

Santa Ana College Fire Technology



1530 W. 17th Street • Santa Ana • CA 92706-3398 • (714)564-6845

June 2010

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 counselors, my staff and I are ready to help you. Listen closely to what they have to say and you should succeed. Our graduates have attained firefighter positions in many departments in California and throughout the United States.

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. Additionally, our graduates receive certificates in Auto Extrication, Hazardous Materials First Responder, Rescue Systems I, Fire Control III, ICS 200 and Low Angle Rescue.

The information contained in this packet describes our most popular program, "The Public Fire Service Option" degree. This degree program trains firefighters for public or private fire departments. The Fire Technology Department also offers seven additional degree options and you are encouraged to explore these alternatives in the District catalog.

If you require additional information, please visit the Fire Technology Office at 1530 W. 17th Street, in the Cesar Chavez Building, Room A-113, or call (714) 564-6845 and speak with my friendly staff. They will be happy to help you attain your career goals.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Mahany

Donald E. Mahany
Assistant Dean of Human Service Technology and Fire Technology
Santa Ana College

INFORMATION SHEET/NEW STUDENT PROCEDURES FIREFIGHTER 1 PROGRAM

STEPS TO COMPLETE ELIGIBILITY FOR 060 BASIC FIRE ACADEMY

STEP 1.

To learn as much as you can about being a firefighter, please **call our Counseling Department at (714) 564-6100 for a Fire Technology Program Orientation**. Purchase a copy of the Santa Ana College catalog in the Don Bookstore and read all about the degree options available such as our most popular Public Fire Service Option (0646). Visit our website:

www.sac.edu/firetech

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.

It is **recommended, but not required**, that you take the placement test. If scores of 40 in English and 29 in Reading are not achieved, basic skills classes should be taken to ensure academic and career success. Candidates with BA/BS degrees are exempt from this test.

Testing times are available by calling (714) 564-6148. The Placement Testing Office is located in the Library building on the second floor.

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.

Fire Technology 101, Fire Protection Organization
Fire Technology 102, Fire Behavior and Combustion
Fire Technology 103, Personal Fire Safety
Fire Technology 104, Fire Prevention Technology
Fire Technology 105, Building Construction for Fire Protection
Fire Technology 106, Fire Protection Equipment and Systems
Fire Technology 121, Physical Fitness for Public Safety Personnel

OPENING A FILE

STEP 5.

Upon successful completion of Fire Technology 101 & 102, come to the Fire Technology office in A-113 to complete a Prerequisite Verification (a check-off sheet). **Keep your address and telephone numbers 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

STEP 6.

A physical ability test is required to be eligible for the Basic Fire Academy. You register for the class online. All students must pre enroll, as **there is no on-site enrollment**. The physical ability test is a pass/fail exam. You must pass a physical ability test to be eligible to attend an academy. Once your file is open, **it is your responsibility to make a copy and turn in the 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. 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 emergency situation. **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 but may enroll again and 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 may be repeated as many times as needed to pass. Physical Ability training classes are also offered throughout the semester for students who need additional practice and training. You may pick up a description of the Physical Ability Test in the Fire Technology Office. The FTC 121 class will also provide you a description and an opportunity to practice the test.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PLACEMENT SESSION FOR BASIC FIRE ACADEMY

STEP 7.

The Placement Session is a meeting that takes place twice a year. Students who have successfully completed all academy prerequisites attend this meeting to be placed into a future Basic Fire Academy. All candidates are required to participate in **one** placement session to gain admission into an academy. The purpose of the Placement Session is to:

- Prioritize candidates for the academy
- Assign candidates to future academies as academies fill
- Guarantee seat assignments

Students **must** have completed the following before participating in the placement session:

- A. Have opened a Personal file in Fire Technology Office, A-113 and filled out the proper paperwork.
- B. Passed all Prerequisite Classes with a “C” or better grade:
 - FTC 101, Fire Protection Organization
 - FTC 102, Fire Behavior & Combustion
 - FTC 103, Personal Fire Safety
 - FTC 104, Fire Prevention Technology
 - FTC 105, Building Construction for Fire Protection
 - FTC 106, Fire Protection Equipment and Systems
 - FTC 121, Physical Fitness for Public Safety Personnel
 - FAC 008, Physical Ability Test (P/NP)
- C. Prior to the start of the academy the student must supply the Fire Technology Office a **copy** of a “Certificate of Completion” from an EMT course which meets DOT standards.

If it becomes necessary for a student to give up their spot in an academy prior to notification of the homework meeting, and they notify the Fire Technology Office, the student will be assigned to a future academy. After notification of the homework meeting, should a student not attend the homework meeting, they will forfeit their spot. After the homework meeting should students not attend their assigned academy, for ANY reason, they must attend another placement meeting for assignment to a future academy.

If a student fails to meet deadlines they will forfeit their spot in the academy, and be required to attend the next placement meeting for assignment in a future academy.

Note: Deadlines for submitting all documentation are posted in the Fire Technology Office in the Cesar Chavez Building, Room A-113 or phone (714) 564-6845.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN I

STEP 8.

You must complete an **Emergency Medical Technician I** course prior to attending the academy. This course may be taken after you have been placed into an academy, but a copy of your “Certificate of Completion” must be turned in prior to or at the Academy homework meeting (usually about a month prior to the start of the Academy).

Please bring the proof to SAC A-113. It is **recommended**, but **not required**, that you take the National EMT Certification exam which is administered separate from the EMT class. **Note:** Prerequisite for most EMT courses: CPR Healthcare Provider Card.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

STEP 9.

A medical exam is **required** for all academy students prior to the academy start date. The deadline date for turning the medical exam into the Fire Technology Office will be announced **once you have been placed into an academy**. If you fail to turn in your medical exam results by the set deadline date; you will forfeit your place in the academy.

You can use any physician you choose. However, be sure your doctor understands the 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 from the Firefighter Bookstore and obtain the medical exam form 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.

STEP 10.

A Fire Technology Secretary will notify candidates, by mail, of:

Basic Fire Academy start date
Registration information
Homework meeting date

FIRE ACADEMY 060 - BASIC FIRE ACADEMY
(Offered in two different schedules)

Schedule 1 – Full Time

Approx. 14 weeks (560 hours)
Monday through Friday

**Concurrent enrollment in F/AC 007,
Physical Fitness

Schedule 2 – Part Time

Approx. 35 weeks (560 hours)
Friday evenings, all day Saturday, and one
Sunday per month.

**Concurrent enrollment in F/AC 007,
Physical Fitness

There are 22 subject areas:

Auto Extrication - 24 hours
Breathing Apparatus/Search & Rescue - 32
hours
Career Development – 8 hours
Combined Drill – 16 hours
Communications – 4 hours
Cultural Diversity - 4 hours
EMS - 80 hours
Facility Maintenance & Tools - 16 hours
Fire Control – 32 hours
Fire Investigation - 4 hours
Fire Prevention - 4 hours

Forcible Entry - 8 hours
Hazardous Materials 1st Responder - 24 hours
Hose - 64 hours
Incident Command System - 16 hours
Ladders - 56 hours
Orientation, Evaluation & Ride-along - 24 hours
Rescue Systems I - 40 hours
Ropes and Knots - 16 hours
Salvage - 24 hours
Ventilation - 32 hours
Wildland Fire Control - 32 hours
** Physical Training - Variable (88 - 126 hours)

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 Rancho Santiago Community College District complies with all Federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Harassment of any employee/student with regard to race, color, national origin, gender or disability is strictly prohibited. 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
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.