



Code: 8801
Family: Public Safety
Service: Public Safety
Group: Fire Service
Series: Firefighting

CLASS TITLE: FIREFIGHTER-EMT

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS

Under supervision, protects against the loss of life and the destruction of property, performing the full range of firefighting activities in the areas of initial emergency response, apparatus operation, EMS rescue and assistance, fire prevention, fire suppression, salvage/overhaul operations, code enforcement, and special operations that may include hazardous materials response, extreme weather emergencies, public fire safety education, and more. Responds to incident calls providing basic first aid as first responder and performs related duties as required.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Responds to various types of calls to perform rescues and mitigate emergencies, including but not limited to fires (e.g., structure, vehicle, brush), and weather emergencies (e.g., flooding, tornadoes, thunderstorms, earthquake), as well as non-emergency calls (e.g., lockouts, civilian assists, elevator malfunctions) to assist civilians and resolve problems
- Performs EMT responsibilities to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care to patients in a variety of emergency situations (e.g., maintaining a patent Airway and ensuring adequate Breathing and Circulation; performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); using an automated external defibrillator (AED) to defibrillate patients in cardiac arrest; controlling severe bleeding; and immobilizing patients with suspected spinal cord injuries or fractures, etc.)
- Transports or assists paramedics in the transport of patients and assists with the creation of Patient Care Reports
- Performs triage and assesses care and resource needs; calms or reassures emotionally distressed victims, family members of victims, and/or witnesses at an incident scene and separates bystanders from treatment area
- Responds to fire alarms with a designated fire company working on the scene at fire emergencies and performs initial and secondary fireground operations emergency support activities, including but not limited to hose and extinguisher operations, ground ladder operations, forcible entry, ventilation, search, rescue, salvage, overhaul and clean up
- Performs various tasks occurring between receiving alarm and initial firefighting or emergency activities (e.g., preliminary incident evaluation, donning gear, assisting with maneuvering the apparatus, scene maintenance, etc.)
- Performs on-scene rescue and assistance, including systematic search and evacuation procedures, using location and excavation devices to safely locate, extricate, and transport victims while constantly reassessing the scene with regard for safety
- Exerts extensive physical effort in hazardous or life-threatening situations (e.g., climbing raised ladders to extended heights, using firefighting and emergency rescue tools and equipment, forcibly entering burning structures, navigating through smoke filled passages and/or confined spaces to rescue victims and to extinguish fires, and carrying charged and uncharged hoses, tools, and equipment to and from locations as needed)
- Receives incoming alarms and information at the station house, answers phones, monitors access to the station house, and transmits alarms when necessary
- Performs routine maintenance by checking, cleaning, and maintaining equipment, apparatus, and station house facilities to ensure proper and safe operation (includes the checking and

restocking of emergency medical supplies and the performance of routine housekeeping chores and cooking duties)

- Operates and drives various apparatus and vehicles, and performs various tasks associated with driving, either as primary or acting driver, or as an assistant to the primary driver, including pump operations and aerial ladder operations
- Neutralizes and contains hazardous agents and evacuates areas and persons at risk
- Communicates with required internal and external personnel, including but not limited to appropriate coordination of apparatus, equipment, and personnel; following orders as given by superior officers at an emergency scene; observing, collecting, and relaying information to officer or Fire Investigator/Marshal for incident scene evaluation; engaging in community activities, events, and presentations; conducting education or training drills; and providing assistance and support to civilians
- Participates in training and classes to enhance job-related skills and abilities, including company drills, training, or classes on firefighting techniques, emergency medical services, apparatus operations, the handling and managing of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) and HAZMAT incidents, extrication of victims, and related safety processes and procedures
- Performs pre-incident planning by reviewing plans, conducting scheduled equipment testing and in-service inspection to identify and correct potential hazards
- Seeks out and completes professional development, including but not limited to practicing scenario-based skills, reading internal memos and bulletins to keep apprised of new developments in departmental operations and procedures and conducting online continuing education for both fire and medical related disciplines
- Maintains overall health and personal wellness (physical, mental, and emotional), and participates in mandated wellness activities, critical incident stress debriefings or other programming set forth by the department
- Complies with Department uniform and grooming standards
- Complies with Department Code of Professional Conduct standard (on-and-off duty)

NOTE: *The list of essential duties is not intended to be inclusive; there may be other duties that are essential to particular positions within the class.*

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education, Training, and Experience

- Must be at least 18 years of age by the date of administration for the Firefighter examination
- Must be a high school graduate or possess a general equivalency diploma (GED) by the date of administration for the Firefighter examination

NOTE: Pursuant to the Municipal Code of Chicago 2-152410, no person may be appointed as a probationary Firefighter/EMT after the person's 38th birthday.

Licensure, Certification, or Other Qualifications

- Must have a valid, non-expired CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test) certification at the time of pre-employment processing
- Must have a valid U.S. driver's license at the time of pre-employment processing
- Must pass background investigations, including fingerprinting

- Must pass all phases of the selection process, including a medical evaluation, drug screen, and physical performance test
- Must be a resident in the City of Chicago at the time of hire
- Must successfully complete academy training program

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Assignment may be anywhere within the boundaries of the City of Chicago
- Assignment duty on 24-hour shifts based on a rotating shift schedule; Department operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including weekends and recognized holidays
- Exposure to outdoor weather conditions, including extreme weather situations
- Exposure to hazardous or life-threatening situations (e.g., fire, smoke, heights, hazardous materials, dangerous building or environmental conditions)

EQUIPMENT (including but not limited to)

- Two-way radio
- Computers and peripheral equipment (e.g., personal computer, computer terminals, hand-held computer, modems)
- Firefighting and salvage apparatus, tools, and equipment (e.g., vehicles, ladders, hoses, hydrants, extinguishers, hand tools, electrical and pneumatic devices, Thermal Imaging Camera, power tools, brooms, squeegees, pumps, pike poles, saws, etc.)
- Rescue equipment (e.g., rescue harnesses, ropes, backboards, shovels, picks, spades)
- Emergency medical tools, equipment, and devices (e.g., cardiac monitor and defibrillator, equipment used for airway management, patient immobilization and conveyance, splinting and hemorrhage control, IV (intravenous) insertion, medication administration)
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., bunker gear, face shield, gloves, masks, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), etc.)

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Fine Hand/Body Movements – Ability to use fingers, hands, arms and other body parts to make skilled muscle movements (e.g., tying complicated knots, resetting alarms or sprinkler heads)
- Reaction Time – Ability to quickly initiate a response to one or more stimuli; the situation could involve a choice of reactions (e.g., hit the brakes or gas when a vehicle skids) or a single reaction
- Balance/Coordination – Ability to maintain an upright position and stay balanced (e.g., standing or sitting for extended or continuous periods of time) and/or coordinate the movement of arms, legs, and trunk of the body (e.g., when walking or crawling across a narrow beam)
- Cardiovascular Fitness (aerobic endurance, stamina) – Ability to maintain whole body activity for a length of time without feeling fatigued or running out of breath (e.g., advancing a fully charged hoseline to the seat of the fire)
- Muscular Strength – Ability to exert force to move weight; this is a measure of the greatest amount of force a muscle can apply; that is, the most weight a muscle group can move one time. Force is exerted continuously and might involve pushing, pulling, or lifting (e.g., prying open a door, lifting an unconscious or injured person)
- Muscular Endurance – Ability to use muscles repeatedly without a rest. This focuses on the number of times you can lift a certain amount of weight. This involves using one's arms and

trunk in moving one's body weight for some time or across some distance (e.g., carrying a person for a distance to get the person out of a dangerous situation, to climb a rope)

- Flexibility – Ability to stretch or extend one's arms and legs and their muscle groups and make continuous arm and leg flexing movements with some speed (e.g., to reach with hands and arms, stoop, twist, bend, kneel, crouch)
- Ability to perform physical activities efficiently with skill and speed, and with little wasted motion
- Ability to use the necessary force to control and direct fully charged hose lines
- Ability to stand and walk for extended or continuous periods of time
- Ability to climb stairs and ladders while wearing full protective gear and carrying equipment
- Ability to safely and lawfully operate automotive vehicles and associated equipment
- Hearing and recognizing the normal range of sounds in terms of loudness, pitch, tone, patterns or rhythms, or duration
- Specific vision abilities may include close vision, distance vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, ability to adjust focus

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND OTHER WORK REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge

- Theory, practice, and techniques of modern fire prevention and suppression operations and systems, including fire physics, chemistry, and behavior, building construction types and materials, and related firefighting tactics
- Theory and practice of emergency medical service principles and techniques at the certification level EMT-Basic
- Safety principles and practices related to hazardous situations and materials
- Region XI Chicago Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Policies and Procedures
- Illinois EMS Act and applicable portions of Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) regulations
- Geographical locations in the City, including traffic operations and street systems
- Emergency response notification procedures and protocols
- Radio, telephone, and computer-aided dispatch communications systems and their operation
- Applicable City and department policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and ordinances

Skills

- *ATTENTION TO DETAIL – Taking great care to ensure all aspects of work, no matter how small, are completed correctly and are free from errors (e.g., fully proofreading a document after every round of edits)
- *PROBLEM ANALYSIS – Analyzing problems by seeking out information; evaluating the importance, quality, and relevance of information; and considering alternative approaches and their implications (e.g., using prior learning or experience to understand a problem more thoroughly); this is not recognition of a problem or decision-making
- *JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING – Applying knowledge and reasoning to make prompt, rational, and effective decisions in both routine and emergency situations (e.g., being decisive when immediate action is required); can include ambiguous situations where there is incomplete information and unknown factors

- *STRATEGIC THINKING – Considering the “big picture” when planning, making decisions, and taking action; may include taking into consideration the organization’s vision, objectives, and core values (e.g., developing a program to increase community engagement within the department)
- *SAFETY FOCUS/SITUATIONAL AWARENESS – Being observant of other people and situations, and remaining vigilant and alert to important changes in one’s physical surroundings and the behavior of others, so as to preserve the safety of oneself and/or others (e.g., anticipating hazards and risks based on observations of environmental elements and factors)
- MANAGING ACTIVITIES – Establishing and executing operational goals by effectively planning and prioritizing activities (e.g., identifying and directing resources efficiently and effectively to achieve objectives)
- *INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION – Building and maintaining positive relationships and rapport with others, while maintaining the necessary balance to ensure that critical objectives are met (e.g., demonstrating the appropriate amount of empathy based on the circumstances); includes being able to de-escalate and resolve interpersonal conflicts or misunderstandings
- MANAGING AND DEVELOPING OTHERS – Directing and mentoring others in an effort to establish, align, and achieve organizational and work unit objectives, as well as to develop the performance of others (e.g., clearly explaining assigned tasks and performance expectations to others); includes setting clear performance expectations for others

Abilities

- *ORAL COMPREHENSION AND EXPRESSION – Ability to understand spoken language and use language orally to communicate information or ideas to other people (e.g., hearing oral instructions and understanding how to proceed, giving a presentation to a community group). This involves understanding individual words as well as patterns of words (sentences and phrases), distinctions among words, and grammar and the ordering of words; and using the appropriate tone, volume, and language given the audience and situation
- *WRITTEN COMPREHENSION AND EXPRESSION – Ability to understand written language and use language in writing to communicate information or ideas to other people (e.g., reviewing written instructions and understanding how to proceed, documenting the details of an incident in a report). This involves understanding individual words as well as patterns of words (sentences and phrases), distinctions among words, and grammar and the ordering of words; and using the appropriate tone and language given the audience and situation
- * INFORMATION ORDERING – Ability to apply rules to a situation to put information in the best or most appropriate sequence; rules or instructions must exist for the person to know the correct order of information
- FLUENCY OF IDEAS – Ability to produce many ideas about a given topic or situation and/or possible solutions to a problem (e.g., identifying as many explanations for a structural fire as possible); this concerns only the number of ideas, not the quality of those ideas
- *PROBLEM SENSITIVITY – Ability to recognize or identify the existence of problems (i.e., problem identification, not the ability to solve the problem); involves both the recognition of the problem as a whole and the elements of the problem (e.g., recognizing when a group of individuals is engaged in suspicious behavior)
- SPATIAL ORIENTATION/NAVIGATIONAL SKILLS – Ability to keep a clear idea of where you are within a given geographical space and to navigate to a specific location within that space (e.g., determining one’s current position through the use of a map or based on the layout of an area)

- **SELECTIVE ATTENTION/CONCENTRATION** – Ability to complete a task in the presence of distraction or monotony; allows one to concentrate even when there is a good deal of distraction in the environment (e.g., filtering out the noise from a crowd of people when talking to other personnel at an emergency scene), as well as while performing repetitive and monotonous tasks
- **TIME SHARING/MULTITASKING** – Ability to pay attention to multiple sources of information simultaneously, in order to do multiple things at once (e.g., maintaining awareness of the movements of several different individuals in an emergency); a critical aspect of this ability is dealing with information that is coming rapidly from multiple sources while maintaining a safe environment
- **WORKING MEMORY** – Ability to temporarily store and manage the information needed to perform the task at hand (e.g., retaining the details of an emergency situation to make a risk assessment); does not include the ability to memorize new information
- **MEMORIZATION** – Ability to commit something to memory or retain new information that occurs as a routine part of a task or job (e.g., remembering the street names and business layouts in one's geographical assignment area); does not include the ability to memorize procedures or the memory of information that occurs out of the task situation
- ***VISUALIZATION** – Ability to form mental images of people, objects, and/or situations; involves understanding how a person, object, and/or situation may look after undergoing a transformation or change (e.g., visualizing how a critical incident may have unfolded based on the evidence and information available)
- ***DEDUCTIVE REASONING** – Ability to apply general rules, regulations, or information to specific cases or to proceed from stated principles to logical conclusions (e.g., determining if an emergency occurred accidentally or intentionally)
- ***INDUCTIVE REASONING** – Ability to find a rule or concept that fits the situation (e.g. recognizing a potential stroke victim when noticing a person with a drooping face/arm and slurred speech); includes coming up with a logical explanation for a series of events that seem to be unrelated
- **MECHANICAL APTITUDE** – Ability to understand and apply basic physical and mechanical principles to understand, setup, and operate machinery or equipment. This ability involves being able to recognize the need for maintenance and how to correct malfunctions
- **TECHNOLOGICAL ORIENTATION** – Ability to understand and operate the technology, including computer equipment and software applications, used to perform the job (e.g., understanding how to use required department computer systems)
- **BASIC NUMERICAL REASONING AND COMPUTATION** – Ability to recognize reasonable results of arithmetic computations as well as to recognize the relationships among numbers (e.g. factoring in distance and speed to estimate the time of arrival to a specific location); ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers without the use of a calculator

Other Characteristics

- ***INTEGRITY/HONESTY** – Upholding high moral standards and values; includes acting in accordance with an ethical and honorable code of conduct in both personal and professional situations (e.g., remaining fair and firm in actions and judgments) to earn the trust and respect of the community
- ***OPENNESS TO EXPERIENCES** – Being receptive to and seeking new experiences, whether they involve new approaches, activities, situations, and/or people (e.g., being curious about how things work and why people do what they do)

- **ADHERENCE TO RULES AND REGULATIONS/ACCOUNTABILITY** – Complying with and upholding the laws and established organizational rules and policies (e.g., holding others accountable to comply with rules, laws, and regulations)
- ***DRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE/CONTINUOUS LEARNING & IMPROVEMENT** – Maintaining high standards for one’s work and demonstrating dedication to one’s ongoing professional development (e.g., actively setting goals and striving towards goal attainment)
- *** CONSCIENTIOUSNESS/WORK ETHIC** –Being dependable to reliably complete one’s tasks and to fulfill one’s duties and responsibilities while working independently or with minimal oversight (e.g., completing tasks and duties promptly and effectively)
- ***RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY/CULTURAL SENSITIVITY** – Being respectful and sensitive to individuals of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives (e.g., interacting with others in a fair and respectful manner)
- ***STRESS TOLERANCE/RESILIENCE** – Maintaining emotional stability and composure during stressful situations; includes having a high tolerance for frustrating experiences and being able to respond calmly and professionally when under pressure (e.g., persevering to overcome negative situations and adversity)
- ***IMPULSE CONTROL/ANGER MANAGEMENT** – Maintaining control of one’s behavior and exhibiting appropriate responses when faced with emotionally stimulating situations (e.g., responding in a professional manner when insulted, offended, or taunted by others)
- ***TEAMWORK/COLLABORATION** – Willing to adopt a positive, active role working collaboratively towards team objectives. This involves providing support to team members and offering practical strategies and solutions to the team to overcome challenges and problems (e.g., encouraging and motivating others to contribute to team goals)
- **ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT/RESPECT** – Showing allegiance to one’s employing organization’s core values and mission (e.g., demonstrating positive regard for the organization when communicating with others); involves displaying respect for the chain-of-command and leadership directives
- ***EMOTIONAL SELF-AWARENESS** – Being aware of one’s present state of emotion and how it is perceived by others (e.g., understanding how others may perceive one’s emotional responses)
- **INNOVATION/CREATIVITY** – Producing unique or clever responses to a given topic or situation (e.g., using existing software to address a new problem); involves the ability to improvise more effective solutions in a variety of situations
- **OPTIMISM** – Being able to adopt and maintain a positive outlook toward current and future situations (e.g., believing that growth and learning can come from troubling situations)
- **PRESENCE** – Being persuasive and engaging, commanding the respect of others, and speaking up or taking a stand even if others might disagree or disapprove (e.g., standing by an unpopular decision if one believes it is a good decision)
- ***SERVICE ORIENTATION** – Being responsive and proactive in approach to helping and providing support to others and strive to address the needs and requests of others effectively; places a high priority on providing service to others
- ***ADAPTABILITY/FLEXIBILITY** – Modifying one’s behavior to best meet the demands of a given situation such as changes in the environment, changes in working/living conditions (e.g., performing effectively in situations that are novel, ambiguous, or routine)
- **COMMUNITY AWARENESS** – Being observant of governmental and social changes, trends, and pressures. This includes being aware of how those changes, trends, and pressures will impact fire and services

Note: This class specification is not intended to be inclusive; there may be other duties, physical requirements, knowledge, skills, abilities, and other characteristics that are important to particular positions within the class.

All employees of the City of Chicago must demonstrate commitment to and compliance with applicable state and federal laws, and City ordinances and rules; the City's Ethics standards; and other City policies and procedures.

The City of Chicago will consider equivalent foreign degrees, accreditations, and credentials in evaluating qualifications.

*Certain knowledge, skills, abilities, and other characteristics may be required at entry. Physical requirements and working conditions may be required at entry as well.

City of Chicago
Department of Human Resources
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