



**Stephen Horner, Fire Technology Instructor at Santa Ana College**

I was born in a small town in Riverside County, California called Beaumont. It is next to the I-10 freeway on the way to Palm Springs. When I was eight years old we moved to Orange County and made our home in Laguna Hills. As a youngster, I grew up around the fire service family and had a really good idea of what it was all about. The reason was my dad and uncle both worked for the California Department of Forestry. I really enjoyed being around the fire stations, listening to the fire radio, climbing all over the fire engines, and watching them drive away with lights and siren. I knew this is what I wanted to do; it was the perfect career for me. As a teenager, I was able to ride-a-long and see all types of emergency calls. This really motivated me to becoming a fire fighter. I attended Laguna Hills High School where I played football, soccer, and volleyball. After graduating high school, I attended Santa Ana College where I took all of my fire science classes and played on the Dons football team. I was fortunate enough to pass the testing process to attend the City of Santa Ana's third Reserve Firefighter I Academy. I spent two years as a reserve firefighter before getting hired full-time with the Santa Ana Fire Department.

During my 28-year career at the Santa Ana Fire Department, I worked in many different capacities and ranks. Some of my department experience includes a fire fighter for sixteen years, a part-time dispatcher for twenty-two years, a fire prevention bureau inspector for three years full-time and six years part-time, a hazardous materials response team technician/specialist for twenty-five years, a move-up engineer, a move-up captain, a battalion chief's aide for four years, a training officer for six years, a communications supervisor for two years, a public information officer, and emergency operations center coordinator for two years. As a training officer, I served as a board member, treasurer, vice-president, and president for the Orange County Training Officer's Association. In addition, I was an active board member for the Southern California Training Officer's Association for three years. I was fortunate enough to be selected to serve a two-year term as a committee member for the State of California Fire Training Section on the fire officer/chief officer curriculums re-write.

The Santa Ana Fire Department dissolved on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 after one hundred twenty-seven years of existence, and transitioned over to the Orange County Fire Authority. I was part of that merger, and I currently work as a captain at fire station 33 located at John Wayne Airport. I am also a member of the hazardous materials response team, and the urban search & rescue plans team.

I joined the fire technology faculty here at Santa Ana College in 2008, instructing fire technology classes 103, 104, & 106. It has been such a wonderful experience to be part of such a great program that helped me live the dream as a FIREFIGHTER! It is my honor to give back as an instructor to help our students one day live their dreams.