

FIREFIGHTER

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to perform firefighting and emergency response duties in protecting life and property; to respond to fire and emergency service calls; to assist with fire inspection and fire prevention functions; to perform station and equipment maintenance work; to participate in training drills; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry, training, and first working level in the firefighting class series. Incumbents learn firefighting and emergency response techniques and procedures while performing fire service functions. Incumbents are expected to increase their range of assignments and develop their skills while in this classification. Incumbents who have achieved the fifth step in the pay range may be required to perform the duties enclosed in brackets below under "Examples of Important and Essential Duties."

REPORTS TO

Fire Captain or higher-ranking officer.

CLASSIFICATIONS SUPERVISED

This is not a supervisory classification.

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

Responds to fire and other emergency service alarms; performs firefighting and emergency response functions, as directed by an officer; fights fire, using proper fire suppression techniques; controls and extinguishes fires; lays and connects hose; directs water and chemical agents onto fires; controls, treats, and contains hazardous materials spills and leaks; enters and ventilates burning buildings; uses hand and power tools; raises, positions, and climbs ladders used in the fire suppression and rescue activities; administers emergency medical aid to trapped and/or injured persons; places salvage covers, removes water and debris, and performs a variety of salvage operations; participates in fire drills and training sessions on a variety of emergency services and fire suppression topics; conducts fire prevention inspections and tests fire protection equipment; performs public education and relations activities; cleans station living quarters, maintaining them in a clean and orderly condition; studies and reviews Fire Department rules, regulations, and operating procedures; maintains, cleans, and ensures the proper condition of fire and emergency response equipment; [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; serves as an acting Fire Engineer, when assigned].

FIREFIGHTER - 2

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:

Geography of the City.
Use of hand tools and equipment.
Emergency medical aid, CPR, and EMT-I.
Fire Science and Technology.

Ability to:

Understand and act in accordance with Department policy, rules, and regulations.
Read, understand, and apply fire prevention ordinances and hazardous material related information.
Demonstrate mechanical aptitude for operation of fire and emergency service equipment.
Learn to drive fire and emergency service equipment safely and skillfully, in accordance with relevant traffic rules and regulations.
Learn fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous materials techniques and methods.
Meet established standards of physical endurance and agility.
Work for considerable periods of time under adverse conditions.
Learn to perform hydraulic calculations.
Deal tactfully and courteously with the public.
Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.

FIREFIGHTER - 3

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS (continued)

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:

New job candidates must meet stringent medical and physical standards.

Attendance at fire science/technology courses at a local community college or approved fire academy, and work as a reserve firefighter.

Special Requirements:

Possession of a valid California Driver's License issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Advancement to the fifth step of the salary range requires completion of the Merced City Fire Department Driver-Operator certification and possession of a California Class B driver's license.

California Firefighter I certification must be obtained within six (6) months of initial appointment to this job classification.

California Firefighter II certification must be obtained within eighteen (18) months of initial appointment to this job classification.

Emergency Medical Technician-I certification must be obtained within eighteen (18) months of initial appointment to this job classification.

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

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APPROVED _____


Chairperson, Personnel Board

DATE _____

9/10/01