

City of Berlin

FIREFIGHTER

Title Firefighter
Department(s) Fire Department
Reports to Fire Chief

Job summary

The firefighter classification performs a variety of unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled duties, both in emergency and non-emergency situations, related to fire protection and suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, fire prevention, protection of life, property and the environment, and other related activities.

Work is performed under close to general supervision depending upon the complexity of the task and the skills of the firefighter. This classification may provide limited work direction to probationary employees within this classification.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The firefighter is required to complete a formal training program and subsequently assigned to a work shift. The firefighter is trained on the various skill sets and application of equipment used in firefighting, rescue, salvage, emergency medical services, operation of fire apparatus and equipment, public education, and fire prevention inspections.

Summary of essential job functions

Depending upon assignment, duties may include but are not limited to the following:

- Responds to fire incidents and conducts tasks including interior attack, ventilation, salvage, overhaul, or fire-ground support operations as directed.
- Responds to emergency medical incidents and serves as a member of the medical team as directed.
- Participates in emergency rescue and technical rescue operations as needed.
- Drives, operates, and is familiar with emergency equipment and tool inventories on various emergency apparatus.
- Positions emergency apparatus at incident scenes for efficient operation, secure and maintain adequate supply of water for hose operations, and operate pumping equipment.
- Operate multiple vehicle types such as aerial apparatus, tow equipment, rescue units, off road vehicles, rescue boat, etc.

- Assists in performing routine maintenance of all fire apparatus and tools of the department including non-powered tools such as axes, pike poles, ladders, and other miscellaneous equipment.
- Performs routing facility maintenance including the equipment associated with the building.
- Participates in inspections with shift officers and command staff.
- Responds to hazardous materials incidents and support the Hazardous Materials Team as directed in the identification, mitigation, and containment of hazardous materials spills.
- Select proper tools from a wide variety of specialized manual and power equipment in order to perform required tasks such as raising, lowering, and climbing ladders, and operating equipment from attics, ladders, basements, roofs, and other hazardous points.
- Operate rescue and technical rescue equipment.
- Participates in public education programs by assisting in conducting fire department tours, demonstrations, and presentations.
- Participates in incident pre-planning by reviewing target hazards within the city and establishing actions to be taken at the time of the incident.
- Study and attend training sessions, as directed or voluntarily, concerning, but not limited to, modern techniques of firefighting, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, and rescue techniques.
- Exercises no supervision over other personnel within the same classification.
- Performs all other related duties as assigned.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Requires standing, stooping, kneeling, sitting, crouching, and walking for extended periods of time. Requires agility, balance, and stamina in responding to emergency situations that includes climbing, crawling, and walking in steep, slippery, and confined spaces, or similar adverse environments. Requires the ability to lift, carry, push, pull, grasp, and lift different sized objects, equipment and apparatus weighing up to 100 pounds above, at, or below shoulder height during both routine and emergency situations. Requires the ability to lift, carry, push, pull, grasp, and lift trapped, injured, or deceased persons. Requires the ability to operate fire suppression equipment such as ladders, axes, chain saws, hoses, and general maintenance equipment. Requires the ability to drive and operate emergency response vehicles. Requires the ability to effectively and efficiently evaluate emergency situations and determine the appropriate response; implement the appropriate incident action plan; to remain calm and decisive in chaotic and confusing situations. Requires the ability to visually inspect fire equipment and apparatus; to function in atmospheres where vision is impaired; to differentiate between colors to assist in determining proper course of action to mitigate emergencies. Requires normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; corrected hearing and vision to normal range.

KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Skills in firefighting, rescue techniques, hazardous materials awareness, and emergency management functions.
- Skills in performing search and rescue, forcible entry, ventilation, salvage, overhaul, and support functions at firefighting incidents.
- Fire behavior, building construction, hazardous materials identification, city policies, department policies, and departmental standard operating procedures, rescue principles, the city's emergency operations plan, and the Uniform Fire Code.
- Basic Life Support (BLS) procedures for evaluation and treatment of patients during various medical emergencies.
- Basic techniques on the safe and proper use of tools and equipment associated with mechanical and maintenance work.
- English grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Basic math such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division utilizing both whole numbers and decimals.

ABILITY TO:

- Learn firefighting methods and techniques, the basic operation and mechanics of firefighting equipment, location of hydrants, mains, major traffic and fire hazards.
- Learn to drive apparatus with care and safety in accordance with traffic laws and department regulations.
- Learn and maintain proficiency in Basic Life Support (BLS) practices and techniques.
- Analyze fire and driving situations and to adopt effective courses of actions.
- Analyze problems quickly and take appropriate action under pressure.
- Work well with others as a team.
- Effectively interact with various individuals with tact and courtesy.
- Effectively and clearly communicate in both verbal and written formats.
- Work under conditions of zero visibility and temperature variations with various equipment and tools.
- Read and interpret maps, diagrams, floor plans and geometric figures.
- Work irregular or protracted hours and to respond promptly to call-backs.
- Perform heavy and hazardous physical labor for extended periods.
- Effectively deal with personal danger that may include exposure to fire encompassed surroundings, dangerous persons, dangerous animals, Hazardous materials, hazards of emergency driving, hazards associated with traffic control, working in and near traffic, and natural or man-made disasters.
- Understand and carry out verbal and written directions.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with Department staff and the general public.
- Maintain physical condition appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Work indoors and outdoors; exposure to extreme hot or cold temperature; work at unprotected heights; be around moving machinery; exposure to marked changes in temperature/humidity; exposure to dust, fumes, smoke, gases, odors, mists, or other irritating particles; exposure to toxic or caustic chemicals; exposure to excessive noise; exposure to radiation or electrical energy; exposure to solvents, grease, or oil; exposure to slippery or uneven walking surfaces; work below ground; work with explosives; exposure to vibration; exposure to flames or burning items; work around others, work alone, work with others; complete work on a computer. Work for prolonged periods at intense levels.

Minimum requirements

REQUIRED LICENSE:

- Possession of a valid State of New Hampshire Driver's License.
- State of New Hampshire EMS Provider License

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS:

- Firefighter Level I (NFPA 1001)
- Firefighter Level II (NFPA 1001)
- Haz-Mat Operations
- ICS 100
- ICS 200
- IS 700
- IS 800
- Emergency Medical Responder

RECOMMENDED CERTIFICATIONS:

- Firefighter Level III
- EMT – Basic or higher
- CDL – B with Air Brake Endorsement
- Haz-Mat Technician

EDUCATION PREFERRED:

- A.A.S. Fire Science or higher from an accredited program.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- New Hampshire State approved CPAT.
- Live Scan fingerprint.
- Criminal background check.
- Medical examination per NFPA 1582

Disclaimer

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of personnel so classified. All personnel may be required to perform duties outside of their normal responsibilities from time to time, as needed.

Additional information

HR use only	
Job code	
Generic title	Firefighter
Pay grade	
Management? (Yes/No)	No
E/NE status	
Last revised	