

**CITY OF ABERDEEN  
POSITION CLASSIFICATION**

**FIREFIGHTER**

**Salary Range: 18F**

**Union Status: IAFF Local 2639**

**FLSA Status: Non-Exempt**

**Date Adopted: 01/93, 05/2015**

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**DEFINITION:** Provides fire prevention, suppression, rescue and emergency medical assistance to the public in Aberdeen and the surrounding community; performs general maintenance and repairs on fire apparatus, equipment and facilities.

**REPORTS TO:** Fire Captain.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

Firefighter duties include use of ladders, hose lines, and hand and power tools and equipment to fight fires and perform clean-up at fire scenes. Medical aid calls require driving an ambulance and treating the injured at the scene or enroute to the hospital. Incumbents receive ongoing training and practice in fire suppression and investigation techniques, in driving a fire engine or ladder truck and in providing emergency medical services. Punctual, regular and reliable attendance is essential for successful job performance.

**ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:**

Uses appropriate firefighting equipment and techniques to extinguish fires in buildings, terrain, automobiles or other situations which may involve oil, chemicals, electrical or other flammable or combustible materials or origins.

Responds to various hazardous environments wearing self-contained breathing apparatus and using specialized tools and equipment to save lives, protect property, suppress fires and administer first aid to the sick and injured.

Performs clean-up of the fire scene by removing debris using shovels and pitchforks and cleaning or restocking equipment and materials.

Responds to emergency and non-emergency calls for medical aid and transports patients by ambulance to residences, resthomes, hospitals or other medical facilities. Provides or assists in the emergency treatment and care of ill or injured patients which may require lifting and carrying gurney and patient up and down stairwells, up and down uneven and/or steep terrain and lifting into ambulance.

Drives fire apparatus and ambulances when required.

Assists the public with non-emergency requests or complaints.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS: (Continued)

Performs general maintenance and minor repairs to department facilities including building exterior and grounds, apparatus and equipment. Cleans and maintains the work, sleeping and eating areas of the fire stations. Cleaning requires the use of brooms and mops; maintenance includes painting of interior and exterior walls of fire stations using ladders.

Provides routine cleaning of vehicles and equipment. Tests or troubleshoots problems with facility, equipment, apparatus and fire protection systems such as radios and paging equipment, recorders and alarm circuits. Test starts all gasoline powered hand tools on a weekly basis. Tests fire hydrants for amount of fire flow.

Prepares and maintains reports and records of activities, incidents, inspections or other information.

Assists in performing fire inspections of public and private buildings for pre-fire planning or compliance with fire codes.

Participates in department training programs to learn or upgrade skills in firefighting methods, equipment or services.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:

Assists in investigation of fire incidents by securing the fire scene, taking photographs and preparing sketches, identifying evidence and providing written and oral reports of the incident.

Assists in answering telephones and other clerical duties as needed.

Performs other related duties as required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT/EQUIPMENT USED:

Work is performed indoors, in motor vehicles (ambulance, ladder truck and/or pumper truck) and outdoors in frequently inclement weather (at accident or fire scenes) and in hostile environments such as inside burning buildings or on rooftops of burning buildings and in dealing with hazardous materials, explosive atmospheres, infectious disease and combative and/or mentally disturbed people. Work is scheduled in 24 hour shifts which require the ability to adapt to communal living. Extended periods of time on duty and/or without a day off may be required during emergencies; time between breaks and meals may also be irregular. Risk of bodily injury is high due to the environmental conditions mentioned above as well as proximity to moving objects (traffic), heavy lifting and slippery/uneven surfaces in the field and exposure to combative people, bodily fluids and infectious diseases. Work is frequently performed under stressful conditions working closely with people in emergency situations requiring swift and sound decision making.

WORK ENVIRONMENT/EQUIPMENT USED: (Continued)

Equipment used includes but is not limited to motor vehicles such as ambulances and fire apparatus; portable radios; fire hose and nozzles; fire extinguishers; chainsaws, circular saws, and other miscellaneous gasoline, electrical and hand powered hand tools; picks, shovels, pitchforks, axes, rakes, ladders, and a full array of maintenance equipment; protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus forcible extrication equipment ; ambulance gurneys and other emergency medical services equipment; commonly used office equipment such as telephones, typewriters, word processors, personal computers, calculators, copy machines and dictation equipment.

Physical activity required includes all forms of body motions including sitting and standing for extended periods of time, reaching, bending, squatting, stooping, twisting, crawling, running, jumping, climbing and frequent heavy lifting. Sedentary activity may be suddenly interrupted by strenuous activity in response to emergency calls. Climbing ladders up to 100 feet high is required; heavy lifting includes equipment up to 60 pounds and ambulance patients over 200 pounds. Confinement in tight or small areas may be required during performance of firefighting duties.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

Ability to: learn and understand principles and techniques of fire suppression, prevention and investigation; perform strenuous activity under adverse conditions; climb ladders and work at considerable heights; respond quickly and exercise sound judgment in emergency situations; follow oral instructions; communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; live in a communal environment and maintain responsible and cooperative attitude toward co-workers and the general public.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

High school degree or GED equivalent; AA Degree in Fire Science or Technology is **desirable**.

LICENSES, CERTIFICATES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- U.S. Citizen
- Valid Washington State Driver's License
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Possess Washington state EMT certification
- Possess IFSAC Firefighter I certification at time of hire
- Physical ability to perform the essential job functions
- Bilingual is desirable.