Bargaining Unit: 03
FLSA: Covered
Position Number: 04580

FIRE CAPTAIN

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to serve as a first-line supervisor of a fire company during an assigned shift; to ensure proper responses to fire and emergency service incidents; to operate and maintain fire and emergency service equipment; to perform firefighting and emergency response duties in protecting life and property; to respond to fire and emergency service calls; to direct, perform, and report fire inspection, fire prevention, and fire/emergency investigative functions; to perform station and equipment maintenance work; to conduct and participate in training drills; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the first-line supervisor level in the firefighting class series. Incumbents are expected to be in-charge of other staff during an assigned shift, perform the more difficult firefighting and emergency response assignments, and drive and operate fire and emergency service equipment. Provides documentation of actions and findings and participates in the evaluation of personnel and equipment performance/operations.

REPORTS TO

Fire Battalion Chief or higher ranking officer.

CLASSIFICATIONS SUPERVISED

Firefighter, Fire Engineer.

EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES *(The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)*

Directs and supervises staff during an assigned shift; develops work assignments and ensures proper coverage for Department services; maintains discipline and instructs and drills others in firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical procedures; serves as an incident commander until relieved by a higher ranking officer; evaluates assigned staff; drives and operates fire and emergency service apparatus, including aerial trucks; prepares for pumping operations and operates pumps to maintain proper pressure during fire suppression; inspects pumps and related equipment to ensure proper working condition; responds to fire and other emergency service alarms; performs firefighting and emergency response functions, as directed by a higher ranking officer; fights fire using proper fire suppression techniques; controls and extinguishes fires; lays and connects hose; directs water and chemical agents onto fires; controls and contains hazardous materials spills and leaks; enters and ventilates burning buildings; uses hand and power tools; raises, positions, and climbs ladders; administers emergency medical aid to trapped and/or injured persons; directs and performs salvage operations; directs and conducts fire prevention inspections, fire investigations, presents public education classes and activities; and tests fire protection equipment; ensures proper cleaning of station living quarters and grounds, ensures the proper condition of fire and emergency response equipment, and function as an Acting Fire Battalion Chief, as required.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Frequently stand and walk; climb stairs and ladders quickly and exercising above average physical agility; walk on sloped, uneven, and slippery surfaces; stoop, bend over, and kneel frequently; crawl through a variety of areas on hands and knees; sufficient manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination to work with special equipment during emergency situations; lift and move objects weighing up to 100 pounds without assistance and heavier objects with assistance; endurance to sustain extra physical effort for a substantial period of time; ability to perform emergency service duties while wearing special breathing apparatus; maintain corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment, including computer, telephone, calculator, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is normally performed in a fire station environment and at scenes of fires and emergency incidents; frequent driving to different locations throughout the City; work may be performed in a variety of temperatures and weather conditions; work may be performed with unusual exposure to high temperatures and heat; work may be performed with exposure to constant moisture; work may be performed with unusual exposure to hazardous materials and chemicals; above average exposure to life threatening situations; regular contact with other staff and the public.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Fire insurance.
OSHA standards pertaining to firefighting and rescue practices.
Incident command systems.
Principles, practices, and procedures of modern fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material technology.
Principles of pumps and hydraulics.
Operation, maintenance, types, and uses of firefighting and emergency response equipment used in the City of Merced.
Emergency medical aid and CPR, including defibrillators.
Geography of the City, including the location of mains, hydrants, and fire protection systems.
Use of hand tools and equipment.
Fire inspection methods, public education, investigation techniques and procedures.
Fire Department policies, rules, procedures, and regulations.
Principles of supervision and training.
Mutual aid and strike team operations.

Ability to:

Provide supervision, training, and maintain discipline for assigned Fire Department staff during a work shift.
Provide guidance and assist with administration of City and Department rules and procedures.
Direct and conduct fire prevention inspections.
Skillfully use a variety of fire suppression and emergency medical methods and procedures.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS (Continued)

Ability to: (Continued)

Drive fire and emergency response equipment safely and skillfully, in accordance with traffic rules.
Understand and act in accordance with City and Department policy, rules, and regulations.
Perform as coordinator of assigned department program.
Adequately document activities and findings.
Communicate with others both verbally and in text and media.
Read, understand, and apply fire prevention ordinances and hazardous material related information.
Skillfully operate fire and emergency service equipment during emergency incidents.
Meet established standards of physical endurance and agility.
Work for considerable periods of time under adverse conditions.
Perform hydraulic calculations.
Deal tactfully and courteously with the public and other department/agency personnel.
Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.
Coordinate public education activities.

Training and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Job candidates must meet stringent medical and physical standards.

Associate's degree in fire science, public administration, or related field; and five (5) years of firefighting experience, including two (2) years as a Fire Engineer with the City of Merced.

Special Requirements:

Possession of the following:

A current, valid California Department of Motor Vehicles class B firefighter restricted license or California Department of Motor Vehicles class C with firefighter endorsement license;
Completion of the City Of Merced Fire Department Acting Captain Task Book. California Firefighter II certification;
Emergency Medical Technician-I certification;
California Fire Officer certification; and
California State Driver-Operator certification.

Reference: City of Merced Personnel Rules and Regulations, Sections 5.05 and Section 5.07.

The contents of this class specification shall not be construed to constitute any expressed or implied warranty or guarantee, nor shall it constitute a contract of employment. The City of Merced assumes no responsibility beyond the general accuracy of the document, nor does it assume responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information contained herein. The contents of this specification may be modified or revoked without notice. Terms and conditions of employment are determined through a meet and confer process and are subject to the Memorandum of Understanding currently in effect.

APPROVED _____ DATE 8-8-11
Chairperson, Personnel Board