



March 2002
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FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDIC

DEFINITION

Under general supervision of a Fire Lieutenant or Fire Captain, performs all the duties of a Firefighter, including responding to fires, hazardous materials incidents, rescues, and other emergency and non-emergency situations; provides medical services at the EMT-Paramedic level; participates in all other suppression, prevention, inspection, education and related activities to protect life and property; assists in maintaining fire fighting apparatus and equipment; performs fire station maintenance; serves in specialized departmental roles as assigned; provides information and assistance to the public; and performs related work as assigned.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry level in the fire service, qualified to perform all normal fire suppression, basic medical emergency, hazardous materials and other emergency response activities, and to provide skilled paramedic services. Incumbents are expected to learn to drive and operate a truck, engine and all other vehicles and equipment prior to completion of the probationary period. Successful performance of the work requires a team-oriented individual who takes pride in serving the community, is flexible and a problem-solver, and is able to perform heavy physical work at potential risk to health and safety. This class is distinguished from Firefighter-EMT in that the latter is qualified to provide Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) level medical services in addition to performing the full range of duties as a Firefighter.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (Illustrative Only)

- Responds to emergency calls and provides basic and advanced medical treatment and life support techniques within the scope of an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P); directs the on-scene work of emergency medical staff; assists in the emergency transportation of patients to medical facilities as required.
- Responds to fire alarms, emergency rescues, hazardous materials incidents, public service calls or other incidents, which require the mitigation of circumstances that may threaten life or property.
- In a fire emergency, lays, connects, charges and uses supply lines and various water appliances to control and extinguish fires; places water curtains and performs ventilating and access maneuvers; uses foam and chemical extinguishers as required by the nature of the fire.
- Searches and rescues victims from buildings, motor vehicles, water hazards and other locations.
- Contains, isolates and minimizes hazardous materials spills.
- Works closely with other emergency medical, fire and public safety personnel from other agencies, including providing paramedic services; responds to mutual aid situations as required.
- Participates in investigations, clean-up, salvage and overhaul operations.
- Participates in the fire inspections of buildings and properties within the City on a regularly-scheduled basis.
- Maintains apparatus and vehicles in a clean and operable condition; performs minor maintenance and repair on equipment; reports the need for major repair.
- Maintains the station and living quarters in a clean and orderly condition; performs minor maintenance on facilities and station equipment.

- Participates in drills and training sessions.
- Develops and maintains effective working relationships with the community; presents a variety of educational and public service programs to children, youth and community groups.
- Performs and coordinates specific program or project areas, such as:
 - Hazardous materials, CPR and First Aid training;
 - Specialty apparatus acquisition and maintenance;
 - Uniforms and personal protective equipment acquisition and maintenance;
 - Communications equipment acquisition and maintenance;
 - City-wide extinguisher and medical supply program; and/or
 - Hydrant service and beautification.
- Prepares reports; prepares and maintains logs, records and accurate files.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of fire suppression, containment, rescue, clean-up and salvage.
- Principles and practices of providing emergency medical care at the EMT-P level.
- Practices and techniques of hazardous materials response, containment and clean-up.
- Basic maintenance practices for fire services vehicles, equipment and facilities.
- Applicable laws, codes and ordinances.
- Safety practices and equipment related to the work.
- Computer applications related to the work.
- Techniques of First Aid and CPR.
- Techniques for dealing with and solving the problems presented by a variety of individuals from various socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, in person and over the telephone, often in emergency or stressful situations.

Skill in:

- Performing fire suppression and associated rescue and salvage work in a safe and effective manner.
- Applying the mechanics of fire fighting and emergency medical care at an EMT-P level.
- Dealing with hazardous materials incidents in conformance with department procedures.
- Making sound, independent decisions in emergency situations.
- Learning the geographic layout of the City and the surrounding areas and the location of various fire suppression utilities.
- Maintaining clear and accurate records, reports and other written materials.
- Interpreting, applying and explaining complex codes, regulations and ordinances.
- Coordinating and carrying out special assignments.
- Understanding and carrying out oral and written directions.
- Entering information into a computer with sufficient speed and accuracy to perform the work.
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of the work.

Education and Experience:

Entry-Level

Required

- Equivalent to graduation from high school.
- Valid State of California EMT-Paramedic license.
- One year working full-time as an EMT-Paramedic on a 9-1-1 ambulance.
- On the FCTC Statewide Eligibility List at time of application.

Desirable:

- Completion of two years of college level course work in fire technology or a related field.
- Completion of an accredited pre-service or recruit Firefighter I Academy.
- Experience as a paid or volunteer firefighter.

Lateral Hire

Required

- Equivalent to graduation from high school.
- Valid State of California EMT-Paramedic license.
- Passed probation and currently working as a full time firefighter with a paid professional department –OR- completion of two full seasons (minimum 6 months per season) as a paid seasonal firefighter.
- California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I certificate.

Desirable:

- Completion of two years of college level course work in fire technology or a related field.
- Experience as a transport paramedic.

License:

Must possess a valid California class C driver's license and have a satisfactory driving record. Must obtain valid DMV certification to drive firefighting apparatus prior to completion of the probationary period. By time of assignment to a field position, must obtain and maintain valid emergency medical certifications as required by Alameda County EMS Agency and must maintain Alameda County Paramedic Accreditation.

Working Conditions:

Must be willing to work 48-hour shifts and longer as scheduled by the department. Must be willing and able to report to work from home outside of normally scheduled hours when needed. Must be able to work with exposure to emergency conditions, including hazardous materials and all weather conditions. Must consent to and pass a background investigation, including fingerprinting.

Physical Demands:

Must possess mobility, physical strength and stamina to respond to emergency situations and use all emergency apparatus and lift and move individuals or objects weighing more than 100 pounds; ability to work in a standard office setting and to operate motor vehicles; vision to discern colors and assess emergency situations, including medical incidents, and to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone and radio.