



NEWS

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El Camino College to Offer its Innovative Alternative Fuel Training Program for First Responders in San Bernardino

The El Camino Fire Academy's new Alternative Fuel First Responder Training program will offer a large training program to emergency personnel in San Bernardino this month. Training sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and are available February 4-8, 11, and 13-15 at the San Bernardino City Fire Department, 200 East Third Street, San Bernardino.

ECC is serving as the lead college for the program, in partnership with 10 other colleges statewide. First Responder Training is one of the many courses El Camino College is providing to fire, police, sheriff departments, California Highway Patrol, mechanics who work with alternative fuel vehicles, as well as others who deal with emergencies involving alternative fuels.

The program is among the first of its kind, offering emergency personnel training for situations involving vehicles that use alternative fuel, such as hybrids, electrical, compressed natural gas, and hydrogen. As these new technologies are introduced into everyday transportation, it has become critical for emergency responders to know the different safety techniques necessary to assist and save lives. Training includes classroom work as well as hands-on demonstrations with an alternative fuel vehicle.

Chief William Melendez, training coordinator of the El Camino Fire Academy, is assisting Eldon Davidson, director of contract training of the El Camino Business Training Center (BTC), in providing training statewide.

Thousands of California emergency personnel will gain training with this program. Courses range from 8 to 24 hours and many can also be conducted at the employer's location. Partner colleges include: Rio Hondo College, College of the Desert, Cerritos College, Long Beach City College, Kern College District, Barstow Community College, City College of San Francisco, Riverside Community College, College of the Canyons, and San Diego Miramar College.

The program is part of the El Camino College Business Training Center's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program, designed to provide alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) training to incumbent workers of any California public entity employer, county regional transit authority, city, municipality, and/or business engaged in alternative and renewable fuel and vehicle technologies.

The BTC received a \$750,000 grant to implement a training program for employers that are engaged in mass transit, alternative fuels, transportation maintenance, and fleet services to support the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program, created in 2007 under Assembly Bill 118.

Much of the training costs are offset through the grant. The overall goal of the program is to support a transition from petroleum-based transportation to alternative and renewable fuels and clean, low carbon vehicle technologies. Other courses available through the grant include: hybrid vehicle safety, maintenance and diagnostics, advanced engine control systems and diagnostics, fuel system inspection, CNG engine specific/fuel systems operation and diagnostic, utility equipment hydraulics, electrical-voltmeter, schematics, electricity principles, biofuels storage, transport, fleet operations and use, first responder- alternative fuels (CNG, ING, hydrogen), and sustainable management systems.

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