

FIRE FIGHTER

FLSA Status: Covered
Union Representation: Portland Fire Fighters Association (PFFA)

Class Summary:

This is general duty fire fighting work. Employees occupying positions of this class are responsible for the protection of life and property through the suppression and prevention of fires and in the response to emergency calls. Major elements of the work include participating in supervised drills, training in fire fighting skills and rescue techniques, and participation in hydrant and building inspection activities. During building inspections of assigned commercial occupancies, Fire Fighters enforce the Fire Code by identifying code violations, writing notices and writing letters as required. All employees of this class perform almost all fire fighting tasks associated with an engine, truck, rescue squad, or fire boat company, since personnel are rotated for administrative and personal reasons. Considerable time is spent in the maintenance of equipment and apparatus and in routine care of buildings and grounds. At the scene of an emergency, Fire Fighters perform under hazardous conditions involving smoke, heat, toxic gases, and cramped surroundings. Strenuous physical exertion is usually necessary. Newly appointed Fire Fighters are required to go through an intensive training program prior to obtaining a permanent Bureau assignment. Since the basic fire fighting training is received at a fire company, some experienced Fire Fighters may be assigned responsibility for on-the-job training. Work is normally performed in accordance with well defined procedures and regulations under the supervision of a line officer; however, Fire Fighters are frequently called upon to work independently and to make critical decisions in emergency situations.

Examples of Work:

Performs a variety of duties with an engine company; drives and operates fire apparatus and pumps; lays and connects hose to hydrant; holds nozzles and directs fog or water streams; uses a variety of equipment and tools in extinguishing fires and responding to emergencies.

Performs a variety of duties with a truck company; drives and operates a fire apparatus and aerial ladder; ventilates buildings and places salvage covers over furniture; raises ladders and rescues occupants of buildings; operates power tools and equipment; provides emergency power and lighting; removes excess water and debris.

Performs a variety of duties with a rescue company, drives a rescue apparatus; attends to the public under stress conditions; uses advanced techniques and apparatus to restore cardiopulmonary functions; administers varying degrees of first aid to injured persons; removes trapped accident victims; administers oxygen to victims as needed.

Performs a variety of duties with the fire alarm office; receives fire and emergency calls; dispatches appropriate equipment and personnel; maintains logs of all emergency calls; compiles alarm records; provides general fire information to the public; performs daily readiness tests on all emergency communications equipment.

Performs a variety of duties with a fire boat company; functions as deckhand; attaches hose to connection on boat; operates aerial ladder and deck turrets; secures boat in emergency situations; operates the boat engines and pumps; removes hazards to navigation; performs various fire duties as required.

Examples of Work: (continued)

Performs a variety of duties with a special fire squad unit; drives a squad truck; performs specialized rescue and fire suppression tasks using specialized and regular fire equipment.

Participates in fire drills and attends classes in fire fighting, emergency medical training, and related subjects.

Participates in public fire safety education programs and projects by demonstrating safety equipment and explaining safety principles.

Participates in inspections of buildings, both prefire and Fire Code enforcement, and fire hydrants; issues and maintains records of fire permits and maintains other records as required.

Performs general maintenance work in hanging and drying hose; cleaning and maintaining the firehouse and grounds.

Performs fire watch duty; tests personal life support system.

Not all the work performed is specifically described.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: (Require at time of appointment)

Some knowledge of the basic principles of mechanics.

Skill in reading, comprehending, and applying a variety of fire suppression and prevention materials and information.

Skill in performing a variety of mechanical operations.

Skill in reasoning and reacting quickly and calmly in emergency situations.

Skill in evaluating complex emergency situations when not directly supervised.

Skill in performing prolonged and arduous work under adverse working conditions.

Skill in learning a wide variety of fire fighting duties and methods, as well as skill in the use of fire fighting equipment within a reasonable work test period.

Skill in understanding and following oral and written instructions.

Skill in maintaining routine records.

Skill in establishing and maintaining effective, courteous, and tactful working relationships with superior, other employees, and the general public.

Physical strength and agility sufficient to perform the work of the class.

Special Requirements:

Possession of a valid state driver's license at time of appointment.

Possession of a current E.M.T. I certification at time of appointment.

Some positions may require an Oregon E.M.T IV (Paramedic) certification at time of appointment.

Class History:

Adopted:

Revised: 02-25-85, 03-19-85, 03-02-90, 8-31-94

Revised: 08-07-06 Union representation updated from "International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)" to "Portland Fire Fighters Association (PFFA)."

June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 5208 to 30000793, due to system change.