

FIREFIGHTER JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION PURPOSE

Firefighters have the responsibility of protecting life and property from the hazards of fire. This protection is offered by applying fire suppression methods to control and stop property damage, by saving lives through rescue from fire or other hazardous environments, and through public fire safety education to prevent fires. Firefighters respond to emergency calls to provide efficient and immediate care to the critically ill and injured. Firefighters assist in other types of emergencies and disasters that may occur in the community.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Works under the supervision of all Fire Department officers, specifically the Captain and Lieutenant.

PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responds to fire alarms and other emergency calls, extinguishes or controls fires as a member of a team under the supervision of an officer.

TASKS

1. Selects, drags, lifts and carries hose and nozzle depending on type of fire, and correctly applies a stream of water or chemicals onto fire.
2. Positions and climbs ladders to gain access to upper levels of buildings or to assist individuals from burning structures.
3. Creates openings in buildings for ventilation or entrance, using ax, chisel, crow bar, power saw, or other equipment.
4. Protects property from water and smoke by use of positive pressure ventilation, waterproof salvage covers, smoke ejectors, and other equipment.
5. Administers first aid and CPR to injured persons.
6. Communicates with superior officers and other firefighters during emergency operations, may include use of portable two-way radios.
7. Wears appropriate protective clothing and equipment to include self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) depending on potential hazard exposure.

PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintains fire apparatus and equipment as part of a team under the supervision of an officer.

TASKS

1. Performs assigned duties in maintaining, equipment, buildings, grounds, and hydrants.
2. Conducts annual hose testing in accordance with NFPA 1962.

Conducts fire prevention classes, inspections and pre-fire planning as part of a team under the supervision of an officer, when the need arises.

TASKS

1. Meets with schools and community groups during fire prevention week or when otherwise requested to conduct fire prevention classes.
2. Conducts walk-through of buildings to give fire prevention tips.
3. Participates in pre-fire planning of target hazards in coverage area.

Attends regular and assigned training sessions to maintain and upgrade fire fighting, and first aid skills.

TASKS

1. Actively participates in drills, demonstrations and courses in hydraulics, pump operation and maintenance, and fire fighting techniques.

Performs as driver/operator of fire apparatus under supervision of an officer.

TASKS

1. Drives and operates fire fighting vehicles and equipment.
2. Maintains vehicles and equipment in a safe and operational condition according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Responds to emergency medical calls to provide efficient and immediate care to the critically ill and injured at the Emergency Medical Responder Level under the supervision of an officer.

TASKS

1. When patients need extrication from entrapment, the firefighter assesses the extent of injury and gives emergency care and protection to the entrapped patient and uses the prescribed techniques and tools for removing the patient safely.
2. Determines the nature and extent of illness and injury and establishes priority for required emergency care.

NATURE AND SCOPE: (relationships; knowledge, skills and abilities; problem solving and creativity; and freedom to act.)

RELATIONSHIPS: Must be able to work as a team member under stress caused by emergencies, danger, or criticism and must be able to work fast while concentrating very hard.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Mathematical Development (GED Level 2): Must be able to multiply, divide, use fractions and read graphs. Language Development (GED Level 3): Must be able to read fire-related textbooks, write reports with proper grammar and speak correctly in public. Knows English grammar and vocabulary of over 5,000 words; can understand and communicate using non-technical written or spoken English. A high school diploma or equivalent is desirable. Post secondary or technical college courses in fire fighting are desirable.

PROBLEM SOLVING: Reasoning Development (GED Level 4): Must be able to interpret instructions and use logic to solve concrete problems.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Vision; normal vision needed with or without correction. Requires both near and far acuity. Hearing; normal hearing is needed. To do this work the firefighter must discriminate among similar sounds in environments with a great deal of background noise. Lifting; the firefighter may be required to lift 100 pounds or more. Walking and/or mobility; must be able to walk or crawl while carrying or lifting. Must be able to ascend and descend stairs or ladders. Must be able to balance and have the ability to steady oneself and keep from falling. Must be capable of reaching (extend the hands or arms in any direction); handling (seizing, holding, grasping, turning, or otherwise working with hands), fingering (picking, pinching, or otherwise working with the fingers); and feeling (perceiving attributes of objects such as size, shape, temperature, or texture by means of receptors in skin, particularly those of the fingertips). Must be able to apply a leg lock with either leg upon a ground ladder to provide a safe anchor when operating hose lines or performing rescue work.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be at least (18) years of age or older at time of hire.
2. Must possess, or able to obtain by time of hire, a valid Minnesota Driver's License.
3. No felony convictions or disqualifying criminal histories within the past seven (7) years.
4. The ability to read and write the English language.
5. The ability to meet Fire Department physical standards.
6. Must be able to obtain Fire Fighter 2 and Emergency Medical Responder within probation period.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The firefighter works both inside where there may be protection from weather conditions and outside where there may be no effective protection from the weather. The firefighter may work in extreme cold where the temperature is low enough to cause marked bodily discomfort and variations in temperature which accompany extreme cold that may cause abrupt bodily reaction. They also may be required to work in extremes of heat where temperatures are high enough to cause bodily discomfort and variations in temperature which accompany extreme heat that may cause abrupt bodily reaction. The firefighter will encounter wet conditions and high humidity where atmospheric conditions have a moisture content high enough to cause bodily discomfort. The firefighter will frequently encounter noise and/or vibration exceeding 80 decibels, constant or intermittent, to cause distraction or possible hearing loss. The firefighter will also encounter a variety of physical hazards such as proximity to moving parts, electrical shock, working on high places, exposure to burns and radiant energy, exposure to explosive toxic chemicals and biologic agents.

The examples of duties are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

The job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and the employee and is subject to change as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.