

FIREFIGHTER

SUMMARY

The purpose of this classification is to perform as a team member technical and specialized work functions associated with preparing for and responding to fire, rescue, and disaster emergency calls, with protecting life and property, and with supporting fire safety, prevention, and equipment maintenance activities.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following duties are normal for this classification. The omission of specific duties does not exclude them from the classification if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment for this classification. Other duties may be required and assigned. Specific duties listed may not be required for all positions within this classification, but are determined by the normal requirements for the particular position.

Ensures all safety equipment is functional; recognizes that safety is the first priority.

Maintains knowledge of and is familiar with all city fire codes and ordinances and state fire and emergency medical service laws and regulations in order to protect life and property; complies with all rules, orders, and instructions issued by superior officer.

Establishes and maintains good working relations with the public; meets with merchants, community/civic organizations, citizens, elected officials, officers, employees, and individuals and responds to questions, complaints, and requests for information; makes presentations and public speeches; promotes and teaches fire prevention and safety.

Responds to emergency calls involving fires, medical, hazardous materials, vehicle accidents, and emergency situations with a company; evaluates scene upon arrival; directs traffic and control crowds.

Monitors and communicates effectively and coherently over radio channels; exchanges information with dispatchers, medical professionals, and other department employees.

Selects and properly operates fire service tools and equipment to include fire hoses, nozzles, appliances, and the components of sprinkler and standpipe systems.

Provides or assists with emergency medical care as a first responder, E.M.T., or paramedic, as licensed/certified; provides rehabilitation support during emergency scene activities.

Provides control of fire situation to include suppression and extinguishment, forcible entry, ventilation, search and rescue of victims, salvage and overhaul; recognizes and preserves evidence of arson.

Locates water source; lays and connects hose, acts as nozzle or backup person in the direction of water streams, uses chemical fire extinguishers, and raises and climbs ladders.

Identifies dangerous building conditions, electrical emergencies, hazardous materials, and ancillary health hazards; takes/applies appropriate precautions and procedures; informs and/or evacuates individuals and implements appropriate medical protocols.

Implements emergency techniques when trapped or disoriented; assists fellow firefighters and guides new recruits; maintains and wears protective clothing and self contained breathing apparatus as designed.

Assists in the conduction of familiarization surveys building inspections and notifies concerned parties of fire hazards; prepares pre-fire plans including layout of building and hydrant locations; checks fire hydrants for proper function.

Performs rescue operations as assigned to include extrications of individuals from structures or vehicles, search for possible drowning victims, and/or search and rescue of fallen victims in high angle rescue situations where rappelling is necessary; maintains knowledge of rope rescue equipment and latest techniques.

Assists with emergencies or incidents involving aircraft as assigned; performs tasks associated with aircraft crises to include rescue, fire extinguishment, first responder medical assistance, spilled fuel containment, runway preparation, and wreckage removal.

Maintains a current knowledge and awareness of applicable laws/regulations including current manuals, policy and procedures manuals, employee handbooks, and area maps.

Attends meetings, seminars, and training sessions to remain knowledgeable of departmental and city operations and abreast of current medical and rescue techniques and to promote improved job performance.

Composes and prepares forms, logs, requests, records, reports, correspondence, and documents associated with daily responsibilities of this position.

Cooperates with federal, state, and local law enforcement/investigating agencies and its officers or representatives when their activities or investigations are related to on-going investigations within city jurisdiction.

Prepares, inspects, inventories, repairs, and/or maintains fire equipment, apparatus, hoses, tools, materials, turnout gear, first aid equipment, and vehicles for safe operation; tests equipment on a regular basis.

Performs the following duties: conducting fire station tours, securing station facilities, preparing meals, general housekeeping and station cleaning, and grounds maintenance.

Answers the telephone; provides information, advice and guidance; takes and relays messages and/or direct calls to appropriate personnel; returns calls.

Recommends and supports policies and procedures that guide and support the provision of quality services by the Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service.

Incorporates continuous quality improvement principles in daily activities.

Must be able to maintain good interpersonal relationships with staff, co-workers, managers, and citizens.

Must meet regular attendance requirements.

May be required to be on twenty-four hour call and/or work rotating twenty-four hour shifts including weekends and/or holidays.

Substitutes for co-workers in temporary absence of same as requested by the assigned Battalion Chief.

Must accomplish the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodations, in a timely manner.

ADDITIONAL ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS IF ASSIGNED TO TRAINING DIVISION:

Develops, plans, conducts, and/or supervises in-service training activities and fire education programs to ensure compliance with accepted firefighting standards, Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service policies and procedures, and other established guidelines; identifies training needs, defines training objectives, and identifies resources and activities necessary for training completion; writes and distributes training information and correspondence.

Compiles, submits, and maintains training records for annual certification of personnel; assists with the registration of personnel for training.

ADDITIONAL ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS IF ASSIGNED TO FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION:

Conducts fire prevention inspections; examines interiors and exteriors of buildings to detect hazardous conditions or violations of fire ordinances and laws; conducts investigations and examinations of structure fires and fire scenes; submits reports and findings as necessary.

Performs building plans reviews, attends meetings as needed; maintains knowledge and familiarity with codes, laws, and regulations related to fire prevention and mitigation of life safety hazards.

Provides customer service and technical assistance through knowledge and application of fire code and regulations.

ADDITIONAL ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS IF ASSIGNED AS A TACTICAL PARAMEDIC OR EMT:

Performs emergency medical technician and/or paramedic duties providing medical services, contingency planning, and operational weapon support in direct support of a tactical law enforcement unit.

MARGINAL FUNCTIONS

Performs other related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

High school diploma or GED required; no previous experience required. Must be at least 19 years of age. Must possess a valid driver's license. Must be able to obtain and maintain a valid Alabama Firefighter I and Firefighter II certification within the first year of employment. Must be able to obtain and maintain an Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) certification within one (1) year of receipt of Firefighter I certification or within one (1) year of employment with the City of Tuscaloosa as a Firefighter. This job classification is considered to be safety-sensitive and is subject to pre-employment and random drug screens.

Special Requirement: Applicants must have successfully completed the Certified Physical Ability Test (CPAT) within the past twelve months to be eligible to apply for Firefighter.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

The following requirements are normal for this classification. Specific requirements may not apply to all positions within this classification, but are determined by the normal requirements for the particular position.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be able to operate a variety of firefighting, rescue, and medical equipment, office equipment, and grounds maintenance equipment including extinguisher, pumper, hand/power tools, chain saw, generator, fans, ladders, hoses, breathing apparatus, protective clothing, emergency medical supplies, ropes, forcible entry and rescue tools, two-way radio, computer, printer, copy and facsimile machines, telephone, lawn mower, weed eater, and motor vehicles. Physical demand requirements are at levels of those for very heavy work.

DATA COMPREHENSION: Requires the ability to compare and/or judge the readily observable functional, structural, or compositional characteristics (whether similar to or divergent from obvious standards) of data, people, or things which may include standard operating procedures, maps, safety bulletins, log books, guidelines, and manuals.

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION: Requires the ability to speak with and/or signal people to convey or exchange medical, emergency, safety, and fire related information, including giving/receiving assignments and/or directions to/from co-workers, assistants, managers, or supervisors as well as communicating with educators, law enforcement personnel, dispatchers, medical personnel and the general public.

LANGUAGE ABILITY: Requires ability to read a variety of informational and technical documentation, directions, instructions, and methods and procedures. Requires the ability to write job related documentation and reports with proper format, punctuation, spelling and grammar, using all parts of speech. Requires the ability to speak with and before others with poise, voice control, and confidence using correct English and well-modulated voice.

INTELLIGENCE: Requires the ability to learn and understand relatively complex fire prevention/suppression, life saving, and emergency related principles and techniques, to understand departmental policies and procedures, to make independent judgments in absence of supervision, and to acquire and be able to expound on knowledge of topics related to primary occupation.

VERBAL APTITUDE: Requires the ability to record and deliver information, such as in a public speaking situation, to explain procedures, and to follow verbal and written instructions.

NUMERICAL APTITUDE: Requires the ability to add and subtract, multiply and divide, calculate decimals and percentages, and determine time, weight, and measurements. May be required to perform basic algebraic calculations and utilize basic geometry.

FORM/SPATIAL APTITUDE: Requires the ability to visually inspect items for proper length, width, and shape using job related equipment which may include standard measuring devices.

MOTOR COORDINATION: Requires the ability to coordinate hands and eyes in using fire, rescue, and medical equipment, office equipment and ground maintenance equipment and to operate motor vehicles.

MANUAL DEXTERITY: Requires the ability to handle a variety of items, firefighting, rescue, and medical equipment, office equipment, and grounds maintenance equipment including extinguisher, pumper, hand/power tools, chain saw, generator, vent fans, ladders, hoses, breathing apparatus, protective clothing, emergency medical supplies, ropes, forcible entry and rescue tools, two-way radio, computer, printer, copy and facsimile machines, telephone, lawn mower, weed eater, motor vehicles, control knobs, switches, etc. Must have the ability to use one hand for twisting motion or turning motion while coordinating other hand with different activities. Must have above average levels of eye/hand/foot coordination.

COLOR DIFFERENTIATION: Requires the ability to discern color.

INTERPERSONAL TEMPERAMENT: Requires the ability to deal with and relate to people beyond giving and receiving instructions. Must be able to adapt to and perform under considerable stress when confronted with an emergency.

PHYSICAL COMMUNICATION: Requires the ability to talk, express, or exchange ideas by means of spoken words and/or hear and perceive nature of sounds by ear.