Welcome to the Cochise College Firefighter I/II and HazMat FRA/FRO class:

We are excited to help you start your path towards becoming a certified firefighter in the State of Arizona. At the completion of the class, all students who have received a grade of 80% in each of the FST 110 and FST 111 classes will have the opportunity to take the certification test for Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations. The Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence (AZ CFSE) provides this certification. The AZ CFSE test is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Council (IFSAC) and your certification will bear that seal. Many locations outside of Arizona will also accept this certification.

Firefighting is a physically demanding job. As such, this class is physically demanding. We have included a form which must be signed by a doctor, prior to the second week of class. Please note, this form includes a questionnaire which must be filled in prior to visiting the doctor.

In addition to the doctor's note, there are requirements that we ask that you get prior to or during the class. They are as follows:

1. Az CFSE requires a basic level of medical knowledge. Students must, at minimum, have a CPR/First Aid certification. If you are already an EMT or paramedic, then you more than meet the standard. You do not need these items to start the class, but you must be enrolled in the EMT class or have completed the CPR/First aid course prior to the day of the state testing.
2. Firefighters must also be trained in the National Incident Management System. You will need to have training equivalent to ICS 100 and 200 prior to taking your state test. These can usually be completed for free online and can be done once in the class if you do not have them already.

There are also a few things we want to make clear:

1. As noted above, firefighting is a physically demanding job. We strongly encourage students to start working out prior to the start of the semester. Physical training (conditioning) is a graded portion of the class. Most of this grade comes from participation in PT during the class and is based on a willingness to try and to do your best. We do grade the wildland pack test near the beginning of the FST 111 class. This test consists of walking 3 miles in 45 minutes wearing a 45-pound vest.
2. Students must have an 80% in FST 110 and an 80% in FST 111 on the day of testing in order to take the state test with the class. Students with 70-79.99% will still pass the class for purpose of transcripts and financial aid, but will not be able to take the state test based on having taken the class.

We are excited to help you on this journey. By preparing before hand, we can help you get the most out of class and set you up for success in both class and your future in the fire service. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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