



## **FIREFIGHTER**

**Occupational Code:** 5305

**Salary Range:** 02F

**Status:** Classified

**FLSA:** Non-exempt

**Established:** 4/74

**Revised:** 12/88 03/98 05/98 07/05 02/08 01/09

### **NATURE OF WORK:**

Skilled firefighting work in combating, extinguishing and preventing fires; and in the operation and maintenance of fire department equipment, apparatus and quarters.

Work involves responsibility for protecting life and property by fire-fighting and rescue activities, usually under close supervision. Employees of this class are required to participate in, and learn the operation of fire apparatus and equipment; and the performance of hazardous tasks under emergency conditions which may require strenuous exertion under such handicaps as smoke and cramped surroundings. Work also involves rescue activities, including providing basic life support and performance of medical duties usually under close supervision of a paramedic or medical officer. Although fire-fighting and rescue activities are the primary responsibilities of this class, the major portion of time is spent studying and practicing methods, techniques, maintaining medical certifications, and in routine duties in the care and maintenance of fire department property and equipment. Employees of this class may be assigned to duty as communications officer, chief driver and aid, and fire prevention inspector, which involves the application of specialized abilities and knowledge developed through experience and training. Specific orders and directions are given by superior officers, but the work requires initiative and a thorough individual understanding of fire-fighting methods.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:** (The examples of work listed in this class specification are not necessarily descriptive of any one position in the class. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning specific duties not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment for the position. Examples of work performed are not to be used for allocation purposes.)

Drags or carries conscious, injured, or unconscious victims down ladders or stairs to remove them from building or entrapments to safety.

Scales down building by rappelling to stabilize and/or rescue trapped victim.

Climbs ladders while wearing bunker gear, SCBA, and hand-held tools or equipment to ascend for rescue or fire fighting.

Forces entry where necessary by pushing, pulling, or kicking by own force without tools.

Opens holes in structures using axes, pike poles, and other equipment for the purpose of ventilation.

**FIREFIGHTER (Cont.)**

Pulls charged hose in stairwells, in windows, around corners, and up fire escapes to provide water for fire suppression.

Extinguishes fires in areas where there is no visibility and extreme heat

Locates victims in smoky areas by crawling around room near walls, below smoke level, if possible, searching for victims by touch or sound when visibility is limited.

Pries open vehicles, equipment, or structures using specialized equipment such as jaws-of-life or winch in order to free trapped persons.

Removes conscious, unconscious, or deceased victim from water using lifesaving techniques, scuba equipment, or other water rescue techniques and equipment.

Uses axes or pike poles to open walls and floors to remove sheet rock and ceiling material, to check for signs of fire, hot spots, potential rekindle, and extensions of fire.

Gains entrance to residences by laddering building, picking locks, or using forcible entry to assist public during lock-outs or lock-ins.

Applies cervical collars or splints to stabilize patients.

Dons appropriate protective equipment according to rescue protocols to prevent infectious disease.

Checks vital signs of patients to determine whether circulation and respiration are functional.

Inspects and clears oral and nasal airways to facilitate patient's breathing.

Places and secures patients on stretchers, backboards, or chair stretchers, with the assistance of others, up or down stairs, around turns, and through openings.

Applies pressure, elevation, or bandages in order to control bleeding.

Communicates with other units via radio, status of patients, relays medical information, and requests additional assistance to meet the demands of the emergency.

Administer oxygen in proper quantity as per protocols in order to facilitate patient's breathing.

Establishes rehabilitation unit as needed at fire scenes in order to assess firefighter's condition and/or ability to continue working.

May be required to administer the appropriate medication dosage in order to alleviate/control patient's symptoms.

**FIREFIGHTER (Cont.)**

May be required to establish intravenous access in order to administer fluids or medications.

May be required to administer treatment to a patient while en route to hospital (e.g. – by continuing CPR, running IV, delivering oxygen).

Uses 12 lead EKG in order to obtain a reading of the electrical activity of a patient's heart, and uses defibrillator to analyze, shock, and stabilize patients as per department protocol.

Performs other related work as required.

**DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS:** (The knowledge, abilities and skills identified in this class specification represent those needed to perform the duties of the class. Additional knowledge, abilities and skills may be applicable for individual positions in the employing departments.)

Ability to work at heights (e.g., on roofs, side of building, elevator shafts).

Ability to use muscular force to lift, push, drag, carry, or lower objects, materials, and equipment.

Ability to apply muscular force quickly to objects and equipment to initiate start action (e.g., starting a chain saw or K-12 saw).

Ability to apply muscular force over time or over a number of repetitions (e.g., forcing entry or using pike pole during overhaul).

Ability to withstand overall body fatigue and exhaustion while physically working for periods of time in uncomfortable environmental conditions (e.g., while holding and aiming charged hose, or during overhaul operations).

Ability to bend or stretch the body limbs and work in awkward or contorted positions while performing fire fighter functions (e.g., working off ladders, during ventilation activities, or lifting patients).

Ability to maintain the body in a stable position while performing fire fighter functions and to resist forces that would result in loss of balance (e.g., holding a charged hose).

Ability to coordinate movements precisely that involve the arms, legs, and/or body (e.g., using ax or pike pole).

Ability to perform coordinated, steady, and accurate actions involving wrists, hands, and/or fingers for safe operation of appropriate equipment (e.g., starting tools, opening valves).

**DESIRABLE BASIC TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

A standard high school diploma or GED. A valid driver's license from any state (Equivalent to a State of Florida Class E) may be utilized upon application, however a State of Florida Driver's License (Class E or higher) is required at time of appointment and must be maintained valid throughout employment.

**FIREFIGHTER (Cont.)****TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:**

Firefighting and emergency services apparatus, equipment, machines and tools; passenger automobile; hand-held radio and/or other communications devices; telephone.

**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. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.)

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to walk, sit, talk, see, hear, feel or operate objects, operate and travel by automobile or truck. Occasionally, there is a need to reach and perform moderate (15-50 lbs.) lifting, to retrieve and use tools and equipment, and assist others in extinguishing fires or carrying and treating victims.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:** (The work environment characteristics described herein are representative of those the employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.)

Work is performed primarily in an office environment, but on occasion, duties will be performed in outside weather conditions, such as at an inspection, or in adverse conditions, such as at a fire or rescue scene.