

**FIREFIGHTER/OPERATOR**

(Competitive Class)

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS**

The class of Firefighter/Operator comprises entrance level positions in the fire suppression division of fire department operations. Employees of this class receive training in and perform firefighting and fire suppression tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, performing rescue work, driving and operating fire apparatus and equipment, and maintaining fire department vehicles, and also provide emergency medical care to the sick or injured at an emergency scene. Firefighters/Operators participate in areas concerning pre-fire planning, inspections and fire prevention. Employees of this class work independently in most areas, receiving general instructions for special task assignments under the direction and supervision of the Fire Captain. This class ranks immediately below that of Fire Captain.

**EXAMPLES OF WORK**

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Trains for, performs, and maintains proficiency in firefighting and rescue tasks such as connecting, carrying, and operating hose lines; directing fire streams; forcible entry; ventilation; and using ladders, lines, and other equipment to aid in fighting fires or removing fire and accident victims to safety. Examines victims for signs of injury and administers first aid to treat minor injuries, as well as emergency care to victims of fires, accidents, drowning, poisoning, drug overdose and other emergencies.

Operates or rides in fire apparatus to and from fire or emergency scene. Communicates with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Ensures a timely response to the fire or emergency scene by taking shortest route available using resources of maps or memory. Positions apparatus and connects to supply source. Determines the number of required hose lines necessary for fire suppression. Operates pumper to supply adequate pressure to the nozzle. Calculates required water flow, friction loss, and discharge pressures necessary for fire suppression. Operates and controls portable, fixed, or large-caliber water streams.

Performs salvage tasks necessary to protect property, using covers, tarps, or other materials. Carries or removes burning items to reduce fire and smoke damage. Locates and extinguishes hidden fires and hot spots. Picks up water after fire is extinguished using appropriate method. Constructs catch-alls to trap and dispose of water. Removes debris and charred waste. Shores up or tears down weak and dangerous structural components.

Participates in fire investigation and fire cause determination. Recognizes, notes, and preserves evidence of arson. Informs officer in charge of suspected arson. Questions witnesses to determine fire cause. Testifies in court when required.

Participates in fire prevention and fire inspection tasks such as inspecting buildings for fire hazards and compliance to fire codes, inspecting portable fire extinguishers, studying the district to become familiar with the location of fire hydrants or water lines, and related duties. Monitors water pressure in assigned areas or zones. Participates in pre-fire planning, including gathering and studying information regarding types of occupancy and structure, building layout, hydrant and standpipe location, and hazardous materials storage. Draws preplanning maps and diagrams. Updates hydrant maps and vital building books. Conducts fire drills in schools and businesses. Conducts prevention inspection of residences. Inspects smoke and heat detector devices in public and private properties.

Studies and maintains proficiency in the procedures for special emergencies. Reads and recognizes HAZMAT symbols to identify flammable or hazardous materials. Acts to contain hazardous material spill or control spread. Locates and operates shut-off valves for gas, electricity, oil, and water in buildings to reduce hazard. Removes containers of flammable or hazardous materials at the fire scene under direction of a superior officer.

Participates in assigned training drills either as an individual or as a member of a group. Reads and studies assigned materials including firefighting training materials, technical firefighting manuals, and basic laws and regulations or updates related to performance of work. Practices with apparatus and equipment under supervision to increase and maintain proficiency. Studies direct routes, location of streets, water mains, and hydrants in response area. Assist with developing training presentations within the department, and provides occasional "on-the-job" training as directed.

Cleans, dries, tests, inspects, and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment such as fire apparatus, communications equipment, hoses, hand tools, portable breathing apparatus, turn-out equipment, ladders, or related equipment. Performs periodic tests of apparatus pumping capacity and pressure. Inspects tools for damage or to determine if any tools are missing, and makes report. Completes minor repairs to equipment and tools. Maintains inventory of tools and equipment on apparatus using checklist or knowledge of equipment.

Performs tasks necessary for the proper maintenance and function of the station and grounds such as cleaning floors and windows, emptying trash cans, changing bed linens, and performing other minor maintenance duties. Assists in preparing meals for firefighters at the station and cleans kitchen area. Provides for

the security of the station by locking station doors and securing valuable items. Maintains the organization of the station library. Inspects fire station and notifies officer in charge of needed repairs.

Performs public relations duties such as calming excited citizens at emergency scene, receiving and responding to questions and complaints from the public, and providing information to the public concerning the work of the fire department. Receives telephone calls and provides necessary information or directions. Refers calls to appropriate personnel or agency. Completes any forms, records, or reports as required. Assists visitors at the station. Conducts fire station tours and explains fire equipment and firefighting techniques to visiting public. Works with local youth groups and other community groups, delivering lectures or demonstrations on fire prevention or fire safety.

Performs related duties as assigned.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States and of legal age.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Applicant must possess one of the following: high school diploma, high school equivalency certificate, high school transcript, affidavit from the issuing high school, associate's or bachelor's degree, or college transcript, any one of which must indicate that graduation has occurred or a degree awarded. A certification of completion shall not be sufficient to substitute for a diploma or equivalency certificate.

Prior to confirmation in the class of Firefighter/Operator, must become Louisiana State Certified and nationally registered as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic or higher.

Must maintain current Louisiana State Certification and remain nationally registered as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic or higher while working in the class of Firefighter/Operator.

Must not be less than 18 years of age.

Must have a valid driver's license.

AC	12-14-06
REV	05-23-08
	08-25-08
	08-12-10
	08-31-11
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