

FIREFIGHTER

DEFINITION

Responds to fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, rescues and other emergency and non-emergency situations; participates in all other suppression, prevention, inspection, education and related activities to protect life and property; performs fire station maintenance; serves in specialized departmental roles as assigned; provides information and assistance to the public; performs related work as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

This classification receives general supervision from a Fire Captain. No direct supervision is exercised, however, direction maybe provided to Fire and volunteer staff when performing tasks in the area of responsibility.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the working level in the fire service, qualified to perform all normal fire suppression, basic medical emergency, hazardous materials and other emergency response activities. Incumbents are expected to learn to drive and operate a truck, engine and all other vehicles and equipment prior to completion of the probationary period. Successful performance of the work requires a team-oriented individual who takes pride in serving the community, is flexible and a problem-solver and is able to perform heavy physical work at potential risk to health and safety. This class is distinguished from Fire Engineer in that the latter drives and operates all fire equipment and apparatus. It is further distinguished from Fire Captain in that the latter is the first supervisory level in this sworn class series.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (Illustrative Only)

- Responds to fire alarms, emergency medical calls at the basic life support level, emergency rescues, hazardous materials incidents, public service calls or other incidents that require the mitigation of circumstances that may threaten life or property.
- In a fire emergency, lays, connects, charges and uses supply lines and various water appliances to control and extinguish fires; places water curtains and performs ventilating and access maneuvers; uses foam and chemical extinguishers as required by the nature of the fire.
- Searches and rescues victims from buildings, motor vehicles and other locations.
- Applies medical treatment and life support techniques within the scope of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); provides assistance to qualified paramedics, as directed; assists in the emergency transportation of patients.
- Contains, isolates and minimizes hazardous materials spills.
- Works closely with other emergency medical staff, police and public safety and fire personnel from other agencies; responds to mutual aid situations as required.
- Participates in investigations, clean-up, salvage and overhaul operations.
- Participates in the fire inspections of buildings and properties within the City on a regularly-scheduled basis.

- Maintains apparatus in a clean and operable condition; performs minor maintenance and repair on equipment; reports the need for major repair.
- Maintains the station and living quarters in a clean and orderly condition; performs minor maintenance on facilities and station equipment.
- Participates in drills and training sessions.
- Develops and maintains effective working relationships with the community; presents a variety of educational and public services programs to children, youth and community groups.
- Performs and coordinates specific program or project areas.
- Prepares and maintains reports, logs, records and accurate files.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of fire suppression, containment, rescue, clean-up and salvage.
- Principles and practices of providing emergency medical care at the EMT level.
- Practices and techniques of hazardous materials response, containment and clean-up.
- Basic maintenance practices for fire services vehicles, equipment and facilities.
- Applicable laws, codes and ordinances.
- Safety practices and equipment related to the work.
- Computer applications related to the work.
- Techniques of first aid and CPR.
- Techniques for effectively dealing with and solving the problems presented by a variety of individuals from various socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, in person and over the telephone, often in emergency or stressful situations.

Skill in:

- Performing fire suppression and associated rescue and salvage work in a safe and effective manner.
- Applying the mechanics of fire fighting and emergency medical care at an EMT level.
- Dealing with hazardous materials incidents in conformance with department procedures.
- Making sound, independent decisions in emergency situations.
- Learning the geographic layout of the City and the surrounding areas and the location of various fire suppression utilities.
- Maintaining accurate records and clear and accurate reports and other written materials.
- Interpreting, applying and explaining complex codes, regulations and ordinances.
- Coordinating and carrying out special assignments.
- Understanding and carrying out oral and written directions.
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of the work.

Education and Experience:

Equivalent to graduation from high school supplemented by possession of a valid EMT-Basic certificate and completion of an accredited pre-service or recruit Firefighter I Academy. Completion of two years of college level course work in fire technology or a related field and/or volunteer or reserve fire service experience is desirable.

License:

Must possess and maintain a valid California class C driver's license and a satisfactory driving record. Must obtain a valid California class IB or IA driver/operator's class B driver's license and certification an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) prior to completion of the probationary period.

Working Conditions:

Works inside and outside. Must be willing to work 24-hour shifts, as scheduled by the department, and work with exposure to emergency circumstances, including hazardous materials and all-weather conditions. May travel to sites outside of the City. Must be willing to pass a background investigation, including fingerprinting. This class is subject to random drug testing in accordance with Department of Transportation guidelines.

Physical Demands:

Must possess mobility, physical strength and stamina to respond to emergency situations and use all emergency apparatus and lift and move individuals or objects weighing more than 100 pounds; ability to work in a standard office setting and to operate motor vehicles; vision to discern colors and assess emergency situations, including medical incidents, and to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person and before groups in person and over the telephone and radio.