



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

February 14, 2019

### **CON FIRE TO GRADUATE ACADEMY 52 ADDING 24 NEW FIREFIGHTERS TO DISTRICT RANKS AT TIME OF INCREASING DEMAND FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

#### **Historic First Graduation Since District Earns Accredited Local Academy Status**

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 14, 2019, 5 p.m. (see ceremonial of events below)

**WHERE:** Leshner Center for the Arts, Hofmann Theater, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

**WHAT:** After 19 weeks of intense instruction, Con Fire will graduate its 52<sup>nd</sup> Firefighter Academy, adding 24 new firefighters to the District's ranks. The event will include a badging ceremony and swearing-in for the new firefighters who will join fire companies across the District beginning next week.

These firefighters join the District at an especially important time as the California wildland fire season continues to evolve -- seemingly longer and more destructive each year -- and the District is poised to open an additional fire station and increase the size of some crews from three-to-four firefighters, all in recognition of increasing demands for emergency services.

This is the first accredited fire fighter academy in the history of the District. The District's Training Division earned Accredited Local Academy (ALA) status from the California State Fire Marshal late last year, making it one of only about 20 such academies statewide.

Ceremonial events will include:

Presentation of Colors  
Pipes & Drums  
National Anthem  
Fire Chief's Address  
Keynote Speaker  
Video Presentation

Recruit Address  
Awards Presentation  
Badge Ceremony  
Swearing In  
Academy 52 Final Ring Out

New firefighters will be available to media after the graduation ceremony.

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## **Con Fire to Graduate 24 New Firefighters from Historic Academy 52 – 2/2/2**

**CONTACT:** Steve Hill, PIO, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, (925) 660-PIO1

*Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire) -- a recognized fire service leader -- provides fire and emergency medical services to more than a million people across its 304 square-mile District area, and through mutual aid, in and around the 20 cities and unincorporated communities of Contra Costa County, California. With few exceptions, county emergency ambulance transport services are provided by Con Fire through its unique sub-contractor Alliance model. In 2017, the District responded to nearly 74,000 fire and EMS emergencies and provided expert medical care on more than 75,000 ambulance transports. The District, with 25 fire stations and more than 400 employees, is dedicated to preserving life, property and the environment.*

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