

# Santa Ana College Fire Technology



1530 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, B10 • Santa Ana • CA 92706-3398 • (714)564-6845

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January 2025

Dear Firefighter I Candidate:

Welcome to Santa Ana College, home of the largest, finest and oldest fire technology program in California! You have made a wise career choice. Your success will depend on whether you have the proper attitude, tenacity and mental discipline to achieve your goal. Our staff and counselors are ready to help you succeed. Our graduates have attained firefighter positions in many departments in California, throughout the United States & abroad.

The Santa Ana College Fire Academy program is administered under the guidance of the Orange County Fire Chiefs' Association and is nationally recognized as a premier fire-training program. This program meets the Orange County Fire Service standards and has been approved by the State Fire Marshal and the State Board of Fire Services as the **First Accredited Regional Fire Academy in California**. Our standards far exceed the minimum qualifications and training required for California Firefighter I Certification. Our graduates obtain California State Fire Training certificates for Confined Space Rescue Awareness; Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician; Hazardous Material First Responder.

**Our Office located in "B-10", near the pool, on campus.** We are open, Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm. If you would like to get information on our program in the Fire Technology Office, please come in to visit or call 714-564-6845 and kindly leave a message with your name, email, phone number & we will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also send an email to [firetechnology@sac.edu](mailto:firetechnology@sac.edu) We are happy to help you attain your career goals!

~ SAC Fire Technology Staff

Santa Ana College Mission Statement:

Santa Ana College inspires, transforms and empowers a diverse community of learners.

Fire Technology Mission Statement:

The Santa Ana College Fire Technology Department serves a diverse community of students. The program provides students the opportunity to develop the technical, academic and professional competencies required for fire and emergency service professions, as well as, transfer to higher educational institutions. The department is committed to developing civic leaders that advocate, champion and engage in the ethical administration of public policy.

# INFORMATION SHEET/NEW STUDENT PROCEDURES FIREFIGHTER 1 PROGRAM

## ***STEPS TO COMPLETE ELIGIBILITY FOR BASIC FIRE ACADEMY***

### STEP 1.

To learn as much as you can about gaining entry into our academy, please **sign up online** through our [Career Center](#) for the next available [Fire Technology Orientation](#). You will need to have a student I.D. # for the college to sign up. Also, read all about the degree options available, such as our most popular Public Fire Service Option, online in the [Santa Ana College catalog](#).

You have made the decision to become a firefighter. There is considerable competition for every job, so provide yourself with every chance of success. Be properly prepared to take maximum advantage of all opportunities that will help you achieve your goal. The more you have to offer a potential employer the better your chances of being hired.

## ***MEASURE YOUR EXISTING SKILLS AND ABILITIES***

### STEP 2.

Our Assessment Center (AC) will send you an email with your English and Math placement recommendations based on your self-reported high school grades and GPA that you provided in your SAC application.

Students who do not have access to their high school transcripts or studied outside of the U.S. can take the **Guided Self Placement**, which is available on the [AC website](#). It will take about 3 business days for students to receive an email.

Students can also meet with a Counselor in the AC during the drop-in hours, listed on their website. The Assessment Center is located in the Library building on the second floor (L-223). Their Phone # is (714) 564-6148

**Students with an AA degree or higher are exempt from 3SP requirements**, which include, placement, orientation, and educational planning.

## ***GENERAL EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS TRAINING***

### STEP 3.

Study Smart! Take your courses in the recommended sequence to achieve high grades in courses required for this major. If you are working, do not take a class load greater than you can successfully handle. Completion of general education classes before you begin your studies in this major will improve your chance for success. General education courses are listed in the catalog and should be reviewed with the Counselor before enrolling.

## ***TAKE THE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CORE CLASSES***

### **STEP 4.**

All core classes must be completed with a grade of “C” or better to be eligible for the Basic Fire Academy. Fire Technology 101 & 102 must be taken prior to taking 104, 105 and 106.

3.0 Units - Fire Technology 101, Fire Protection Organization  
3.0 Units - Fire Technology 102, Fire Behavior and Combustion  
3.0 Units - Fire Technology 103, Principles of Fire & Emergency Services Safety & Survival  
3.0 Units - Fire Technology 104, Fire Prevention  
3.0 Units - Fire Technology 105, Building Construction for Fire Protection  
3.0 Units - Fire Technology 106, Fire Protection Systems  
3.0 Units - Fire Technology 121, Physical Fitness for Public Safety Personnel  
0.3 Units - Fire Technology 121L, Physical Fitness for Public Safety Personnel - Performance and Assessment

## ***OPENING A FILE***

### **STEP 5.**

Upon successful completion of Fire Technology 101 & 102, email [barker\\_hillary@sac.edu](mailto:barker_hillary@sac.edu) to complete a Prerequisite Verification check-off sheet and “open your file”. **Keep your address, phone numbers & email up-to-date with the Fire Technology Office, in addition to the Admissions Office, in case we need to contact you.**

## ***FIRE ACADEMY 008, PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (BIDDLE)***

### **STEP 6.**

A physical ability test is required to be eligible for the Basic Fire Academy. You register for the class online under FAC 008. All students must pre enroll & pay, as **there is no on-site enrollment**. The physical ability test is a pass/fail exam. Once your file is open, **it is your responsibility to make and turn in a copy** of the Physical Ability letter into our office, **(keeping the original for yourself)**. Most Fire Departments require a physical ability test prior to employment.

The Physical Ability test was designed to identify persons who can meet the physical demands of a firefighter. To pass the Physical Ability Test, candidates must complete all of the events successfully within the required time standard of 9:34. This test was developed and validated with firefighters from 41 different cities in both Orange and Los Angeles counties. The test is a work sample test designed to simulate tasks performed by firefighters during fire suppression operations and other emergencies. **BE ADVISED IF YOU PASS THIS ASSESSMENT AT A MINIMAL LEVEL, YOU MAY NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH AND STAMINA NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE ACADEMY.**

Candidates may only participate in the test once in a single day (once per semester). If you fail, you may return on a subsequent test day for another attempt. Physical Ability tests are scheduled approximately once per month during the fall and spring semesters and can only be taken 6 months at a time with our college. **Your Biddle Certificate needs to be current when you begin your academy.** Physical Ability training classes (FAC 018 B, C & D) are also offered throughout the semester for students who need additional workouts and training towards the Biddle. The FTC 121L class will also provide you with a description and an opportunity to practice the Biddle test.

### ***EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN I***

#### **STEP 7.**

You must complete an **Emergency Medical Technician I** course that leads to National Registry. Upon completion of your EMT Course you must take & pass the **National Certification Exam** to receive **certification in the state of California as an EMT. This must be done prior to attending the academy.** If you possess the “California State License EMT Card” you may also provide us with a copy of that. It does supersede the ‘National Registry Card.’

**Note:** Please bring a copy of your National Registry card or CA EMT License to Fire Technology Office, B10, for your file. Prerequisite for most EMT courses: CPR Healthcare Provider Card.

### ***MEDICAL EXAMINATION***

#### **STEP 8.**

A medical exam is **required** for all academy students prior to their academy placement.

You can use any physician you choose. However, be sure your doctor understands the NFPA 1582 requirements and **you know what your costs will be up-front.**

Your doctor will need the **NFPA 1582 Standards booklet and the medical form** to complete your medical examination. You can purchase the National Fire Protection Agency, 1582 Standards (NFPA 1582) booklet online and obtain the medical exam packet from the Fire Technology Office. A list of providers is included in that packet.

In addition to a completed medical exam form, you must provide the Fire Technology Office with a signed statement from a licensed physician stating you meet the standards of NFPA 1582. **Turn in a copy of the front page of your medical report form which has the doctor’s approval and signature. Keep the original for yourself.** The medical examination is comprehensive because it is very similar to the exams fire departments use to screen new employees. The medical exam will let you know if you meet minimum medical hiring standards. This medical is valid for **two years** from the first examination date.

If you are unable to meet the NFPA 1582 medical requirements, you may not qualify for employment as a firefighter. You may want to consider other options in the fire service such as fire protection engineer, fire inspector, investigation, sprinkler installation, etc.

## ***TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE BASIC FIRE ACADEMY***

### **STEP 9.**

**It is a first come, first serve basis.** Students will be placed immediately in the **next available academy** upon successful completion of all academy prerequisites.

The academy prerequisites students **must** have completed are listed below:

- A. You have **‘opened a file’** with the Fire Technology Office, B10, after completion of FTC 101 & 102, with the grades posted.
- B. Passed all Prerequisite Classes with a “C” or better grade:
  - FTC 101, Fire Protection Organization
  - FTC 102, Fire Behavior & Combustion
  - FTC 103, Principles of Fire & Emergency Services Safety & Survival
  - FTC 104, Fire Prevention
  - FTC 105, Building Construction for Fire Protection
  - FTC 106, Fire Protection Systems
  - FTC 121, Physical Fitness for Public Safety Personnel
  - FTC 121L, Physical Fitness for Public Safety Personnel - Performance and Assessment
- C. Provide the Fire Technology Office with a **copy** of your **National Registry Card** from an EMT course which meets DOT standards. If you possess the “California State License EMT Card” you may also provide us with a copy of that. It does supersede the ‘National Registry Card’
- D. Provide the Fire Technology Office with a **copy** of your **Official Biddle Certificate** from your FAC 008 class. **This certificate must be current when you begin your academy.**
- E. A **complete NFPA 1582 Medical** that has been signed by either doctor listed on our Medical Packet or by your own Doctor.

**If it becomes necessary for a student to give up their spot in an academy prior to notification of the Pre Academy meeting, and they notify the Fire Technology Office, the student will be assigned to a future academy.**

**If a student fails to meet deadlines, they will forfeit their spot in the academy.**

### **STEP 10.**

An Academy Coordinator will notify candidates, by email, of:  
Basic Fire Academy start date  
Registration information  
Pre-Academy meeting date

**So please make sure your contact information is current in your file.**

## **BASIC FIRE ACADEMY**

**Schedule – Full Time** - Approx. 16 weeks, Monday through Friday

Academy Broken down - 16.5 total units

FAC 060A – FF1A (BFA) – 10.0 units

FAC 060B – FF1B (HazMat) – 1.0 unit

FAC 060C – FF1C (Wildland FF1) – 2.0 units

FAC 063 – Rope Rescue Awareness Operational – 1.0 units

FAC 031 – Common Passenger Vehicle - 0.5 units

FAC 007 – Physical Training & Orientation - 2.0 units

### **There are 23 subject areas:**

Apparatus, Tools & Equipment – 16 hours

\*Common Passenger Vehicle - 24 hours

Behavioral Health/Cancer Awareness – 8 hours

Breathing Apparatus/Search & Rescue – 32 hrs

Career Development – 4 hours

Combined Drill – 8 hours

Communications – 4 hours

\*Confined Space Rescue Awareness – 8 hours

\*EMS (Continuing Education) Skills – 24 hours

Facilities Maintenance/Equipment Issue – 8 hrs

Final Academy Exam – 4 hours

Fire Behavior & Control – 48 hours

Firefighter Survival – 16 hours

Forcible Entry - 8 hours

\*Hazardous Material First Responder- 28 hours

Hose Operation - 60 hours

ICS-100 / ICS-200 / ICS-700 / ICS-800 – 4 hrs

Orientation - 8 hours

Ladder Operation - 52 hours

\*Physical Ability Test – 8 hours

Rope Rescue Awareness Operational - 40 hrs

Ropes and Knots - 8 hours

Salvage Operations - 24 hours

Ventilation Practices - 32 hours

\*Wildland Fire Control - 64 hours

\*State Firefighter I Certification Testing -

(Written & Skills) – 36 hours

**Total Hours for Fire Academy Instruction  
and Testing – 600 hours**

**\*Certification Given**

The Basic Fire Academy has strict grooming standards. The candidates should possess a high degree of self-discipline, maintain a positive mental attitude to handle stress, and be able to adjust easily to a structured organization. The Academy emphasizes attitude, teamwork, self-confidence, self-discipline, quick thinking and the ability to follow exact instructions and orders.

#### Nondiscrimination Policy

The District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and all access to institutional programs and activities. The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its services, classes, and programs without regard to national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. The Chancellor shall establish administrative procedures that ensure all members of the college community can present complaints regarding alleged violations of this policy and have their complaints heard in accordance with the Title 5 regulations and those of other agencies that administer state and federal laws regarding nondiscrimination. No District funds shall ever be used for membership, or for any participation involving financial payment or contribution on behalf of the District or any individual employed by or associated with it, to any private organization whose membership practices are discriminatory on the basis of national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or because of his or her association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX Officer and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

RSCCD Title IX Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator

John Didion

2323 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone: (714) 480-7489

#### Equal Employment Opportunity Clause

The parties to this contract agree to promote equal employment opportunities through its policies and regulations. This means that both parties will not discriminate, nor tolerate discrimination, against any applicant or employee because of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientations, national origin, age, disabled, or veteran status. Additionally, the parties will provide an environment that is free from sexual harassment, as well as harassment and intimidation on account of an individual's race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status.