

FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE

DEFINITION

Under direct supervision, the Firefighter Trainee participates in the intensive recruit training academy which focuses on fire technology, prevention, public education, emergency response, fire suppression, search and rescue, emergency medical service, hazard mitigation, fitness and health, policies, procedures, and other response areas as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED/EXERCISED

Receives lead direction from Training Officers and supervision from a Fire Captain or other superior officers. Exercises no supervision.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Firefighter Trainee is a non-sworn training classification in the firefighter series for candidates qualified to learn the duties of a Firefighter in the City of Fresno Fire Department. Incumbents of this class undergo a formal, comprehensive training program.

Firefighter Trainees are promoted to Firefighter upon successful completion of the recruit training academy to fill existing vacancies. Failure to successfully complete the trainee academy will be cause for termination.

This classification is distinguished from Firefighter in that the Firefighter Trainee serves in a learning capacity while attending the trainee academy, while the latter have graduated from the trainee academy, serve as first responders, and are expected to perform the full range of fire suppression, safety and prevention duties, and provide Basic Life Support at medical emergencies.

EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES

May include, but are not limited to the following:

Participates in classroom lectures, seminars, and practical training sessions as directed in the trainee academy.

Attends scheduled training sessions, learns principles and practices of firefighting, personal safety, and rescue techniques.

Receive training in firefighting activities such as fire suppression, wildfire operations, hose evolutions, nozzle evolutions, use of extrication tools such as chain saws, axes, jaws of life, ladder raises, ropes and knots, fire extinguishers, water supply systems, fire prevention, public safety education, radio operations, map reading, salvage and overhaul operations, emergency response driving, and fire pump operations.

Participates in drills using proper firefighting methods and techniques; learns how to lay and connect fire hose. Learns to inspect fire hydrants, test fire alarms, and perform fire

prevention inspections. Receives training in the proper handling of hazardous materials for public safety and personal protection.

Receives training in the proper use and maintenance of fire related apparatus, equipment, tools, and facilities.

Receives training in physical fitness techniques.

Performs related duties as required.

JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) techniques.

Basic mathematical and mechanical principles which demonstrate the ability to learn technical concepts, procedures, and equipment operations.

Basic Life Support emergency care.

Local geography and use of maps.

Codes and ordinances pertaining to company fire prevention activities.

Computers and related software applications.

Skill/Ability to:

Safely operate a motor vehicle.

Learn general principles and practices of firefighting activities including fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials, rescue and salvage operations, radio communications, and water systems.

Learn to perform firefighting work requiring physical strength, coordination, endurance, and flexibility in a safe and effective manner.

Learns the policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the City of Fresno and Fresno Fire Department.

Perform prolonged and arduous tasks under adverse conditions.

Read and interpret technical documents.

Understand and follow written and oral instructions.

Maintain effective working relationships with Department staff, Federal/State/local agencies, various emergency services agencies, the general public, and others.

Develop and maintain a strong work ethic and positive attitude.

Learn the geography of the City of Fresno and surrounding areas, including the streets system, hydrant locations, the layout and location of public utilities and potentially hazardous materials or substances.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

High school diploma or equivalent.

Licenses:

Possession of a valid driver's license is required at time of application. Possession of a valid California Driver's License is required within sixty (60) days of appointment.

At the completion of the trainee academy, incumbents must possess and maintain at minimum a valid Class C California Driver's License with a firefighter endorsement. Incumbents may possess and maintain a valid Class A or B California Driver's license, without air brake restriction, and with tank endorsement. Failure to maintain the required driver's license may be cause for termination.

Certificates:

Possession of an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic Certificate issued only by the State of California or by the National Registry or by an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic certifying agency approved by the State of California is required at the time of the Fire Chief's interview.

NOTE: Incumbents who possess a National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic Certificate will need to have a valid Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic Certificate issued by the State of California and certified by the County of Fresno at the time of appointment to Firefighter.

Possession and maintenance of a valid CPR Card consistent with the curriculum standards of the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent is required at time of application.

Special Requirements:

As identified in the job bulletin, candidates are expected to successfully complete a physical agility test such as Biddle or a modified equivalent.

Eligible candidates certified to the Department for consideration must successfully complete the Fire Chief's interview, polygraph test, and extensive background investigation before receiving a conditional offer of employment, which includes a comprehensive pre-employment physical examination.

Must be at least 20 years of age at the time of appointment to Firefighter Trainee.

Candidates selected to fill Firefighter vacancies are prohibited from smoking or use of any tobacco product on-duty and on City premises.

APPROVED: (Signature on File)
Director of Personnel Services

DATE: 4/28/2025

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Revised: TJM:scm 12/26/17

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