

FIREFIGHTER/OPERATOR

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

The class of Firefighter/Operator comprises entrance level positions in the fire suppression division of the fire department. Employees of this class receive training in and perform firefighting and other tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, operating fire equipment, performing rescue work, driving fire apparatus, and maintaining fire department equipment and vehicles. Firefighter/Operators respond to all emergency calls and provide first aid and emergency medical care to the sick or injured at the scene. Employees of this class receive specific instructions for most duties and are directly supervised by a 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.

Responds to fire and medical emergency calls received by the department. Trains for, performs, and maintains proficiency in the safe operation of the fire apparatus as well as basic firefighting, HAZMAT procedures, emergency medical services and rescue tasks. Puts on protective clothing and ensures safe operation of fire station bay doors. Drives or rides in fire apparatus to and from the emergency scene, communicating with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Takes the shortest route available and resolves navigational problems to ensure a timely response to the emergency scene. Observes the burning structure and fireground to locate the source of the fire, victims, water supplies and exposures. Follows instructions of a superior officer in order to position the fire apparatus. Evaluates the potential effects of environmental conditions on the fire and examines structures for signs of fire extension. Recognizes unique smell and color of smoke to determine the appropriate extinguishing agent. Determines the length and number of hose lines necessary for fire suppression. Dismounts apparatus, pulls hose from bed and connects to water supply source. Primes and operates pumper while monitoring all gauges and making adjustments, in order to supply adequate pressure to the nozzle. Drafts water from open source such as a lake or pond, using hard suction hose. Operates portable or fixed master stream appliance and various nozzles in order to extinguish fire and protect exposures. Calculates water flow, discharge pressures and friction loss for effective fire suppression. Uses ramp to protect hose line from damage. Inspects charged hose line for kinks and repairs; replaces burst hose sections. Advances, directs and assists in maintaining control of charged hose lines. Enters smoke-filled structure using portable air breathing apparatus or

air pack. Locates and extinguishes source of fire first. Observes, evaluates and responds to changing fireground conditions, notifying officer in charge. Maintains awareness of other firefighters' efforts and assists them to ensure a safe and coordinated performance.

Participates in search and rescue operations to locate and free trapped or unconscious victims. Carries or assists victims away from danger and examines them for signs of injury and medical alert tag. Administers basic first aid and medication, as well as emergency medical care to victims of fire, heart attack, drowning, poisoning, accidents and other emergencies. Notifies dispatcher of need for additional medical help or status of call. Calms and comforts emotionally distraught victims or family members at the emergency scene. Notifies occupants or neighbors to vacate premises due to safety concerns. Maintains limited crowd and traffic control at the scene until police arrive.

Performs overhaul and salvage operations in order to locate hot spots, extinguish hidden fires and protect property. Removes burning items to reduce fire and smoke damage. Operates portable generators and emergency lighting needed at the scene. Recognizes HAZMAT symbols to identify flammable or hazardous materials, and acts to contain hazardous material spill or control spread under direction of a superior officer. Locates and operates shut-off valves for gas, electricity, oil, and water in buildings to reduce hazard. Recognizes signs of arson, notifies officer in charge and preserves evidence. Extinguishes or controls grass and shrub fires by using tools, portable hand pumps and fire extinguishers.

Performs regular maintenance and minor repairs on all firefighting tools and equipment to ensure proper working order and readiness for service. Cleans, dries, tests, inspects, and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment including fire apparatus, hoses, nozzles, fittings, turn out gear, tools, and self-contained breathing apparatus. Inspects and cleans Air Pak; fills air cylinders. Locates, removes, replaces and maintains inventory of tools and equipment on apparatus using knowledge or checklist to determine if any are missing or damaged. Performs periodic tests of apparatus pumping capacity and pressure. Provides for the proper maintenance and function of the station and grounds by cleaning floors and windows, emptying trash cans, changing bed linens, cutting grass and performing other maintenance duties. Provides for the security of the station by locking station doors and securing valuable items. Checks to ensure adequate quantities of maintenance supplies are available.

Participates in training drills and classroom training sessions. Reads, takes notes and studies assigned materials including firefighting training materials, technical firefighting manuals, and basic laws, regulations or updates related to performance of work. Learns, studies and maintains proficiency in fireground formulas, principles of fire behavior, structural components of buildings and the location/purpose of all tools or newly acquired

equipment. Participates in discussions and critical evaluations of departmental response to each fire. Practices with apparatus and equipment under supervision to increase and maintain proficiency. Studies direct routes, maps and location of streets in response area; takes proficiency tests. Listens to radio for important information and monitors weather, public events or other factors affecting service area. Plans for fires in residential and commercial buildings by studying structural information, type of occupancy and location of hazardous materials. Participates in pre-fire planning inspections for both public and private properties.

Complies data to be used in reports. Completes daily maintenance checklist and any other forms, records, or reports as required. Makes entries in daily log for the department. Reports to work well-groomed, on-time and in proper attire. Maintains satisfactory interpersonal relationships with other department members. Demonstrates and explains firefighting equipment and techniques to the public; works with local youth groups. Receives telephone calls, assists visitors and conducts tours at the fire station.

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.

Must have a valid driver's license.

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