

**FIREFIGHTER**

(Competitive Class)

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS**

The class of Firefighter comprises entrance level positions in the fire fighting division of fire department operations. Employees of this class primarily receive training for tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, performing rescue work, and maintaining fire department equipment, building, and grounds. Such training may consist of formal classroom study and/or drill sessions, as well as closely supervised on-the-job experience. Employees of this class are supervised by a Fire Captain. This class ranks directly below that of Fire Equipment Operator.

**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 and performs firefighting and rescue tasks such as carrying, connecting, and operating hose lines and nozzles; using direct streams or water curtains; forcible entry; ventilation; and using ladders, lines, and other equipment to aid in fighting fires or removing fire and accident victims to safety. Evaluates smell and color of smoke and effects of environmental conditions to determine appropriate procedures to extinguish fire. Observes burning structure and locates and extinguishes fire source, hidden fires and hot spots.

Rides in fire apparatus to and from fire or emergency scene. Communicates with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Evaluates navigational problems such as narrow alleys or structural impasses and determines a means of entrance and egress. Directs or assists in the positioning of apparatus at the fireground or gives directional assistance to operators raising or lowering aerial equipment. Observes fireground for fire victims, water supplies, and fire exposures, and determines if position is safe for firefighting crews by evaluating stability of supporting surfaces, roof, floor, etc. Observes and responds to changes in fireground conditions while performing firefighting operations.

Estimates length of hose needed to reach fire source and deploys hose at the scene by using either a forward lay, reverse lay, or split lay. Connects and disconnects hose to intake and discharge valves of pumper. Operates fire hydrant for additional water supply. Operates various types of nozzles to produce appropriate stream to reduce extent or intensity of fire. Identifies and protects potential exposures by using direct streams or water

curtains. Applies appropriate fire streams and agents for the most effective fire extinguishment.

Performs salvage tasks necessary to protect property, using covers, tarps, or other materials. Protects salvaged property from theft by observing bystanders. Carries or removes burning items to reduce fire and smoke damage. Picks up water after fire is extinguished using appropriate method. Constructs catch-alls to trap and dispose of water. Shores up or tears down weak and dangerous structural components. Wedges or clamps sprinkler heads after fire is extinguished to shut off flow of water.

Responds to medical emergencies and provides emergency medical care to the sick or injured at the scene or while in transport to the emergency care facility. Performs emergency medical services such as basic first aid, CPR, and first responder services. Examines injured persons for medical alert tag and obtains comprehensive drug history on patient to determine if special treatment is necessary. Examines victims for signs of injury to determine the nature and extent of injury and illness. Inspects scene of poisoning or drug overdose to determine nature of poisoning. Drives emergency vehicles to and from the scene of a fire or other emergency to provide medical care at the emergency and/or to transfer the injured to an emergency care facility. Notifies dispatcher to call for emergency medical help when needed. Cuts or pries open vehicles or machinery to free persons trapped.

Participates in assigned training drills either as an individual or as a member of a group. Practices with apparatus and equipment under supervision to increase and maintain proficiency. Studies direct routes, location of streets, building layout, type of occupancy, water mains, and hydrants in response area. Participates in pre-fire planning inspections in both public and private properties. Reads and studies assigned materials including firefighting training materials, technical firefighting manuals, and basic laws and regulations or updates related to performance of work. Learns and maintains proficiency in the location and purpose of all equipment, and in the principles of fire behavior.

Cleans, dries, inspects, and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment such as communications equipment, hoses, nozzles, hand tools, portable breathing apparatus, turn-out equipment, ladders, or related equipment. Performs regular maintenance of equipment such as fire pump, aerial ladders, tillers elevating platforms, and emergency medical equipment to make sure they are in proper working order.

Performs tasks necessary for the proper maintenance and function of the station and grounds such as cleaning floors and windows, changing bed linens, cutting grass, and performing other 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. Inspects fire station and notifies officer in charge of needed repairs. Grooms and presents oneself in proper attire and lines up

for roll call on time, prepared for work. Maintains satisfactory interpersonal relations with other members of shift.

Performs public relations duties such as calming excited citizens at emergency scene, receiving and responding to questions, and providing information to the public concerning the work of the fire department. Assists visitors at the station. Conducts fire station tours and explains fire equipment and firefighting techniques to visiting public.

Performs related duties as assigned.

### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements listed below 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.

Applicant must possess one of the following: high school diploma, general educational development (G.E.D.) 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 G.E.D. certificate.

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.

Must be not less than eighteen (18) years of age.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

Prior to beginning work in this class, must obtain and maintain a valid Louisiana driver's license.

Prior to confirmation in the class, must obtain Firefighter I certification as measured by NFPA Standards.

Prior to confirmation in the class of Firefighter, must obtain and maintain certification as a National Registered Medical Technician-Basic and State of Louisiana certification as an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic.

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