

**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**

**DEFINITION**

Under general supervision of a Fire Lieutenant or Fire Captain, provides medical services at the EMT-P level; performs all the duties of a Firefighter, including responding to fires, 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; assists in maintaining fire fighting apparatus and equipment; performs fire station maintenance; provides information and assistance to the public; and performs related work as assigned.

**CLASS CHARACTERISTICS**

This is the first advanced level above the Firefighter class in the fire service, qualified to perform all normal fire suppression, basic medical emergency, hazardous materials, other emergency response activities and to provide skilled paramedic services. Incumbents are expected to perform the full range of duties of a Firefighter. Successful performance of the work requires heavy physical work at potential risk to health and safety. This class is distinguished from Fire Engineer in that the latter drives and operates all fire equipment and apparatus. It further differs from Fire Lieutenant in that the latter is the first supervisory level in this sworn class series.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES** (Illustrative Only)

- Responds to emergency calls and provides basic and advanced medical services; directs the on-site work of emergency medical support 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.
- Isolates and minimizes hazardous materials spills.
- Works closely with other emergency medical staff, including providing paramedic services as a paramedic in mutual aid situations; coordinates with police and public safety and fire personnel from other agencies.
- 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 services programs to children, youth and community groups.
- 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:**

Equivalent to graduation from high school supplemented by possession of a valid State of California EMT-Paramedic license and completion of an accredited pre-service or recruit Firefighter I Academy. Completion of two years of college level course work in fire technology or a related field and at least one year of experience as a paramedic and/or experience as a paid or volunteer firefighter are desirable.

**License:**

Must possess a valid California class C driver's license and have a satisfactory driving record. Must obtain a valid California class B driver's license within 60 days prior to completion of the probationary period. Must possess a Firefighter I certificate. Must obtain and maintain valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) or Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) or Pediatric Emergency Procedures (PEP) certificates.

**Working Conditions:**

Must be willing to work 24-hour shifts as scheduled by the department and to work with exposure to emergency circumstances, including hazardous materials and all weather conditions. Must be willing to 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.