

NORTHSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title:	Firefighter / EMT	Number:	2430-A7
Division:	Suppression	Effective Date:	January 9, 2015
FLSA Class:	Non-Exempt	Approved By:	Chief Torpin

JOB DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Firefighter/EMT position protects life and property through controlling, extinguishing and preventing fires; provides emergency medical services; regularly maintains firefighting equipment, apparatus and quarters; responds to man-made and natural disasters. In emergency situations, performs hazardous tasks requiring strenuous physical exertion for extended periods of time in cramped surroundings, hot, smoky environments with limited visibility, and at considerable heights. Work is usually performed under the direction of a commanding officer, although individuals may exercise independent judgment in emergency situations.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Essential functions will vary according to the work environment and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

DRIVES AND OPERATES APPARATUS:

Under adverse and stressful conditions, drives emergency vehicles and shall be trained, certified and assigned to drive and operate large vehicles (for example: Engine and Rescue). Safely operates complex mechanical equipment (for example: Pump Operation) on specialized vehicles.

RESPONDS TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND RESCUES:

Delivers safe medical care and treatment based on the individual needs of the patient and in accordance with King County and District policies and procedures. Delivers compassionate care and treatment of sick or injured individuals of a diverse community, suffering from non-urgent to life-threatening problems, frequently under unfavorable conditions. Effectively applies technical knowledge to complex problem assessment and solving to rescue persons or property, under diverse, and often stressful, circumstances. Anticipates various outcomes, makes appropriate decisions and acts deliberately in emergency scenarios. Activities will generally be limited to "operations" level; however, some personnel may be trained at a technician level and/or as an instructor.

PERFORMS SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES:

Performs extremely strenuous physical work while wearing self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), under some of the following conditions:

- Selects and deploys various hose lines and nozzles up to 5 inches in diameter to be used to direct water or chemicals onto fire;
- Carries, positions, climbs and works from ladders and other high areas under adverse conditions;
- Removes injured or incapacitated victims from danger and administer first aid as required;
- Uses power tools and other mechanical equipment to breach doors, walls roofs or floors, for various reasons;

- Communicates clearly and concisely using electronic devices and equipment. This includes the ability to do so while wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and SCBA under adverse conditions such as high background noise, poor visibility, and drenching from hose lines and/or fixed protection systems (sprinklers);
- Works in a safe manner at all times, in accordance with state regulations and District policies and procedures.

CONTINUOUSLY PARTICIPATES IN INITIAL AND ONGOING TRAINING:

Completes training, as required, to meet District, State and federally recognized and accepted standards, which may include classroom instruction, practical and hands-on instruction, evaluations, examinations and certification in a variety of areas, and physical fitness training.

ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN FIRE PREVENTION / PUBLIC EDUCATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES:

Following District policies and procedures, projects a professional public image. Actively participates in public presentations and explanations to individuals or small groups. Positively interacts with a diverse population, including children. Treats all persons respectfully, including fellow employees. Works cooperatively with fellow employees and contributes to a positive team environment. Conducts code enforcement inspections and effectively identifies and relates code issues to members of the public.

PERFORMS STATION AND EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Completes daily cleaning chores, assigned project(s), apparatus checks, and other applicable duties as assigned; performs general maintenance work of District facilities. Maintains and operates equipment; vehicle system operation and basic maintenance; power tool operation and basic maintenance.

COMPLETES REPORTS AND RECORD KEEPING:

Completes and processes forms, writes incident reports, and other documents. Accurately enters electronic data.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Understanding of basic mechanical and operating principles that may be involved in the operation and maintenance of firefighting equipment and understanding of fire extinguishing systems, fire prevention methods and fire safety;
- Principles and practices of first aid including EMT training;
- Modern office procedures, methods, equipment, basic computer skills and ability to learn and apply new technologies and skills;
- Business letter writing, basic report preparation and principles and procedures of record keeping.

Skill in:

- Anticipating, analyzing, diagnosing and resolving problems;
- Interacting with others using tact, patience and courtesy;
- Using initiative, problem solving skills, and independent judgment within established guidelines.

Ability to:

- Learn and practice modern methods, principles, techniques and standards applied to firefighting, fire inspection, natural or man-made disasters and related fields;
- Understand, interpret and apply documents such as operating instructions, applicable policies, procedures, fire codes, adopted ordinances and safety rules;
- Perform current EMS policies and procedures in effect in King County;
- Maintain confidentiality;
- Possess working knowledge of geography and street locations of response areas;
- Perform effectively under considerable stress while confronted with emergency situations related to the job of a Firefighter/EMT;
- Learn traffic laws, ordinance and regulations involving equipment operation;
- Maintain and establish effective and cooperative working relationships with District employees, public and public officials and to work effectively in a team environment;
- Adapt to changes in the work environment and to shifts in organizational philosophy and expectations;
- Conduct oneself in a professional manner as defined by District policy;
- Learn current computer applications utilized by the District and utilize applications to perform and complete tasks and/or requirements of the job;
- Effectively present information to moderate size groups;
- Complete comprehensive work assignments and meet deadlines;
- Communicate in English clearly, concisely and effectively, both orally and in writing;
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide in all units of measure, using whole numbers, common fractions, and decimals;
- The ability to compute the friction loss and fire flows required for producing proper water flows during pumping operations;
- Learn and effectively utilize knowledge of hazards of chemical properties of a variety of materials.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

This position has no supervisory responsibilities, however may require giving assignments and/or directions to co-workers or members of the public during emergency operations.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

A high school diploma or equivalent required AND experience which provides the applicant with the desired knowledge, skills and abilities required to competently perform the job.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

- A valid Washington State Driver's License is required.
- Washington State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification is required.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job (includes functions as described in NFPA 1982). Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, an employee is regularly required to talk and hear; use hands or fingers to handle and feel; seldom use of the telephone and computer; requires manual dexterity and visual acuity to operate firefighting equipment frequently and a computer or other

standard office equipment seldom. Employee may sit occasionally but will also need mobility and ability to stand and walk continuously for long periods of time.

This position will require the employee to perform strenuous work for extended periods of time, while performing some or all of the following:

- Wear a respirator (SCBA);
- Climb six (6) or more flights of stairs while wearing fire protective ensemble weighing at least 50 lbs or more while carrying equipment/tools, typically weighing an additional 20lbs. to 40 lbs.;
- Perform expected duties while wearing fire protective ensemble that is encapsulating and insulated and will result in significant fluid loss that frequently progresses to clinical dehydration which can elevate core temperature to levels exceeding 102.2°F (39°C);
- Search, locate, rescue-drag, and carry victims ranging from newborn to adult weighing over 200 lbs. to safety despite hazardous conditions and low visibility;
- Work in unpredictable emergency situations for prolonged periods of physical exertion without benefit of warm-up, scheduled rest periods, meals, access to medication(s), or hydration;
- Work in dark, confined, disorienting spaces; work in overheated environments; work under adverse and stressful conditions.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

The work area will encompass a wide variety of settings including: administrative duties in an office setting; regular exposure to outside weather conditions and could include emergency locations above or underground and in and/or around water, hazardous traffic areas and under unfavorable or unsanitary conditions which may include burning debris, falling structures, biohazards, air and blood-borne pathogens; confined spaces; commercial and residential structures, etc. Employees are regularly exposed to wet and humid conditions, fumes, airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals, extreme heat and risk of electrical shock. Employees may find themselves in hostile or psychologically demanding environments, involving emotional or psychological stress. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate but may reach extremes where hearing protection is required. Work is usually performed during 24-hour shifts and work may be assigned to a standard 40-hour work week.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Requires ability to pass a pre-employment drug screening examination and any subsequent testing.
- Requires ability to pass a comprehensive background check.
- Upon initial employment, the probationary Firefighter must successfully complete the District designated accredited firefighter training academy leading to certification as a Washington State Certified “Fire Fighter I.”
- Employee must be insurable under the District’s existing vehicle and umbrella liability insurance carrier.
- Employee must meet the medical and physical requirements as specified in NFPA 1582, the Washington State Administrative Code, WAC 296 305 Safety Standards for Firefighters and WAC 296-842 Respirators.