37101 Newark Blvd., 4th Floor
Newark, CA 94560
510.790.7267 – Office number
510.793-1400 – 24 hour job line

- Fire Department web site: <http://www.ci.newark.ca.us/fd/index.html>
- City web site: <http://www.newark.org> or <http://www.ci.newark.ca.us>

Population: **42,000** Square miles: **13** I.S.O. Rating: **3** F.D. Budget: **\$6.3 million**
Level of EMS: **ALS** ALS capabilities on: **Engines, the Truck, and the Squad**
Ambulance transportation provided by: **AMR** Year F.D. established: **1910**
Dispatching services provided by: **City of Newark Police Department Communications**
I.A.F.F. Union Local #: **1831** Union President: **Jeff Mills**
Total calls last year: **3074** EMS calls: **1831** Fire calls: **187** Other: **1056**

STATIONS / APPARATUS:

Fire stations: **3** Number of staffed Engines: **2** Number of staffed Trucks: **1 (Quint)**
Number of Battalions: **1** Number of staffed Rescues: **1 (Squad)**
Hazardous Materials response equipment carried on: **the Squad**
Other specialized equipment: **Rescue Trailer – 1, Air Trailer – 1**
Primary apparatus manufacturer: **Pierce**

PERSONNEL:

Total personnel: **53** Number of uniformed personnel: **47** Number of civilian personnel: **6**

Fire Chief: **Michael Preston**

Assistant Fire Chief: **William Cody**

Battalion Chiefs: **Brian Caminada – Training / EMS**

Michael Jay – A shift

Anthony Connell – B shift

Don Wilson – C shift

Training Officer: **Brian Caminda – Battalion Chief**

EMS Coordinator: **Brian Caminda – Battalion Chief**

Fire Marshal: **Bill Lichtenberger**

Number of Captains: **9** Number of Engineers: **0** Number of Firefighters: **30**

Number of Hazard Prevention Bureau personnel (Fire Prevention): **5 (Fire Marshal – 1, Fire Inspectors – 2, Hazardous Materials Specialists – 2)**

Fire Investigation duties performed by: **the Fire Marshal**

Public Education duties performed by: **the Fire Inspectors, and suppression personnel**

Volunteer or Reserve Firefighter program? **No**

STAFFING: (Personnel on each type of apparatus)

Engine: 3 Truck: 3 Squad: 2 Minimum # of personnel on duty each shift: 12

BENEFIT INFORMATION:

Type of retirement system / formula: PERS – 3% at 50 Paid by employee? Yes
Type of shift worked: 3 / 4 schedule, 56 hours per week (one day on, one day off, one day on, one day off, one day on, four days off) Medical benefits – paid by employee? Yes

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

Testing process consists of: Written test (CPS), Physical Ability Test, Oral interview, Background investigation, Medical examination, Chief's oral interview
Last application filing period: April 2002 Number hired off last test: 2
Present vacancies: 0 Length of fire academy: 8 – 12 weeks Length of probation: 18 months

MISCELLANEOUS:

Major Target Hazards: Matheson Gas, Newpark Mall, numerous multi-story hotels, numerous haz-mat facilities, Evergreen Oil
Type of area served: Residential, commercial, light industrial
Future fire stations planned: Station 1 replacement
First alarm assignment: 1 Engine, 1 Truck, 1 Squad, 1 Battalion Chief
Second alarm assignment: 2 Engines (1 being Mutual Aid)
Third alarm assignment: 3 Engines, 1 Truck, 1 Battalion Chief (Mutual Aid) & off-duty callback of personnel

A special thank you goes to Brian Caminada – Battalion Chief with the Newark Fire Department for providing the information about the Newark Fire Department for this article!

Spring 2003 Registration

Registration for the spring 2003 semester will begin as follows:

- Continuing student (by priority) – Starting November 4
- New & Former students – Starting November 18

NOTE: Due to budget constraints, FST 65 will not be offered at Chabot during the Spring Semester. If you need to take it, you will have to do so at Las Positas College. It was a class I initially planned to offer, but because of the lack of enrollment this semester, and the fact that we had a summer 2002 FST 65 (which may or may not have impacted this semester's numbers); we are going to have to cancel. Every division throughout the college is being asked to cancel at least one class. FST 65 was the only class I could actually justify canceling. Even though it is presently a prerequisite to get into the firefighter 1 academy, it shouldn't impact everyone that much. As I stated in the July issue, starting in the fall 2003 semester, FST 65 will not be a prerequisite to get into the academy anymore. It will actually be added on to the end of the

academy. If you don't get it in the spring semester at Las Positas College, you can just take it at the end of the academy in the fall of 2003 (or later).

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

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FST 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (am)	0800 – 1200 hours
FST 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2200 hours
FST 51 (Fire Operations)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FST 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1) <i>**State Fire Marshal certificate course</i>	Tuesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FST 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1) <i>**State Fire Marshal certificate course</i>	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FST 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FST 55 (Equipment & Systems)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FST 86 (Wildland Firefighting)	Monday (pm)	1900 – 2050 hours
FST 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
FST 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
FST 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 90A and 90B</i>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FST 95 (Work Experience) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 96</i>	TBA	TBA
FST 96 (Work Experience Seminar) <i>**Must also be registered in FST 95</i>	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 1850 hours
Health 61 (Emergency Response)	Monday (mid)	1330 – 1820 hours
Health 61 (Emergency Response)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (Emergency Response)	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 – April 26)	0830 – 1620 hours
PE2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PE2FSI (Fire Science Conditioning – Intermediate)	Tuesday (mid)	1200 – 1430 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 Spring 2003 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at <http://www.chabotcollege.org>

Effective September 1, 2002, the Alameda County EMS Agency will begin requiring criminal history background checks on all applicants for EMT-1 certification and recertification. The only EMTs exempt from this requirement will be those public safety personnel who completed a background check as part of their hiring process. The background checks will be completed via submission of the applicant's fingerprints to the California Department of Justice (DOJ). At this time, they are planning to use the DOJ Livescan process to obtain and process the fingerprints.

Certification or recertification applicants should come by the EMS agency to pick one up or should call or email them to request that one be mailed to them. The number to call is 510-618-2034, and the person to talk to is Sonya Lee. The forms are multi-page, carbonless forms which cannot be put on the website.

Currently, it appears the time involved in completing the background check process will be about two to three weeks. The majority of that time is taken up by making an appointment with a Livescan agency to have the fingerprinting completed. Average "waiting periods" at area Livescan agencies are ten to fourteen days – some are longer. If an applicant wants to speed up the process, they may find a Livescan agency in another area that might not be so busy. A complete list of the state's Livescan agencies (including Alameda County) can be found at <http://ag.ca.gov/fingerprints/publications/contact.pdf>. An applicant can have it done anywhere in the state. Once they have submitted their fingerprints, the DOJ process takes from one to three days, if they have a clear record. If they do have a record, the process can take much longer.

The background check process involves fees over and above the fee charged by the EMS Agency for certification / recertification. Currently, the DOJ charges \$32.00 to perform the check. Individual Livescan agencies charge a separate "rolling" fee for the fingerprinting process. These fees average about \$20. Both of these fees are paid to the Livescan agency at the time of fingerprinting.

Students shall call individual Livescan sites to verify requirements, fees, etc., even if the site does not require an appointment. Applicants must bring photo identification to the Livescan site.

Applicants for recertification should send in their paperwork early (at least 30 days in advance) to avoid having their certification expire prior to completing the background check process.

Applicants for certification / recertification should check the appropriate policy (#3200) on the ALCO EMS Agency website at: http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/PublicHealth/organization/divisions/ems/ems_index.htm for further information on certification / recertification requirements. Policy #3200 is in the Administrative Policy Manual. There is also a section on frequently asked questions and a section on background check process with instruction and sample forms. You can also print out a copy of the Certification or Recertification application.

All certification and recertification applicants must submit a copy of their current CPR card (either American Heart Association Healthcare Provider or American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer) and must pay the fee of \$35.00. Applicants should fill out the applications completely.

Firehouse.com Members Zone

Firehouse Magazine, one of the leading fire service publications has a web site at <http://www.firehouse.com> that has been in existence for a few years now. Every day they have updated news articles relating to the fire service and contain a wealth of information including one of the biggest Links Section I have ever seen. One of the newest things they have developed is something titled Firehouse.com Members Zone. For a yearly fee of around \$24.00 (\$2.00 per month) you can subscribe to their members zone and receive access to such things as firefighter job postings from around the U.S., as well as numerous articles from Fire Service Professionals around the world on topics from strategy and tactics to training to career development.

I am one of their contributing editors and will be producing monthly articles relating to career development. I am doing a series of articles titled "So, you want to become a firefighter." My plan is to focus on various issues that can make you a better candidate and hopefully, a better firefighter once you become hired. My current article is being advertised as a "Free Preview Article." To read this free article, go to <http://cms.firehouse.com/jobs/preview.jsp>

I do not receive any compensation for doing this, so don't think I'm trying to sell their services to make more money for them or for myself. It is something I've always wanted to do, and now I have the opportunity. I just think of it as another resource for you to use in your pursuit of the badge (not just my articles, but the entire members zone section). You can never have too many resources to assist you!

Web Sites of the Month

Fire Department:	Fremont Fire Department - www.fremont.gov/fire
City Web Site:	City of Fremont – www.fremont.gov
Ambulance Company:	California Medical Transport (Mountain View) – www.cmt4911.com
Fire / EMS Publication:	Fire Engineering – www.fire-eng.com
Fire Organization:	Alameda County Fire Prevention Officers Association – www.alcofpo.org
EMS Organization:	American Heart Association – www.americanheart.org

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

The Fine Print:

- If you know of someone who wants to receive the newsletter (as well as other updates), have them 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, type in “unsubscribe from mailing list” and I will remove your name.