



MARCH 2015
FLSA: NON-EXEMPT

FIREFIGHTER

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, responds to fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, rescues, and other emergency and non-emergency situations; participates in all other suppression, prevention, inspection, education, and related activities to protect life and property; performs fire station maintenance; serves in specialized departmental roles as assigned; provides information and assistance to the public; and performs other duties as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from assigned supervisory personnel. May provide technical and functional direction to Fire, reserve firefighter, and volunteer staff when performing tasks in the area of responsibility.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the journey-level class in the fire service series that performs all normal fire suppression, basic medical emergency, hazardous materials, and other emergency response activities. The nature of the work performed requires an employee in this class to establish and maintain effective working relationships with all others contacted in the course of work and requires the ability to perform heavy physical work at potential risk to health and safety. This class is distinguished from Fire Engineer in that the latter primarily drives and operates all fire equipment and apparatus.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

Management reserves the right to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.

- Responds to fire alarms, delivers all equipment, and implements fire suppression and firefighting techniques to rescue victims and protect private and public property.
- Serves within a command structure, requiring adherence to officers' orders in life threatening situations; assumes a designated position on an assigned apparatus and follows command structure instructions for fire suppression or related emergency services.
- Responds to structural fires; performs search and rescue operations to remove persons from burning structures; performs fire suppression techniques as appropriate; 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; operates fire streams as directed; raises and climbs ladders; ventilates roofs and windows; operates fire pumpers; performs overhaul operations to ensure the complete suppression of fire.



CITY OF AVALON

- Operates all types of portable fire extinguishers, hand lines, smoke ejectors, salvage covers, forcible entry tools, emergency medical equipment, and other firefighting and medical equipment as required.
- Performs salvage duties at fire scenes by placing salvage covers, sweeping, vacuuming up water, and removing debris.
- Obtains and preserves evidence at a fire scene, and participates in determining fire origin and cause.
- Inspects building structures to ensure code compliance; explains City fire codes and fire prevention policies and procedures to the general public; prepares complete and accurate reports of inspection activities as required.
- Responds to emergency medical calls and administers advanced first aid and/or basic life support as appropriate, including assessing patients, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), operating automated external defibrillator, rescue breathing, administration of oxygen, recording vital signs, and other related medical treatments as appropriate.
- Responds to hazardous materials emergencies, including scene assessment, identifying the extent of damage and/or potential hazard to the community, implementing containment plans, and protecting fire personnel and civilians from exposure to chemicals.
- Responds to man-made and natural disasters, including fires, floods, earthquakes, crash rescues, and other catastrophic events, including providing medical assistance and removing persons from harmful structures and/or water craft or exposure to fire, smoke, adverse weather conditions, and harmful materials.
- Responds to emergency rescue calls, including vehicle accidents, search and rescue, gas system leaks, confined space rescues, and rope rescues.
- Maintains fire equipment in a clean and operable condition, including performing daily equipment checks and repairing damaged equipment as necessary; ensures proper condition, operates, and maintains appearance of fire vehicles, apparatus, and equipment on a fire response.
- Ensures the use of appropriate firefighting safety apparel and equipment and follows appropriate safety procedures as required.
- Works closely with other emergency staff, public safety, and fire personnel from the County of Los Angeles, depending upon response situation.
- Maintains an awareness of other Fire personnel on detail for the purpose of protecting other Firefighters' lives as necessary.
- Makes verbal and written analyses of activities involved in any fire emergency situation; completes and maintains records related to personnel and incidents.
- Participates in all necessary training activities as assigned and in accordance with readiness and preparation for firefighting activities, including training in fire suppression, emergency medical training, hazardous materials, vehicle extrication, technical rescues, equipment use and maintenance, fire drills, and other related functions; performs physical fitness training to maintain physical abilities necessary for firefighting.
- Maintains station and personal living areas in a clean and orderly manner, and maintains surrounding grounds to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for fire personnel and the general public.
- Participates in a variety of public awareness activities to promote good public relations and fire safety awareness, including providing tours of fire facilities and giving presentations as requested.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

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 level.
- Practices and techniques of hazardous materials response, containment, and clean-up.
- Techniques of first aid and CPR.
- Applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulatory codes, ordinances, and procedures relevant to assigned area of responsibility.
- The operation and maintenance of a variety of fire services vehicles, equipment, and facilities.
- Safety practices and equipment related to the work.
- Modern office practices, methods, and computer equipment and applications related to the work.
- English usage, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, vendors, contractors, and City staff.

Ability to:

- Use the tools, equipment, and technology associated with firefighting and medical response.
- Perform fire suppression and associated rescue and salvage work in a safe and effective manner.
- Apply the mechanics of fire fighting and emergency medical care at an EMT level.
- Deal with hazardous materials incidents in conformance with department procedures.
- Make sound, independent decisions in emergency situations and identify potential issues.
- Wear standard fire protective gear and safety equipment.
- Learn the geographic layout of the City, Harbor, and the surrounding areas and the location of various fire suppression utilities.
- Establish and maintain a variety of filing, record-keeping, and tracking systems.
- Make sound, independent decisions within established policy and procedural guidelines.
- Organize own work, set priorities, and meet critical time deadlines.
- Operate modern office equipment including computer equipment and specialized software applications programs.
- Use English effectively to communicate in person, over the telephone, and in writing.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

Equivalent to the completion of high school. Additional college-level coursework in fire technology or a related field is desirable. Experience as a paid and/or volunteer firefighter is desirable.

Licenses and Certifications:

- Possession of State of California Emergency Medical Technician I (EMT-1) Certificate.



- Possess and maintain a valid CPR certificate.
- State of California Firefighter II (FF2) Certificate within twelve (12) months of employment is desirable.
- California Class A, B, or C Driver's License with firefighter endorsement.
- Ability to obtain a valid Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Certificate within twelve (12) months of employment.
- Ability to obtain California P.C. 832 certificate within one year of appointment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility, physical strength, and stamina to respond to emergency situations and use all emergency apparatus and equipment; perform heavy physical work, to work in confined spaces, around machines, and to climb and descend ladders; 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, before groups, and over the telephone or radio. The job involves fieldwork requiring frequent walking in operational areas to identify problems or hazards. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate above-mentioned apparatus and equipment. Positions in this classification bend, stoop, kneel, reach, and climb to perform work and inspect work sites. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials, equipment, objects, and individuals necessary to perform job functions. Ability to withstand fatigue and exhaustion while physically working for periods of long time in emergency conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Employees work in the field and are exposed to loud noise levels, extreme temperatures, inclement weather conditions, road and harbor hazards, substantial heights, vibration, confining workspace, chemicals, mechanical and/or electrical hazards, and hazardous physical substances and fumes. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Employees are required to work 24-hour shifts, as scheduled by the department. Employees may also be called back to work in emergencies.