



**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
FIREFIGHTER**

Reports to: Fire Captain
Supervises: Non-supervisory
Bargaining Unit: Fire

BASIC FUNCTION

Protects life and property from fire and other hazards by preventing, controlling and extinguishing fires; conducting emergency medical care and rescue operations; assisting with public education activities; and performing maintenance tasks and other related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry-level classification of the City's fire service series. Incumbents will be continually trained and tested consistent with nationally recognized standards of professional competence. Incumbents are assigned to a 24-hours rotating shift schedule averaging a total of 56 hours per week or to special assignments. Although time spent fighting fires may be a small percentage of the scheduled time, incumbents must be ready to meet emergency and hazardous situations at all times.

TYPICAL DUTIES *(May include, but are not limited to those duties listed below.)*

- Responds to fire alarms and other emergency or service calls; drives and operates various departmental vehicles and equipment (excludes vehicles that require a Class B driver's license).
- Applies water, foam, and other suppression substances by connecting and/or manipulating hoses, nozzles, couplings, hydrants, pumps, various hand extinguishers and other firefighter equipment.
- Enters burning structures to combat fires using ladders, forcible-entry tools, protective breathing apparatus and other equipment; makes openings in buildings for ventilation to dissipate smoke and gases and to facilitate firefighting.
- Performs rescues from burning buildings, ocean cliffs, and other hazardous sites, extricating and carrying victims, using ropes, ladders, hoists, stretchers, and other equipment.
- Performs various salvage operations at the scene of a fire, such as covering furniture with covers and using sawdust, brooms, mops, shovels and similar equipment.
- Performs various overhauling operations to ensure that a fire is completely extinguished and that no walls or other structures are in danger of falling.
- Administers emergency medical care to the ill or injured at the scene of an incident and during transport, including first aid and cardiopulmonary and breathing resuscitation.
- Participates in fire department training programs and maintains required skill levels.
- Assists in conducting training programs as assigned.

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- Performs fire-prevention activities by inspecting buildings and their properties for fire hazards; reviewing plans and maps; advising owners of changes required and/or issuing compliance orders.
- Conducts fire-education classes for the public and participates in public relations activities.
- Participates in pre-fire planning by inspecting and drawing floor plans of commercial and industrial buildings and institutions.
- Cleans, repairs, and maintains fire apparatus and equipment.
- Assists in writing incident, training, inspection and other reports and records as assigned.
- Maintains station, quarters, and grounds; participates in painting and performing minor building maintenance on fire station and facilities.
- Receives radio and telephone calls, obtains specific information and/or refers calls as necessary to the proper agency.
- May be required to respond to fire or other emergencies during non-duty hours.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge:

- Basic mathematics and mechanical principles that demonstrate the ability to learn technical concepts, procedures, and equipment operation.

Skills:

- Safely and efficiently use manual and/or power tools to perform essential duties.

Abilities:

- Maintain physical health, strength, and agility to meet the physical demands of fire work as determined by a pre-employment physical agility test and medical examination.
- Learn technical concepts, procedures, and the operation of equipment utilized in firefighting, prevention and education.
- Work effectively as a member of a team.
- Follow both verbal and written instructions.
- Read, comprehend, retain, and apply a large number of technical procedures, policies, codes and orders.
- Work under physically demanding conditions and in potentially hazardous or stressful situations.
- Tactfully and effectively interact with all people regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, age, or economic status.
- Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Maintain a level of performance consistent with the standards of the department.
- Work a 24-hour continuous shift and to be subject to recall during emergencies.

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OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- At least 18 years of age.
- Uncorrected vision of 20/40 or better in one eye and 20/100 in the other, or corrected to 20/20 in one eye and 20/40 in the other; ability to distinguish colors to recognize flame, smoke, hazardous materials placards and skin signs.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Any combination of education and experience that provides the above knowledge, skills, and abilities combined with any required licenses/certificates is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications is to possess the equivalent of the following:

- High School graduation or equivalent and
- One year of paramedic experience

For Lateral Transfer Candidates, in addition or concurrent to above requirements:

- Requires at least one year of full time paid, current or recent, successful employment in a public or civil service agency, in a job classification comparable to Firefighter in the City of Santa Cruz.

LICENSES/CERTIFICATES

- As a condition of employment, a valid Paramedic license
- CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test) – issued within one year
- Current ACLS certificate or local agency equivalent (such as Santa Cruz County Resuscitation Course)
- Current PALS certificate or local agency equivalent (such as Santa Cruz County Resuscitation Course)
- Current CPR certificate
- Firefighter 1 certificate
- Hazardous Materials First Responder certification (FRO) by completion of probation
- Confined Space Awareness certification by completion of probation
- S-130 certification (Basic Wildland Fire) by completion of probation
- S-190 certification (Basic Wildland Fire) by completion of probation
- Possession at time of hire and continued maintenance of a valid California Class C driver's license and a safe driving record.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Hazardous Materials First Responder certification (FRO)
- Confined Space Awareness certification
- S-130 certification (Basic Wildland Fire)
- S-190 certification (Basic Wildland Fire)
- Bilingual ability to speak both English and Spanish.

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Career Ladder

- Fire Chief
- Fire Deputy Chief
- Fire Division Chief
- Fire Battalion Chief
- Fire Captain
- Fire Engineer
- *Firefighter*