

City of South San Francisco
Human Resources Department

Paramedic/Firefighter

Class Description

Definition

Under general supervision, performs Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic Services; engages in firefighting, medical aid, and all other suppression and prevention activities in order to protect life and property; drives, operates, and maintains all fire apparatus and equipment; assists and participates in training programs, inspections, and related fire prevention and public education activities; and does related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This classification encompasses the full range of firefighter duties and it is distinguished from the firefighter classification in that Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic duties are included.

Typical and Important Duties

1. Responds to emergency medical calls, emergency rescues, fire alarms, public service calls, or other alarms, requiring the mitigation of a situation threatening life or property.
2. Applies Basic and Advanced Life Support techniques.
3. Attends to victims in emergency medical situations, using prescribed paramedic techniques; provides medical aid; administers drugs; gives injections; starts intravenous solutions; takes and monitors vital signs, such as pulse, respiration, and blood pressure; takes appropriate action to preserve life as prescribed by standing orders, a doctor, or registered nurse via direct radio or telephone contact.
4. Assists in the connecting of telemetry equipment; operates radio, telemetry, and related medical electronic equipment for monitoring and treatment of emergency medical victims.
5. Assists in the emergency transporting of patients; drives department ambulance; transports emergency patients.
6. Drives and places equipment in the proper place at scene.
7. Lays hose lines; operates apparatus pumps; and operates aerial apparatus.
8. Attacks fires and directs fire streams.
9. Effects rescues.
10. Operates communications equipment.
11. Performs a variety of routine maintenance and repair tasks, including inspecting and making minor repairs of equipment.
12. Cleans station, apparatus, and equipment, and maintains a clean and orderly condition in and about the station.
13. Studies and reviews department rules and regulations, fire hazards, and fire fighting techniques; participates in drills, training sessions, and exercises.
14. Participates in inspections and related fire prevention duties.
15. Conducts and participates in public education programs.
16. Records company activities and prepare reports.

17. Studies and reviews local, county, state, and departmental paramedic rules, regulations, and ordinances.
18. Teaches paramedic and EMT skills and techniques to Department staff, other agencies, and the public.
19. Participates in training and other activities within the Department, hospitals, and other agencies.
20. Meets the public and deals with various officials and citizens in furthering City and Departmental public relations.
21. May be assigned to prepare various reports.
22. May be required to respond to alarms during the non-duty hours when on-duty staff needs to be augmented.
23. As assigned, serves as acting captain.
24. Performs related duties and responsibilities as assigned.

Job Related Qualifications

Knowledge of:

- Principles, methods, and practices of paramedic and firefighting.

Ability to:

- Learn local, county, state, and department rules, regulations, ordinances, methods, and techniques governing paramedic and firefighting activities.
- Comfort and deal effectively with distraught victims and families.
- Learn basic operation and mechanics of firefighting equipment, streets, locations, and the location of hydrants, mains, and major traffic and fire hazards.
- Maintain proficiency in life support techniques.
- Analyze emergency situations and adopt effective courses of action.
- Communicate effectively in writing, orally, and with others to assimilate, understand, and convey information, in a manner consistent with job functions.
- Think and act quickly in emergencies.
- Understand and carry out orders given in person, by radio, telephone, or in writing.
- Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those contacted in the course of the work.
- Learn and effectively apply City and state fire codes and associated laws.
- Perform a variety of manipulative tasks with good dexterity.
- Represent the City, the department, or the organizational unit effectively in contacts with representatives of other agencies, City departments, and the public.
- Take a proactive approach to customer service issues.
- Make process improvement changes to streamline procedures.
- Perform assignments and maintain equipment in a safe manner; understand and carry out safety policies, rules, and regulations; properly uses safety equipment.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information.

Skill in:

- Operating, using, and maintaining modern paramedic equipment and techniques.
- Learning to drive and operate pumpers, trucks, ambulances, and aerial apparatus with care and safety in accordance with traffic laws and ordinances.

- Using basic keyboarding skills.
- Learning and applying basic computer skills, including word processing, databases, and calendar and e-mail systems.

Experience and Training

Any combination of experience and training that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities would be qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities would be:

Experience:

- Entry-level: No direct experience required. Some work experience as a field paramedic preferred.
- Lateral: Two years experience as a paramedic/firefighter in a California city or county with the two years requirement within five years of application.

Training:

Equivalent to graduation from high school and successful completion of 6 units of college-level fire science coursework or successful completion of Firefighter I curriculum.

Licenses and Certificates

All licenses and certifications must be maintained as a condition of employment.

1. Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid California Driver's license.
2. Appropriate Class B California driver's license to drive fire apparatus must be obtained within 18 months of employment.
3. Possession of current certification or successful completion of the equivalent of the following:
 - Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) curriculum or Pediatric Education for the Pre-hospital Provider (PEPP) Curriculum.
 - Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life support (ACLS) curriculum.
 - Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) or Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) curriculum.
 - Possession of a current State of California EMT-P license or current National Registry EMT-Paramedic license (must obtain current State of California EMT-P license prior to appointment).
4. Accredited by San Mateo County prior to appointment.
5. May be required to obtain CPR Instructor's Certificate.

Medical and Performance Standards

Prior to appointment, must pass job related medical, psychological, and physical performance evaluations. May be required after employment to pass periodic medical and physical performance tests and to participate in an on-going physical fitness program.

Special Requirements

Essential duties require the following physical skills and work environment:

Physical Skills:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, run, kneel, crouch, stoop, squat, crawl, twist; climb ladders, stairs, and scaffolding; lift and carry 100 pounds; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone.

Work Environment:

Mobility to work in a typical office setting or field environment with exposure to cold, heat, noise, outdoors, vibration, confining spaces, dust, chemicals, explosive materials, mechanical hazards, and electrical hazards.

Ability to:

Travel to different sites and locations; drive safely to different sites and locations; maintain a safe driving record; work on-call, stand-by, and shifts; work protracted and irregular hours.

Age:

A minimum of age 21 at the time of the examination.

Additional Information:

1. Approved: April 1994
2. Revised Date: July 1997; April 2001; March 2002, June 2003
3. Former Titles:
4. Abolished:
5. Bargaining Unit: IAFF
6. DOT: Yes
7. Status: Classified/Non-exempt
8. Job Code: B130