

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY

**FIREFIGHTER**

DEFINITION

The Firefighter classification is the first classification in the Firefighter series. An incumbent 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 a Fire Captain.

The incumbent may be assigned to a 56-hour or 40-hour schedule at the discretion of the Fire Chief to perform specialized administrative duties in support of a Department Division, including Training, Operations, Support Services, or Fire Prevention.

This classification is a Fair Labor Standards Act non-exempt, represented position in the Classified Service.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

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

The classification of Firefighter is distinguished from the classification of Firefighter/Engineer in that the latter is responsible for driving, operating and maintaining fire apparatus. Whereas, the former does not have those responsibilities. 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 (BLS) and/or Advanced Life Support (ALS) and perform primary and secondary assessments on patients at the scene of a medical emergency to determine appropriate medical treatment.
- 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.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (continued)

- 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 preserve evidence, which may indicate arson.
- Inspect and perform routine maintenance on rescue equipment, hydrants, fire hoses, and other support equipment.
- Study and attend training sessions concerning, but not limited to, subjects such as modern techniques of firefighting, 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 Firefighters, Explorers, and volunteers on the daily operations of the job.
- May act as Firefighter/Engineer or Arson Investigator when qualified and assigned as necessary.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: High school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate. EMT applicants must possess a valid EMT certification and CPR certification by the application filing deadline. Paramedic applicants must possess a valid paramedic license, and CPR, ACLS and PALS certifications by the application filing deadline.

For Firefighter recruitments for positions that will be assigned to paramedic duties, based upon Department needs and the discretion of the Personnel Officer, the announcement may indicate the requirement of a paramedic license at the time of the filing deadline. Once a paramedic certification is acquired, the Firefighter assigned to paramedic duties must maintain their certification for a minimum of five years.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS (continued)

Age Requirement: Must be at least 18 years of age by closing of application filing deadline.

Physical Standards:

- Weight in proportion to height in accordance with medical standards.
- Visual acuity of not less than 20/40 vision in each eye corrected and not less than 20/100 uncorrected in each eye, with only mild red/green color defects being acceptable.

Knowledge Of:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) and/or Advanced Life Support (ALS) 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.
- 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 firefighting methods and techniques, the basic operation and mechanics of firefighting equipment, location of hydrants, mains, major traffic and fire hazards.
- Learn and maintain proficiency in Basic Life Support (BLS) and/or Advanced Life Support (ALS) practices and techniques.
- Analyze fire and ability 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.

Work Environment: Work indoors and outdoors; exposure to extreme hot or cold temperature; work at unprotected heights; be around moving machinery; exposure to marked changes in temperature/humidity; exposure to dust, fumes, smoke, gases, odors, mists, or other irritating particles; exposure to toxic or caustic chemicals; exposure to excessive noise; exposure to radiation or electrical energy; exposure to solvents, grease or oil; exposure to slippery or uneven walking surfaces; work below ground; work with explosives; exposure to vibration; exposure to flames or burning items; work around others, work alone, work with others; complete work on a computer. Work for prolonged periods at intense levels.

Required License: Possession of a valid state of California driver's license.

Required Certifications/Licenses: Incumbents shall maintain all certifications and licenses referenced under the employment standards for the position.

Failure to possess or maintain a valid California driver's license, and appropriate certifications shall result in discipline up to, and including, termination of employment.

At the discretion of the Personnel Officer, the following certifications may be a minimum qualification for specific recruitments of this classification and will be indicated as such on the job announcement/posting for the recruitment:

- Firefighter I Academy Certification from an Accredited Regional Training Program or an Accredited Local Academy as approved by the California Office of State Fire Marshal/State Fire Training, **or**;
- Firefighter I Certification from the California Office of State Fire Marshal/State Fire Training.

Pre-Employment Requirements: The candidate must pass a fitness test, background check, Live Scan fingerprint, psychological evaluation, and medical examination.