

Fire Fighter

Nature of Work

This is general duty fire fighting work in combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, answering emergency calls and in the operation and maintenance of fire department equipment, apparatus and quarters.

Work involves responsibility for protecting life and property through performing fire fighting and rescue activities usually performed under close supervision. Work may include the operation of apparatus and the performance of hazardous tasks under emergency conditions which may require strenuous exertion under such handicaps as smoke, heat, and cramped surroundings. Although fire fighting and rescue work are the most difficult and reasonable areas of activity the major portion of time is spent drilling and studying fire fighting methods and techniques and in routine house duties in the care and maintenance of fire department property and equipment. Specific orders and assignments are given by a superior office, both in fighting fires and at the fire station.

Examples of Work

Attends training courses; reads and studies assigned materials related to fire fighting and fire prevention; studies the theory and techniques of fire fighting, first aid, hydraulics and relate subjects, and participates in a variety of drills and instructions.

Responds to fire alarms with a company; drives and operates pump and ladder trucks; operates pumps, aerial ladders and auxiliary equipment; lays and connects hose; holds nozzles and directs fog or water streams; raises and climbs ladders; uses chemical extinguishers, bars, hooks, lines, and forcible entry tools.

Ventilates burning buildings by opening window and sky lights or by chopping holes in roofs and floors; removes persons from danger; administers first aid to injured persons; performs salvage operations such as throwing salvage covers, sweeping water and removing debris.

Drives assigned piece of fire fighting apparatus to and from fires and operated pumps and other mechanical equipment as required; ascertains that tools are on apparatus; cleans and services assigned apparatus and maintains it in a condition of readiness; reports mechanical failures or difficulties to a superior officer.

On desk watch answers telephone and transmits messages to proper stations or persons; dispatches proper firefighting equipment and personnel to obtain adequate coverage of fires; operates two-way radio and alarm receiving and transmitting devices as necessary.

Assists in making tests of signal devices, line system, and related communications equipment; participates in fire drills and attends classes in fire fighting and first aid.

Performs general maintenance work in the upkeep of fire department property cleans and washes walls and floors; makes minor repairs to property and equipment, washes, hangs, and dries hoses; washes, cleans, polishes and tests apparatus.

May assist in company drill sessions, working closely with superior officers; may be assigned to perform clerical duties in upkeep of fire department records and reports.

May perform assigned fire inspections; inspects buildings, checking fire escapes, exits and related structures and appurtenances for compliance with fire prevention.

Desirable Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Some knowledge of the street system and physical layout to Meriden.

Ability to climb ladders and work at considerable heights.

Ability to learn a wide variety of fire fighting duties and methods within a reasonable working rest period.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees and the general public.

Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.

Ability to obtain a Class I Connecticut State driver's license at time of appointment or no later than the end of the probationary period.

Ability to obtain certification in advanced first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation for basic life support.

Ability to obtain EMTD certification within one year of employment.

Desirable Experience and Training

Graduation from a standard high school.