

FIREFIGHTER

Nature of Work

This is skilled firefighting work in combating, extinguishing and preventing fire, in answering emergency calls, and in operating and maintaining Fire Department equipment, apparatus and quarters.

Work involves training and participating in firefighting and life rescue duties in the protection of life and property. A firefighter may be assigned to drive fire trucks to and from the scene of fires and emergencies and to operate pumps and other equipment as required. Work is often performed under emergency conditions which may require strenuous exertion under such handicaps as fire, heat, smoke, and cramped and hazardous surroundings. Although firefighting and rescue work are the most difficult and responsible areas of work, a significant portion of time is spent inspecting premises for fire hazards, in drilling and studying methods and techniques, in routine station duties, in the care and maintenance of fire department property and equipment, and in performing other related duties. Work is performed under supervision in accordance with explicit instructions and well-defined procedures; however, satisfactory performance of the work requires initiative and a thorough understanding of firefighting techniques, fire equipment operation, fire prevention codes and requirements, and rescue methods and techniques.

Illustrative Examples for Work

- Responds to fire alarms with a company or as a driver of a heavy-duty pumper or ladder truck; operates pumps, aerial ladders, and auxiliary equipment; lays and connects hoses; holds nozzles and directs fog or water streams; raises and climbs ladders; uses chemical extinguishers, bars, hooks, lines and other equipment.
- Ventilates burning buildings by opening windows and skylights or by chopping holes in roofs and floors; removes persons from danger; administers first aid to injured persons; operates lifesaving equipment.
- Performs salvage operations; maintains and performs minor repair of equipment; inspects and maintains fire hydrants.
- Participates in fire drills and attends regular classes in firefighting, rescue, first aid, fire prevention, equipment care, and related subjects.
- Performs pre fire survey; assists in the maintenance of records and preparation of reports.
- Performs related work as required.

Desirable Knowledges, Abilities, and Skills

- Knowledge of the location of streets, fire hydrants, and major buildings in the service area.
- Knowledge of modern firefighting and fire prevention principles and practices as well as elementary first aid techniques.

- Knowledge of the operating and mechanical principles involved in the operation of fire and rescue apparatus and equipment.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions and to react quickly and calmly under emergency conditions.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees and the general public.

Desirable Training and Experience

Graduation from a standard high school or successful completion of GED; some experience or knowledge of elementary mechanics or the performance of work requiring manual skill and dexterity; or any equivalent combination of experience and training.

Successful candidates for the position of Firefighter must: 1) be at least 21 years old; 2) maintain a valid Tennessee Driver's License; 3) attend and pass the State Fire Rookie School and State Fire School Pumper Course; and, 4) become a certified Firefighter II within two years of appointment.