



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Contact: Connie Cochran
City Manager's Office
(209) 937-8827 / (209) 629-1251
connie.cochran@stocktonca.gov

Stockton Regional Fire Academy Graduation Ceremony ***Graduates to Join Stockton Fire Department and Lodi Fire Department***

(Stockton, CA) – The Stockton Fire Department's Regional Fire Academy will hold a graduation ceremony, Thursday, June 16, 2016, 5:30 p.m., at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium, 525 N. Center Street, Stockton. Academy graduates include 14 firefighters who will join the Stockton Fire Department and 3 who will join the Lodi Fire Department.

“It takes an exceptional person to become a firefighter,” said Chief Erik Newman. “Only a select few meet all of the requirements. In addition to the initial written tests, the training and work is extremely demanding. Very few people are willing to put their own lives on the line to serve others, and Stockton Fire is a very busy department. We look forward to this ceremony and welcoming our newest recruits into both the Stockton and Lodi Fire Departments.”

To be accepted into the Fire Academy, participants must interview and pass both written exams and physical ability tests. Recruits enter the academy with various levels of experience; some have attended other academies or worked for other fire departments or agencies, and others are completely new to fire service. While in

-more-more-more-

City of Stockton
News Release – Fire Academy Graduation
Wednesday, June 8, 2016
Page 2 of 2

Academy recruits learn about fire protection systems and firefighting techniques, while running continuous drills involving self-contained breathing apparatus, confined space rescues, rope rescues, ladder placement and use, and effective deployment of fire suppression. All of the graduates have successfully met all of the requirements for becoming a firefighter.

In addition to celebrating the Fire Academy graduates, the Stockton Fire Department will recognize Eric Bonell with the title of “Honorary Firefighter.” Eric is a young man who captured the hearts of Stockton when he spent the day as a Stockton Firefighter earlier this year, which was made possible by Make-A-Wish of Northeastern California and Northern Nevada.

“Eric already has a set of custom turnouts,” shared Chief Newman. “He’s ridden on Stockton Fire Department engine, been through the ropes, and even had lunch at a fire station. We thought it was time that he officially become one of us.”

In addition to family members and friends of the Fire Academy graduates, members of the public are welcome to attend. For additional information about the Academy and the ceremony, please contact Stockton Fire Department Administration at (209) 937-8801.

##

All News Releases can be found on the City of Stockton website: www.stocktonca.gov/news

#