



COLLEGE of the DESERT

Application Deadline – Friday, 06 June 2025, before 6pm

Orientation Dates – Mandatory Attendance Required – To Be Determined

Fire Academy Start Date – Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025 at 8 AM

The College of the Desert Public Safety Academy FIRE 063A (Basic Firefighter Academy-Part 1) is the first required course of a sequential two semester accredited California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) Basic Firefighter Academy designed to provide Cadets with a basic knowledge of fire service operations and the entry level skills required by the vast majority fire departments. Successful completion of both FIRE 063A (9 units) and FIRE 063B (9 units) (Basic Firefighter Academy-Part 2) will satisfy the requirements for the candidate to be provided a State Firefighter I Certificate. The extended Academy amounts to college units and a student completing the academy will receive certificates of achievement through the California State Fire Marshal's Office and IFSAC / Pro Board, California State Training Institute, the National Wildland Coordinating Group, and FEMA.

The COD-PSA Basic Fire Academy is accredited through the California State Fire Marshal's Office and adheres to the SFM's 2019 Certified Firefighter I and II requirements This certificate is also nationally recognized by the IFSAC / Pro Board standard of certification for the Fire Fighter I and II.

Applicants with questions concerning eligibility, including the completion of pre-requisites are encouraged to contact Fire Academy Coordinator Robert Perotti at Rperotti@collegeofthedesert.edu or Public Safety Academy staff at (760) 674-3765 or cperez@collegeofthedesert.edu.

Prerequisites for the Fire Academy

- Minimum age of 18 years to apply
- Fire 001 – Principles of Emergency Services
- Current Emergency Medical Technician Certification, or successful completion of EMT 84 or equivalent. (NREMT is preferred)
- Physical Abilities Test Certificate (CPAT or BIDDLE must be completed within (6) months prior to the start of the Fire Academy.)

Co-requisites: CSFM 070 – Confined Space Awareness, KINE 037 – Physical Training for Public Safety Academy (Fall), KINE 038 – Physical Training for Public Safety Academy (Spring)

- Medical Exam conditioned for Respiratory FIT testing to be scheduled and paid for by the student, prior to the start of the Academy. Information will be provided at orientation

CPAT or BIDDLE physical abilities test can be found at the following links:

- CPAT - <http://www.cffiac.org/go/jac/cpat/>
- BIDDLE - <https://codpace.asapconnected.com/#CourseID=197369> or <https://www.sac.edu/AcademicProgs/HST/FireTech/Pages/Physical-Ability-Test.aspx>



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Selection Process

The Fire Academy is open to all students who meet the prerequisites. Only completed applications will be accepted on a “first come, first served basis” in the order received.

Once candidates are selected to the Academy, an alternate list may be developed. If a spot in the Academy becomes available, applicants will be chosen from the alternate list.

If accepted into the Academy, Cadets will receive additional information as noted below;

- Directions and referral to complete a physician’s respiratory fitness physical exam required prior to attending the Fire Academy.
- Attendance to the mandatory orientation meeting, Date; TBD.
- Instructions and requirements for obtaining the appropriate text and classroom materials.
- Instructions and requirements for obtaining required uniform elements.
- Instructions and requirements for obtaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through an assigned third-party vendor, for a fee.

Sponsorship

The department sponsoring a Cadet will provide safety gear/equipment and accepts responsibility for replacement or repair of such gear/equipment as necessary. Any financial support given to a Cadet is at the agency’s discretion. The fire department’s **Training Chief or Their Designee** must submit a letter of sponsorship or nomination on department letterhead to the office of the COD Public Safety Academy – Fire Academy Office, attention Robert Perotti, Fire Academy Coordinator. A copy should also be included in the application packet.

Financial Aid

Some costs for the Fire Academy may be covered, such as unit fees, by applying for financial aid now at www.fafsa.ed.gov. When applying, use the College of the Desert code: 001182

For further information, contact Student Financial Services at (760) 773-2532. Other costs may be covered through Riverside County Workforce Development. Contact Anna Zepeda at 760-863-2975 or ALZepeda@rivco.org for more information.



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Physical/Medical Exams

In order to participate in the Fire Academy all Cadets must complete a physical/medical respiratory exam prior to starting the Fire Academy. Once you are accepted into the Academy, you will receive a packet to complete and take to a physician where you will receive a respiratory FIT exam for determination of your respiratory fitness. Once obtained, you will then be fitted for a breathing mask which will be issued to you by the Fire Academy. Note that all medical exam paperwork must be received prior to the beginning of the Fire Academy.

Academy Schedule

Classes will begin in September 2025 and conclude in May or April 2026, over the Fall and Spring semesters. Classes are scheduled for Thursday and Fridays from 0800 – 1700 Hrs., and several Wednesdays from 0800 Hrs. – 1700 Hrs., beginning with the first scheduled meeting. KINE – 037 and KINE – 038, physical fitness class will start at 06:00 to 07:20; each day of the BFFA schedule. Classes will primarily meet at the Roy Wilson Training Center in Thousand Palms, but may also occasionally meet at the PSA classrooms on the COD campus. Additionally, there are occasional classes conducted offsite from the Fire Academy and appropriate notification will be made to the student prior to going offsite.

How to apply

Applications are available at the COD-Public Safety Academy (PSA) website, or the Division of Applied Sciences & Business office (ASBU) on campus. ***Applications must be complete to be considered.***

Include the blank checklist with your application for the coordinator's use. Completed applications may be dropped off at the COD-PSA Lobby, the ASBU office, or submitted via mail to:

Robert Perotti, Fire Academy Coordinator
43-500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260

or

Email: All documents as a **PDF file, no photos or screen shots of any documents, to:**
Rperotti@collegeofthedesert.edu



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Basic Firefighter Academy Checklist

(All Items Must Be Completed Prior To Acceptance to The Fire Academy)

Applicants Name _____

- _____ ***Signed Acceptance Policy***
- _____ ***Hold Harmless Agreement***
- _____ ***Completed Application***
- _____ ***Copy of Transcripts providing proof of Fire 001***
- _____ ***Copy of Certification Card and/or Certificate providing proof of***
Medical Certification and/or Transcripts showing completion of course.
- _____ ***Copy of Current CPAT or Biddle completion (within 6 months prior to***
the start of the Fire Academy).
- _____ ***Current Resume***
- _____ ***Nomination or Sponsorship Letter (Signed by a Training Chief)***

(This Checklist To be completed by the Fire Academy Coordinator)

***Completed applications may be dropped off at the COD-PSA Lobby,
the ASBU office, submitted via email to rperotti@collegeofthedesert.edu,***

Coordinator Signature _____ ***Date:*** _____



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Basic Firefighter Academy Acceptance Guidelines

Due to the overwhelming demand for the COD-PSA Fire Firefighter Academy, acceptance into the program is based on both industry sponsorship and open enrollment. In addition:

- Only complete applications will be accepted.
- Sponsoring agencies have the first right of refusal for their allotted positions.
- The Fire Academy Coordinator may reassign positions to other agencies as needed.
- Positions not filled by agencies will convert to open enrollment.
- Applications for enrollment that exceed the class maximum will be placed into a lottery for selection.

Participating Coachella Valley Fire Agencies:

Cathedral City F.D. (allotted 4 spots)

Palm Springs F.D. (allotted 4 spots)

Riverside County / CAL Fire (allotted 8 spots)

Sponsorship or Nomination

- Use of department safety equipment – sponsoring department shall be responsible for replacing or repairing equipment that may be damaged under normal circumstances during the normal course of the Academy.
- Any financial support given to a cadet is at the agency's discretion.
- Sponsored applicants: Please have the department submit a Sponsorship letter on Department letterhead to the Fire Academy Coordinator. A copy should also be attached to your completed application.
- Sponsorship or Nomination, is not required to attend the BFFA as a Student.

***Please contact Robert Perotti, Fire Academy Coordinator at
Rperotti@collegeofthedesert.edu if you have any further questions.***

I have read and understand the above policy and I meet the minimum requirements
for enrollment into this program.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____





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Military Experience: Yes No

Please list Branch, Rank, Duties, and Dates:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Fire Academy Pre-requisites:

***Please indicate date completed. If not yet completed, indicate anticipated or scheduled date.
You may still apply if not all requirements are complete, as long as you anticipate completion prior to academy start date.***

Fire 001 – Introduction to Firefighting:

California EMT Certified

Physical Abilities Test Biddle or CPAT** –

(Completed within 6 months prior to the first day of the academy.)

** CPAT or BIDDLE physical abilities test can be found at the following links:

- CPAT - <http://www.cffjac.org/go/jac/cpat/>
- BIDDLE - <https://codpace.asapconnected.com/#CourseID=197369> or
<https://www.sac.edu/AcademicProgs/HST/FireTech/Pages/Physical-Ability-Test.aspx>



Desert Community College District on behalf of College of the Desert

Public Safety Academy Basic Firefighter Academy Hold Harmless Agreement

I _____ wish to attend the College of the Desert's Public Safety Academy Basic Firefighter Training held at the Roy Wilson Training Center. I understand that the training consists of physical conditioning activities and hands on "skills testing", as it relates to the fire service. The physical conditioning program consists of **rigorous physical exercise on a weekly basis.**

The skills related to firefighting activities will include **heavy lifting, climbing and other arduous activities while on the ground, on ladders, in stairways, on roofs and other elevated locations.** I understand that I will also have to **perform in confined spaces and in areas of limited or zero visibility.** I understand that I will be required to wear firefighting protective clothing including coat, pants, boots, helmet and a 35-pound self-contained breathing apparatus. I understand that I will also **engage in actual firefighting, in extreme hazardous environments Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH).**

I understand the inherent dangers of fire service activities and the training involved in the Basic Fire Academy. I have shown proof of medical insurance to cover any injuries that may occur as a result of my participation in the Basic Fire Academy and agree not to hold College of the Desert or its Staff liable for any injuries that may occur during the course of instruction.

I Hereby Release, Discharge, And Covenant Not to Sue the Desert Community College District, Its Trustees, Officers, Employees, Agents or Volunteers, And If Applicable, Owners and Lessors of Premises on Which the Activity Takes Place from All Liability, Claims, Demands, Losses, Or Damages on My Account Caused by Or Alleged to Be Caused in Whole or In Part by The Negligence of the "Releasees." I Further Agree, That If, Despite This Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, And Indemnity Agreement I, Or Anyone on My Behalf, Makes A Claim Against Any of The Releasees, I Will Indemnify, Save, And Hold Harmless Each of The Releasees from Any Litigation

Expenses, Arbitration Expenses, Medical Expenses, Attorney Fees, Loss, Liability, Damage Or Cost Which May Be Incurred As The Result Of Such Claim.

I Have Read This Agreement, Fully Understand Its Terms, Understand That I Have Given Up Substantial Rights by Signing It and Have Signed It Freely and Without Any Inducement or Assurance of Any Nature and Intend It to Be a Complete and Unconditional Release of All Liability to The Greatest Extent Allowed by Law and Agree That If Any Portion of This Agreement Is Held to Be Invalid, The Balance, Notwithstanding, Shall Continue in Full Force and Effect.



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Print Name

Insurance Company Policy Number _____

Name of Policy Holder _____

_____ I currently do not have Medical Insurance Coverage (Uninsured applicants are still eligible for appointment to the Fire Academy.)

_____ I understand that the COD Student Health fee is intended for minor injuries and does not cover major medical expenses.

Signature

Date



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Request for Sponsorship (Optional)

(This form must be completed by a Training Chief or his/her designee.)

The _____ Fire Department/Agency would like to nominate
_____ for a position in the upcoming College of the Desert
Basic Fire Academy.

- We will provide the above-mentioned candidate with all NFPA rated and required Structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), with the exception of Breathing Apparatus, to be provided by the Academy. We will accept full responsibility for the certification, repair, and maintenance of all gear issued to the candidate during the normal and appropriate course of training.
- We further understand that we are not responsible for covering this individual under Worker's Compensation Insurance.

Name

Title

Signature

Date

(_____)_____
Contact Number



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Request for Nomination (Optional)

(This form must be completed by a Training Chief or his/her designee.)

The _____ Fire Department/Agency would like to nominate
_____ for a position in the upcoming College of the Desert
Basic Fire Academy.

- We will not provide the above-mentioned candidate with all NFPA rated and required Structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), with the exception of Breathing Apparatus, to be provided by the Academy.
- We further understand that we are not responsible for covering this individual under Worker's Compensation Insurance.

Name

Title

Signature

Date

(_____) _____
Contact Number



Estimated Fire Academy Costs* and Basic Fire Academy Fees**

\$874.00	Units at \$ 46.00 per unit total of 19 units
\$ 92.00	Units for Kin-37 & Kin-38, 2 units separate P.T. Course
\$ 25.00	COD Student Transportation Fee
\$ 19.00	COD Health Fee
\$ 2.00	COD Student Activities Fee
\$119.95	IAFF & NFPA (2015). Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response 4 th Edition Jones and Bartlett Publications w/ online Nav2 Advantage access ISBN: 9781284151336
\$ 98.95	Wildland Firefighter Principals and Practice 2nd Edition – Jones & Bartlett ISBN: 9781284042115
\$92.00	Total for Physical Fitness Uniforms & Equipment. Includes the following: \$ 48.00 - 4 T-shirts (\$12.00 each) \$ 44.00 - 2 pairs of gym shorts
\$ 453.49	Total for Uniforms Includes the following: \$ 35.00 – Uniform Pant (larger sizes extra) \$ 45.00 – Tactical BDU Pant (larger sizes extra) \$ 78.00 - 2 Long Sleeve Dress Shirts (\$39.00 each) \$ 5.00 – COD BFFA Patch \$ 5.00 – COD PSA Patch (if needed) \$ 25.00 – Embroidery of First Initial and Last name (\$10.00 to \$15.00) \$ 8.00 - 1 Navy clip-on tie \$ 6.95 - 1 Silver tie bar \$ 25.00 - 1 Black basketweave 1 ½” with square silver buckle uniform belt \$ 150.00 - \$450.00 – minimum 8” high, Vibram Sole, Toe and Shank protection, which will take a shine. \$ 160.00 - \$450.00 Wildland boot (needed during Spring, Part 2) \$ 115.00 - Structure Helmet liner and Class Shield
\$ 1100.00	ADDITIONAL State Fire Training (SFT) and CSFM Certificates
\$ 1250.00	Required Safety Gear Rental – Turnout Rental Agreement will be provided. (Students must provide NFPA approved safety gear if not renting.)
\$ 4135.84	<i>Estimated Total Costs, Included Both Semesters</i> Additional - Running Shoes: \$ 50.00 - \$ 150.00

*** All costs are estimated and subject to change**

**** Financial Aid available**

****** Academy Will Provide Vendors and Specifications for All Uniforms / Accessories***