

FIRE DEPARTMENT
SANTA CLARA COUNTY

FIREFIGHTER/ENGINEER

DEFINITION

The Firefighter/Engineer classification performs a variety of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled duties involving fire suppression, emergency response, protection of life and property, fire prevention, and other related activities.

Work is performed under close to general supervision depending upon the complexity of the task and the skills of the incumbent. This classification may provide limited work direction to less experienced employees in this classification and may temporarily act as Fire Captain.

The incumbent may be assigned to a 56-hour or 40-hour schedule at the discretion of the Fire Chief. The classification of Firefighter/Engineer is in the classified service.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The incumbent is required to complete a formal training program and subsequently assigned to a fire suppression company. The incumbent is trained on the various skill sets and application of equipment used in fire fighting, rescue, salvage, emergency medical services, operation of fire apparatus and equipment, public education, fire prevention inspections and investigations.

An incumbent in this classification is distinguished from those in the classification of Fire Captain in that the latter is a first line supervisor.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Depending upon assignment, duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Respond to fire, emergency medical calls and other emergency alarms and public service calls as a member of a fire suppression company.
- Perform primary and secondary search procedures for fire and disaster victims. Remove and rescue trapped victims.
- Apply Basic Life Support and perform primary and secondary assessments on patients at the scene of a medical emergency to determine appropriate medical treatment.
- Drive the fire apparatus taking the most direct route to the incident scene and maneuvering around obstructions as necessary for correct and safe positioning.
- Position the fire apparatus at the incident scene for efficient operation, secure and maintain an adequate supply of water for hose lays and operate pumping equipment.
- Ability to operate multiple vehicle types such as aerial apparatus, tow equipment, rescue units, four wheel drive apparatus, etc.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (continued)

- Gain access to involved structures or areas to evacuate inhabitants, lay hose lines and assist in operating nozzles to direct streams of water on fires to control and extinguish fires.
- Select proper tools from a wide variety of specialized manual and power equipment in order to perform required tasks such as raising, lowering and climbing ladders, and operating equipment from attics, ladders, basements, roofs and other hazardous points.
- Operate rescue equipment such as the air chisel, air bags, etc.
- Ventilate burning buildings to release heat and smoke, use salvage covers to prevent water damage and overhaul operations after a fire to prevent rekindling.
- Check fire scene for point of origin and source of ignition and preserves evidence which may indicate arson.
- Inspect and perform routine maintenance on rescue equipment, fire apparatus, hydrants, fire hoses and other support equipment.
- Study and attend training sessions concerning, but not limited to, such subjects as modern techniques of fire fighting, emergency medical services, hazardous materials and rescue techniques.
- Perform fire prevention functions by inspecting commercial, industrial and residential structures.
- Provide assistance and information regarding fire and life safety education and other related community service programs to the public.
- Perform general maintenance and upkeep of fire stations, including but not limited to gardening and housekeeping duties.
- Provide technical assistance and informally train new Firefighter/Engineers and volunteers on the daily operations of the job.
- May act as Fire Captain or Arson Investigator as necessary.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: Equivalent to completion of the twelfth grade and must possess an EMT certification at time of employment.

Knowledge Of:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) procedures for evaluation and treatment of patients during various medical emergencies.
- Basic techniques on safe and proper use of tools and equipment associated with mechanical and maintenance work.

Knowledge Of: (continued)

- Basic principles relating to flammable and combustible materials.
- Basic mechanical principles such as leverage, force, acceleration, friction, etc.
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Basic math such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division utilizing both whole numbers and decimals.

Ability To:

- Learn fire fighting methods and techniques, the basic operation and mechanics of fire fighting equipment, location of hydrants, mains, major traffic and fire hazards.
- Learn to drive apparatus with care and safety in accordance with traffic laws and Department regulations.
- Learn and maintain proficiency in Basic Life Support (BLS) practices and techniques.
- Analyze fire and driving situations and to adopt effective courses of actions.
- Think and act quickly in emergencies.
- Understand and carry out verbal and written directions.
- Maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Work irregular or protracted hours and to respond promptly to call-backs.
- Perform heavy and hazardous physical labor for extended periods.
- Meet and maintain physical standards.

Skill To:

- Work well with others as a team.
- Analyze problems quickly and take appropriate action under pressure.
- Effectively interact with various individuals with tact and courtesy.
- Effectively and clearly communicate in both verbal and written formats.
- Work under conditions of zero visibility and temperature variations with various equipment and tools.
- Read and interpret maps, diagrams, floor plans and geometric figures.

PHYSICAL STANDARDS:

- Must be between the age of 21 and 35 years of age at date of hire. The maximum hiring age does not apply to applicants who have held a permanent position providing fire suppression services for a minimum of five full years within the ten years immediately preceding the individual's application to the Department for a safety position.
- Weight in proportion to height in accordance with medical standards.
- Visual acuity of not less than 20/40 vision in each eye uncorrected, with only mild red/green color defects being acceptable.

Required License: Possession of a valid State of California Driver's License. Successful completion of the driver operator program and possession of a valid Class B Driver's License acquired during the probationary period.

Required Certification: Maintain a valid EMT certification.