

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\***

**Recruit Firefighters Prepare to Report for Duty:  
*4 Laid-off Firefighters Receive Second Shot at Career--  
Total of 24 Firefighters to Showcase New Skills & Receive Badges***

**WHAT:** The XAL Academy's Family Day and Recruit Graduation. The XAL Academy is a recruit firefighter training academy produced by the Alameda County Fire Department. Fire agencies participating in the 2011 Academy include: Alameda County and the City of Alameda. A total of 24 firefighters, 4 of which were previously laid off from other fire departments, will be graduating from the academy.

**WHEN & WHERE:** **Wednesday, July 6, 2011**  
**Family Day: 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM**  
Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Training Tower  
3301 Busch Road  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**XAL Academy Graduation: 6:00 PM**  
Castro Valley Center for the Arts  
19501 Redwood Road  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

**WHO:** **Graduating firefighters employed by the Alameda County and Alameda Fire Departments.**

**VISUALS:** At the Family Day, firefighters will demonstrate their response to a fire, vehicle accident, and patient extrication. At the end of the exercise, recruits will receive their station assignments and helmet insignias. During the graduation, firefighters will take an oath of allegiance and receive their department badge for the rank of firefighter. Performance and leadership awards will be also be presented to individuals nominated by their peers and instructors.

## **2011 XAL Recruit Academy Fact Sheet**

- 1. Number of Firefighter Recruits Graduating from the 2011 XAL Academy-**  
24 Firefighters
- 2. Agencies represented and # of recruits-**  
Alameda County Fire Department (23)  
Alameda Fire Department (1)
- 3. What does XAL mean?**  
XAL is the Alameda County designator for multi-agency response and is the 3 letter identifier used for strike team deployments.
- 4. How many firefighters in this academy were laid off from another fire department?**  
A total of 4 firefighters were laid off from other fire departments and hired by the Alameda County Fire Department. Three firefighters were displaced by the San Jose Fire Department and one firefighter was displaced by the Redding Fire Department.
- 5. How is the XAL funded?**  
Costs are covered by the Alameda County Fire Department. There is a charge per student to outside agencies.
- 6. Who provides the Instructors?**  
The Alameda County Fire Department provided the instructors.
- 7. How long was the 2011 XAL Academy?**  
Sixteen weeks
- 8. What were some of the areas of instruction?**  
Suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, incident command system, fire prevention, forcible entry, trench rescue, building construction, ladders, vertical ventilation, wildland, helicopter operations, vehicle extrication, water rescue, and ropes and knots.
- 9. Any live fire training?**  
Yes, live burns were conducted at the Alameda County Training Tower, gas and oil burns were conducted at the Chevron facility in Richmond and wildfire training was conducted at the Alameda County Sheriffs Office Regional Training Center in Dublin.