

FIREFIGHTER/OPERATOR

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

The class of Firefighter/Operator comprises entrance level positions in the fire suppression division of fire department operations. Employees of this class receive training in and perform firefighting and fire suppression tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, performing rescue work, driving and operating fire apparatus and equipment, maintaining fire department vehicles and equipment, and providing emergency medical care to the sick or injured at an emergency scene. Employees of this class receive specific instructions for most duties, but have the authority to work independently in certain designated areas, and are directly supervised by a Fire Captain. This class ranks immediately below that of Fire Captain.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Trains for, performs, and maintains proficiency in firefighting and rescue tasks such as connecting, carrying, dragging, and operating hose lines; directing fire streams; forcible entry; ventilation; and using portable breathing apparatus or air pack, ladders, lines, and other equipment to aid in fighting fires or removing fire and accident victims to safety. Operates or rides in fire apparatus to and from fire or emergency scene. Communicates with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Cuts or pries open vehicles or machinery to free persons trapped. Maintains limited crowd and traffic control as needed.

Ensures a timely response to the emergency scene by taking shortest route available using resources of maps or memory. Positions apparatus and connects hose lines to water supply source. Determines the number of required hose lines necessary for fire suppression. Operates pumper to supply adequate pressure to the nozzle. Calculates required water flow, friction loss, and discharge pressures necessary for fire suppression. Operates and controls portable, fixed, or large-caliber water streams.

Locates and extinguishes hidden fires and hot spots. Performs salvage operations necessary to protect property, using covers, tarps, or other materials. Carries or removes burning items to reduce fire and smoke damage. Picks up water after fire is extinguished using appropriate method. Constructs catch-alls to trap and dispose of water. Removes debris and charred waste. Shores up or tears down weak and dangerous structural components.

Performs emergency medical services such as basic first aid, CPR, and first responder at the scene of an emergency or while in transport to the hospital. Examines victims for signs of injury and administers first aid to treat minor injuries, consciousness, and breathing and determines nature and extent of injury or illness. Provides emergency care to victims of fires, accidents, heat strokes, drowning, poisoning, drug overdose and other emergencies. Provides advanced life support services to patients using defibrillators. Administers medication to individuals at the emergency scene or while in transport to the hospital emergency department and observes and documents the effects of such medication. Notifies dispatcher for additional medical help when needed. Studies new laws, drug reference literature, precautions, techniques, and pharmacological information, relating to emergency medical services in order to incorporate such into the operations of the department. Provides for and ensures that accurate emergency medical services records such as personnel records, patient care records, records of activity, financial records, and inventory records are maintained.

Identifies causes of fires to determine how fire started and whether arson may have been involved. Recognizes, notes, and preserves evidence of arson. Informs officer in charge of suspected arson. Observes spectators for suspicious behavior. Guards premises where arson is suspected and questions witnesses to determine fire cause.

Draws preplanning maps and diagrams. Updates hydrant maps and vital building books. Inspects hydrants for defects and flushes periodically as needed. Conducts fire drills in schools and businesses. Upon request, inspects private residences or other buildings for fire hazards and compliance. Inspects smoke and heat detector devices in public and private properties.

Studies and maintains proficiency in the procedures for special emergencies. Reads and recognizes HAZMAT symbols to identify flammable or hazardous materials. Acts to contain hazardous material spill or control spread. Locates and operates shut-off valves for gas, electricity, oil, and water in buildings to reduce hazard. Removes containers of flammable or hazardous materials at the fire scene under direction of a superior officer.

Reads and studies assigned materials including firefighting training materials, technical firefighting manuals, and basic laws and regulations or updates related to performance of work. Learns and maintains proficiency in firefighting operations including adverse conditions, firefighting formulas, safety procedures, and structural components of buildings. Practices with apparatus and equipment under supervision to increase and maintain proficiency. Studies direct routes, structures of commercial and industrial buildings, location of streets, water mains, and hydrants in response area. Monitors and gathers information of conditions affecting station zone of response.

Cleans, dries, tests, inspects, and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment such as fire apparatus, communications equipment, hoses, hand tools, portable breathing apparatus, turnout equipment, ladders, or related equipment. Performs periodic tests of apparatus pumping capacity and pressure. Inspects tools for damage or to determine if any tools are missing, and makes report. Inspects fire station and notifies officer in charge of needed repairs. Completes minor repairs to equipment and tools. Maintains inventory of tools and equipment on apparatus using checklist or knowledge of equipment.

Performs tasks necessary for the proper maintenance and function of the station and grounds such as cleaning floors and windows, changing bed linens, cutting grass and performing other minor maintenance duties. Prepares meals for firefighters at the station and cleans kitchen area. Provides for the security of the station by locking station doors and securing valuable items. Maintains the organization of and updates the station library.

Performs public relations duties such as calming excited citizens at emergency scene, receiving and responding to questions and complaints from the public, and providing information to the public concerning the work of the fire department. Receives telephone calls and provides necessary information or directions. Refers calls to appropriate personnel or agency. Assists visitors at the station. Conducts fire station tours and explains fire equipment and firefighting techniques to visiting public. Works with local youth groups and other community groups, delivering lectures or demonstrations on fire prevention principles, including fire hazards and appropriate safeguards.

Completes any forms, records, or reports as required.

Performs related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements listed below must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States and of legal age.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Applicant must possess one of the following: high school diploma, general educational development (G.E.D.) certificate, high school

transcript, affidavit from the issuing high school, associate's or bachelor's degree, or college transcript, any one of which must indicate that graduation has occurred or a degree awarded. A certification of completion shall not be sufficient to substitute for a diploma or G.E.D. certificate.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

Must not be less than 18 years of age