



Position Description

Firefighter/Paramedic

Fire Department

CLASSIFICATION: Non-Exempt
BARGAINING UNIT: IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters)
REPORTS TO: Fire Lieutenant
SUPERVISES: None

SUMMARY:

Performs a complete range of firefighting activities and operates all Fire Department equipment, tools and apparatus within its full operations capability to protect life and property. Work is performed in accordance with specified policies, procedures and practices learned on-the-job and often performed under unpleasant, stressful and/or hazardous conditions. Work may frequently require the performance of extremely physically demanding tasks for extended periods. Individuals spend substantial amounts of time engaged in routine inspection, testing, cleaning and or other maintenance of equipment, apparatus and quarters. In addition to firefighter duties the firefighter/paramedic provides emergency medical care to citizens with acute illness and injury and responds to emergency calls to provide fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical assistance to the public.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

Additional job functions may vary due to department or City needs/requirements. Assignments may include but are not limited to:

- Performs physically demanding work of fire suppression during life-threatening emergencies in hot (up to 400° F), humid (up to 100% humidity) atmosphere while wearing equipment weighing approximately 50 pounds.
- Relies on sight, hearing, smell, and touch to help determine the nature of the emergency, maintain personal safety, and make critical decisions in a confused, chaotic, and potentially life-threatening environment throughout the duration of the operation.
- Responds to emergency and non-emergency calls for medical aid and transports patients to hospitals or other medical facility.
- Uses and maintains emergency rescue equipment and vehicles.
- Performs a variety of tasks on slippery, hazardous surfaces, such as on rooftops or ladders.
- Constantly works for long periods of time, requiring sustained physical activity and intense concentration.
- Conducts fire inspections of public and private buildings for pre-fire planning or to determine if they comply with fire codes.
- Initiates primary and advanced patient assessments and procedures such as administering drugs, starting I.V.s, defibrillation.
- Tentatively diagnosing illness or injury,
- Interfaces with hospital staff regarding patient condition to ensure prompt and immediate attention to medical needs.
- Completes a variety of forms and reports required to identify illness, injury and procedures that were followed to ensure proper reimbursement for expenses and to provide additional background for the patient's medical records and histories.
- Operates ambulances, pumper and ladder trucks, operates pumps, aerial ladders, and other auxiliary fire apparatus and lays hose.
- Operates a variety of hand and power tools to extinguish fires, quickly and efficiently.
- Responds to incidents involving hazardous materials wearing self-contained breathing apparatus and using specialized tools and equipment to save lives, protect property, suppress fires, and administer first aid to the sick and injured.
- Ventilates buildings, places salvage covers over furniture and equipment and salvage property.
- Removes debris, smoke and excess water from the scene of fire to assist in the general clean up of the fire scene.
- Inspects and performs general maintenance and minor repairs to department facilities, apparatus, supplies and equipment to ensure equipment is continuously ready to respond to accidents, injuries, medical illnesses or fires and related emergencies. Cleans and maintains the buildings and grounds to ensure a healthy work environment.

- Tests or troubleshoots problems with facilities, equipment, apparatus and fire protection systems such as radios and paging equipment, recorders and alarm circuits to ensure operability of all systems and equipment.
- Participates in performing fire inspections of public and private buildings for pre-fire planning or to determine if they comply with fire codes. Communicates regulations and procedures related to open burning to minimize potential fire hazards.
- Participates in fire drills/department training programs to learn or upgrade skills in fire fighting methods, equipment or services.
- Participates in training less experienced personnel to assist them in learning the skills of an effective fire fighter and paramedic.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Communicates to the general public regulations and procedures related to open burning to minimize potential fire hazards.
- Prepares reports and records of activities, incidents, inspections or other information.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

- **ENVIRONMENT:** Duties are primarily performed in the station house, training grounds, and incident sites in varying and extreme weather conditions. Will also be expected to provide medical care in dangerous/hazardous locations.
- **HAZARDS:** Risk physical hazards from fire, smoke, chemical, and other hazardous materials, falling debris, and unstable buildings. Medical hazard from exposure to bodily fluids from other individuals.
- **PHYSICAL:** Frequently work, including walking, standing, pulling, and pushing in wet, icy, or muddy areas.
- **VISION:** Identify colors and to read placards and street signs or to see and to respond to immediately hazardous situations in less than standard lighting conditions.
- **SMELL:** Recognize smoke and other odors that might indicate hazardous conditions. May be exposed to undesirable human odors.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES:

The minimum amount of knowledge, skill, and ability necessary to competently perform the essential functions of the position.

Knowledge of:

- Standard fire fighting practices, methods, and procedures.
- Safety standards, procedures, and precautions utilized in fire fighting activities.
- Geography and street system of the district and location of major buildings.
- The safe and appropriate use of firefighting equipment and related tools.
- Emergency medical care methods and techniques.
- Operation and care of emergency medical vehicles and equipment.
- Department procedures, state and local laws and regulations regarding emergency medical care.
- Health and safety issues regarding the care and treatment of injured people.
- Fire suppression and prevention techniques, practices, and methods.
- Fire protection systems, including sprinkler and alarm systems and fire hydrant location.
- The safe and appropriate use of firefighting equipment and related tools.

Ability to:

- To verbally communicate effectively under noisy circumstances.
- Work in closed or confined spaces; tolerate extreme fluctuations in temperature while performing duties.
- Make life or death decisions during emergency conditions.
- Operate as both a member of a team and independently at incidents of uncertain duration.
- Properly wear and use personal protective equipment weighing approximately 50 pounds while performing fire-fighter tasks without obstruction to prevent exposure to hazards.
- Be exposed to grotesque sights and smells associated with major trauma and burn victims.
- Maintain balance under adverse conditions, weight loads, and at aboveground heights; maintain body flexibility.
- Operate in environments of high noise, poor visibility, limited mobility, above ground heights, and in close or confined spaces.
- Apply principles/techniques of modern fire fighting prevention, suppression, investigation, and all other aspects of fire fighting.

- Skillfully and safely use fire fighting tools and equipment.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Maintain composure under adverse conditions such as heavy smoke, critical injuries, death and when confronted with friends/relatives under extreme stress.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, officials, and the public.
- Analyze situations quickly and objectively and to recognize actual and potential dangerous situations, and to determine proper course of action.
- Achieve and maintain adequate level of physical fitness to perform the essential functions of the job.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE:

Any equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the applicant with the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the job.

- High school diploma or G.E.D.

LICENSES, CERITFCATIONS, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Certain licenses and certificates, if required, may be acquired on the job as agreed upon by the City and employee. Subject to change based on operational needs.

- Valid Washington State driver license
- Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic Certifications (must have at date of employment).
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification (must have at date of employment).
- Successful completion of City of Pasco Fire Department standard physical examination