



FIREFIGHTER

Job Description

TITLE: Firefighter
DEPARTMENT: Fire
REPORTS TO: Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant
FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt

PURPOSE OF POSITION:

The incumbent in this position works under the direct supervision of a fire captain or a fire lieutenant and performs semiskilled firefighting work in combating, extinguishing and preventing fires, answering emergency calls, and in operating and maintaining fire equipment, apparatus, and quarters.

An incumbent in this position has already graduated from the Fire Service Training Basic Academy and served a one-year probationary period, which is an extension of the testing process. Although the protection of life and property and the performance of rescue operations are the most important aspects of the job, the firefighter spends much of his/her time training, performing routine station duties, and inspecting and pre-fire planning buildings and facilities with an assigned engine company.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

1. To be eligible for entrance into the Oklahoma State Firefighter's Pension System as a paid firefighter, a candidate must meet minimum medical requirements which reflect the ability of the candidate to perform the essential functions of fire suppression, prevention and life safety as set forth in O.S. 11 §49-100.1, et seq. The essential job functions reflect the physical, physiological, intellectual and psychological demands of the occupation including:
 - a. Performing firefighting functions (e.g., hoseline operations, extensive crawling, lifting and carrying heavy objects, ventilating roofs or walls using power or hand tools, forcible entry), rescue operations, and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions while wearing personal protective ensembles (PPE) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), including working in extremely hot or cold environments for prolonged periods of time.
 - b. Wearing an SCBA, which includes a demand valve-type positive pressure facepiece or HEPA filter mask, which requires the ability to tolerate increased respiratory workloads.
 - c. Exposure to toxic fumes, irritants, particulates, biological (infectious) and nonbiological hazards, and/or heated gases, despite the use of PPE including SCBA.
 - d. Climbing 6 or more flights of stairs while wearing fire protective ensemble weighing at least 50 lbs or more and carrying equipment/tools weighing an additional 20 to 40 lbs.
 - e. Wearing fire protective ensemble that is encapsulating and insulating. Wearing this clothing will result in significant fluid loss that frequently progresses to clinical dehydration and can elevate core temperature to levels exceeding 102.2°F (39°C).
 - f. Searching, finding, and rescue-dragging or carrying victims ranging from newborns up to adults weighing over 200 lbs to safety despite hazardous conditions and low visibility.
 - g. Advancing water-filled hoselines up to 2.5 in. in diameter from fire apparatus to occupancy (approximately 150 ft.); can involve negotiating multiple flights of stairs, ladders, and other obstacles.
 - h. Climbing ladders, operating from heights, walking or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces, and operating in proximity to electrical power lines and/or other hazards.
 - i. Unpredictable emergency requirements for prolonged periods of extreme physical exertion without benefit of warm-up, scheduled rest periods, meals, access to medication(s), or hydration.
 - j. Operating fire apparatus or other vehicles in an emergency mode with emergency lights and sirens.

- k. Critical, time-sensitive, complex problem solving during physical exertion in stressful, hazardous environments (including hot, dark, tightly enclosed spaces), further aggravated by fatigue, flashing lights, sirens and other distractions.
 - l. Ability to communicate (give and comprehend verbal orders) while wearing PPE and SCBA under conditions of high background noise, poor visibility, and drenching from hoselines and/or fixed protection systems (sprinklers).
 - m. Functioning as an integral component of a team, where sudden incapacitation of a member can result in mission failure or in risk of injury or death to civilians or other team members (e.g., two in, two out as described in NFPA 1500).
2. Participates in fire company surveys and pre-fire planning of structures and facilities within the community.
 3. Participates in fire service training drills, and attends classes in firefighting essentials, hazardous materials, first aid, and other specialized subjects. Attends courses and/or seminars at outside educational institutions upon request or as directed. Reads and studies assigned materials in preparation for monthly course examinations. Assists and/or instructs classes if qualified and requested by superior officer.
 4. Performs routine general maintenance of fire department equipment, apparatus, vehicles, quarters, and grounds.
 5. Conforms to the Fire Department Rules and Regulations as well as the policies and procedures of the City of Enid and the department. Adheres to the safety requirements of the department and the City and reports unsafe conditions to superior officer.
 6. May be assigned to drive and operate apparatus under special instructions on a relief basis if certified.
 7. Performs related work or as assigned by superior officer.

The above duties are general in nature and are not intended to reflect all of the duties, which may be required of the incumbent.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

As a firefighter candidate, must be able to pass a written entrance examination composed of reading comprehension, mechanical ability/aptitude, general math, spatial comprehension, learning ability, and general physical science in addition to any psychological performance test(s). The candidate must also pass a drug test, the Oklahoma State Firefighters Pension and Retirement medical physical* and a physical agility test. The applicants may be required to pass other job related tests as determined by the Fire Department Civil Service Commission of the City of Enid.

** Medical conditions affecting ability to safely perform essential job functions may be found in Title 270; Chapter 10 of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System Handbook (270:10-1-5) See www.ok.gov/fprs.*

Basic reading and math skills are required, as would typically be obtained through completion of a high school degree, vocational/technical school, or equivalent.

Must be at least 18 years of age.

PROBATIONARY TRAINING & PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Entry-level firefighters are placed on probationary status for one year. During probation, firefighters are closely supervised and routinely evaluated by superior officers and Training Division personnel. Evaluations include training, attendance, and performance of station duty assignments and emergency fire-ground operations.

Firefighters are required to obtain EMT (*Emergency Medical Technician*) certification and licensing within the probationary period.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Considerable ability to learn fire service related course material and skills such as CPR, first-aid, firefighting essentials, and hazardous materials emergency response.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees and the public. Since the employee must share living quarters, during 24-hour duty assignments, with other personnel of a fire company or companies, effective working/living relationships are extremely important.

Knowledge of the department's standard operating procedures.

Knowledge of hazardous materials emergency response procedures.

Knowledge of the incident command system.

Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions and to work in a paramilitary-type environment with strict chain of command operational procedures.

CONTACTS WITH OTHERS:

Most contacts are with current staff except during emergency incidents, pre-fire planning, demonstrations, or public fire education activity. While performing public contact, it is critical that speed, efficiency, and extreme sensitivity to life and property are paramount in the type of service rendered.

REQUIRED LICENSES AND TRAINING LEVELS:

Emergency Medical Technician – National Registry and OK State licensure required within the 1-year probationary period.

IFSAC (*International Fire Service Accreditation Council*) Firefighter I & II certifications (*or equivalent*).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND SAFETY CONCERNS:

Spends extensive time outdoors exposed to all kinds of weather conditions, which may necessitate the performance of work under hazardous conditions and environments.

May possibly be exposed to carcinogenic dusts such as asbestos, toxic substances such as hydrogen cyanide, carbon monoxide, or organic solvents either through inhalation or skin contact.

May possibly be exposed to infectious and/or communicable agents such as hepatitis B, tuberculosis, or HIV.

Job requires the incumbent to be aware of and observe safe working practices and procedures both at the scene of an emergency and at fire stations.

JOB LOCATION:

Fire department station or in the field based on emergency incidents or assigned duties.