

■ The COS Fire Academy

Overview

The Fire Fighter I Academy is a 380-hour, 12 unit course that exceeds the curriculum requirements of the California State Fire Marshal's Office for Fire Fighter I certification. FT-159 "Introduction to Fire Protection Organization" (3units) and Emergency Medical Technician, EMT B 251 (4units) are mandatory prerequisites. The Academy is structured around a para-military framework; discipline, teamwork, esprit de corps and physical fitness are stressed through-out the Academy. The COS Fire Academy is fully accredited by the State Board of Fire Services.

■ What's the Schedule?

The Academy is offered during the spring semester, which begins in January. It is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 to 9:50 and all day Saturday 8am to 5pm. Due to the required number of hours the Academy may start earlier and run longer than the normal semester. Graduation is approximately the last week of May.

■ What Can I Expect?

You can expect an intense learning experience that will be challenging, interesting, fun and even a little scary at times. Our philosophy is "learning by doing". You will have the opportunity to learn classroom theory and then put theory into practice by actually performing what you have learned through "hands on" training in the field.

Classes are taught at fire departments throughout Tulare and Kings Counties where you will receive instruction from professional fire fighter instructors, who are experts in their respective fields. Most instructors have taught their subject(s) for many years including numerous academies.

Students are formed into Companies; each Company is made up of 5 to 6 students. The Companies function as a unit, just as an engine company would in the fire service. Each Company has a "Company Officer" who is in charge for a specified period of time. The Company Officer performs a leadership roll in the supervision of the company. Each person in the Company will have the opportunity to serve as "Company Officer".

A class "Battalion Chief" is elected for the duration of the Academy. The BC is responsible for maintaining consistent discipline within the class, leading the physical fitness program, assisting the instructors with organizing the students, materials, classroom or other needs.

All students will have the opportunity to actually fight fire. The College has a 2 story burn building and a single story flash over building that provides extremely realistic fire fighting situations and offers students the opportunity to repeat scenarios as many times as necessary.

■ An Important Note About Grades

The citizens of California have placed their faith and trust in the fire service to protect their lives and property during times of crisis. Due to the critical nature of fire fighting and rescue operations it leaves little room for error. Therefore, the State Fire Marshal's Office has established a passing grade of 80% to obtain Fire Fighter certification. (It is possible to still pass the class for college credit with less than an 80%).

■ What does it Cost?

The cost of the Academy is approximately \$1,000.00-\$1,200.00. Costs include; tuition, fees, books, uniforms and State Fire Marshall fees for certificates. The amount may vary depending on how many uniforms you purchase.

■ What Will I Learn?

The course objectives are to:

- Provide the student with the knowledge and skills to safely perform the tasks required of an entry- level fire fighter.
- Prepare the student to perform essential and advanced fire ground tasks with minimal supervision.
- Provide the student with the skills necessary to perform basic rescue operations.
- Prepare the student to use, inspect, and maintain fire fighting and rescue equipment.
- Provide the student with the knowledge and skills to perform basic fire prevention and fire investigation tasks.
- Provide the student an opportunity to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and abilities required of routine and emergency fire fighting operations.

Partial List of Course Content:

- ◆ Fire Service Organization
- ◆ Fire Behavior and Extinguishment Theory
- ◆ Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- ◆ Portable Extinguishers
- ◆ Ropes, knots and hitches
- ◆ Fire Streams and Nozzles
- ◆ Ground Ladders
- ◆ Rescue
- ◆ Ventilation
- ◆ Fire Control – Structural, Wild Land, Flammable Liquids and Gas
- ◆ Fire Protections Systems
- ◆ Hazardous Materials
- ◆ Vehicle Extrication

■ What Will I Need?

- ◆ Because classes are scheduled at fire departments throughout Tulare and Kings Counties dependable transportation is a must.

- ◆ You will be required to purchase uniforms for the class.
- ◆ Structural and wild land protective clothing and equipment.
- ◆ Medical clearance for the use of self contained breathing apparatus.
- ◆ Due to the strenuous nature of the class it is recommended that you be in good physical condition and obtain a physical examination prior to enrolling in the Academy.
- ◆ Books, binders and other supplies.

Students who have a source for protective clothing are encouraged to use that source. If you do not have access to protective clothing, you will be required to purchase (estimated cost of \$1,500) or to rent (\$500).

The College has a supply of helmets both structural and wild land that will be issued to each student. These will be the only helmets allowed in the class.

Note: You will be given a fit test for the use of self-contained breathing apparatus. It is not possible to obtain a proper facemask fit with a beard. Neatly trimmed mustaches, not extending below the corners of the mouth are acceptable.

■ What Do I Get?

- ◆ Upon successful completion of the class you will receive a certificate from College of the Sequoias that states you have completed all the requirements of the Fire Fighter I curriculum as set forth by the State Board of Fire Services. This along with your EMT certification will satisfy the minimum qualifications to take most California fire department entrance examinations.
- ◆ A great educational experience, friendships that will last a lifetime, and our best wishes.

■ College of the Sequoias Mission

College of the Sequoias is a comprehensive community college focused on student learning.

College of the Sequoias affirms that our mission is to help our diverse student population achieve their transfer and/or occupational objectives and to advance the economic growth and global competitiveness of business and industry within our region.

College of the Sequoias is committed to supporting students' mastery of basic skills and to providing programs and services that foster student success.

Therefore, our mission focuses on preparing students for productive work, lifelong learning, and community involvement.

■ Financial Aid

Grants and subsidized job opportunities are available for eligible students through the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 105, 559-730-3747. Students should complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms to be considered for Federal and State Financial Aid Programs.

If you would like more information please visit www.cos.edu/firetech or:

Fire Academy Coordinator at 559-583-2642
firetech@cos.edu

Public Safety Training Center
 925 13th Avenue
 Hanford, CA 932302

Visit us on the web..... www.cos.edu
 Registration Info 559-730-3762
 Registration..... 559-737-6101
 Admissions/Records..... 559-737-4820



Fire Academy

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 Careers are our Goal"*

