

Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

Job Description

FUNCTION:

Under direction, respond to: fires, emergency medical incidents, rescue problems, hazardous materials spills and other emergencies to protect life and property; perform assigned service and maintenance of apparatus, equipment and stations; perform fire prevention, public education and public relations duties; perform community services and other duties that fall within the guidelines of the mission and goals of the department.

TYPICAL DUTIES:

- Responds to fire, medical, and other emergencies.
- Perform fire, rescue and hazardous materials evolutions and operate equipment necessary to deal with the emergency situation within the departmental standards and within the firefighter 1 certification.
- Provide Advanced Life Support first responder emergency medical care and assistance to victims of accidents, injuries, and illnesses.
- Perform fire prevention, pre-fire planning, public education, public relations efforts, and hydrant maintenance.
- Perform apparatus and pump operations.
- Perform routine apparatus, equipment and station maintenance and cleaning.
- Perform support for attaining the goals and objectives of the department, with emphasis on the collateral functions.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Ability to work 48 hour shifts and work planned and unplanned backfill.
- Prolonged standing, walking and stooping on pavement, asphalt and uneven terrain.
- May be required to walk and run while carrying equipment.
- Occasionally must bend, stoop, kneel or crouch to deal with emergency medical patient needs, operate rescue equipment or carry equipment and/or hose lines into a burning building.
- Occasionally must crawl within confined spaces and/or within a smoke filled atmosphere to perform fire control, emergency escape or rescue operations.
- Occasionally must be able to climb ladders, stairs, ramps, scaffolds, poles and the like using feet or legs and/or hands and arms.
- On an occasional to frequent basis, must be able to twist the torso, reach overhead and perform neck and cervical movement to accomplish pulling hose and when performing rescue techniques.

- Occasionally to frequently must have the strength to lift up to 100 lbs. Using appropriate lifting and squatting techniques.
- Must be able to drag an injured victim from a danger area for eventual rescue by a two-member team.
- As part of a 2-person team must be able to lift a patient or rescue victim.
- Must be able to extend arms and hands in any direction and be able to seize, hold, grasp, turn and otherwise work with hands; must have the fine finger manipulation equivalent to writing.
- Must be able to talk and hear with adequate acuity when taking emergency orders and following directions from a supervisor.
- Must have the visual capacity, depth perception and color vision to drive and follow hazard notification signs.
- Must be able to work in a variety of environmental situations including: indoors, outdoors, fumes, dust, gases, humidity, odors, ventilation, noise or vibration, extreme heat/cold, and in situations where traffic, chemical spills, fires and biohazards exist.
- Ability to work within the chain of command system, accept constructive criticism, react quickly and calmly in emergency situations.
- Ability to effectively communicate and maintain positive working relationships with peers, superiors and other public safety personnel and members of the public in a professional and appropriate manner.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY TO:

- Write and speak the English language in a clear and intelligible manner.
- Basic mathematics and mechanical principles that demonstrate the ability to learn technical concepts, procedures, and equipment operation.
- Advanced Life Support pre-hospital emergency medical care techniques, principles, and practices.
- Basic human anatomy and physiology, understands medical terminology, techniques and analytical processes used in the description and assessment of patient status.
- Categories, indications and contraindications, and appropriate dosage levels of medications.
- Procedures and equipment used in monitoring patient vital signs, symptoms of impaired cardiac and respiratory functioning, altered states of consciousness, various types of toxicity, and poisoning, shock, and common diseases.
- Use and manipulate medical instruments and apparatus.
- Observe and evaluate patient status and conditions at scene.
- Determine appropriate BLS and ALS procedures.
- Make paramedical decisions rapidly, under stressful conditions.
- Perform BLS and ALS life support, including CPR, cardiac monitoring, and defibrillation.
- Administer medications via appropriate route per protocol.
- Monitor and maintain patient airway to include endotracheal intubation, and needle cricothyrotomy.
- Communicate technical and medical information effectively.

- Apply Santa Cruz County radio format to transmit medical information to base hospitals.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum age of 18 years of age at time of appointment.
- High school diploma or GED.
- Possession of a valid California driver's license; ability to attain any specialized license to drive departmental apparatus within 6 months of request by the Fire Chief; ability to maintain required driver's license requirements as established by the Fire Chief.
- Currently licensed as a paramedic and possess current CPR and ACLS provider certification.
- Ability to obtain EMT-Paramedic accreditation in Santa Cruz County within thirty (30) days of appointment.
- Ability to meet and maintain standards of physical conditions as prescribed in NFPA 1582-1992. This will be demonstrated by providing proof of successful completion the candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT).

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum twelve (12) months experience as a full-time paid paramedic (subject to verification of full-time employment)
- State of California Firefighter I certification