

Colchester Hayward Fire Department

Job Description & Qualifications For

Volunteer Firefighter

100-160

DEFINITION:

Responds to both natural and man made disasters or emergencies and provides for the protection of life and property. By combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires and providing emergency medical assistance and transport. Mitigating hazardous materials incidents, and provide technical rescue

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Incumbents are expected to perform the full range of duties of a Firefighter.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED:

General supervision is provided by superior officers.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Depending upon assignment, duties may include but are not limited to, the following:

- Respond to fire with a fire department, enter burning buildings with hose lines, operate nozzles and extinguish fires as directed.
- Operate hand fire extinguishers, nozzles, and similar equipment in extinguishing fires. Raise, lower, and climb ladders; and ventilate burning buildings to carry off smoke and gases.
- Rescue persons from danger and administer medical aid as necessary or directed.
- Perform salvage operations such as throwing covers, evacuating water, removing debris and performing general cleanup at the fire scene.
- Perform routine housekeeping duties at a fire station, such as sweeping, cleaning walls, washing windows and mopping floors etc.
- Perform limited repair and maintenance work on fire equipment and apparatus.
- Attend in-service training sessions to learn firefighting strategies and tactics, equipment operation, medical aid, and street and hydrant locations.
- Drives pumpers, aerial ladders, rescue apparatus and ambulances when responding to the scene of emergencies and when participating in drills.
- Operates pumping equipment and other apparatus.
- Inspects and maintains apparatus and equipment to insure proper working condition.
- Prepares required reports relating to maintenance, inspection, movements and usage of fire apparatus including equipment and hose records.
- Performs related work as required.
- Perform business inspections for pre planning.
- Make presentations on fire safety and burn prevention to schools, service clubs or other public gatherings.
- Promote fire safety and burn prevention among public contacts. Analyze situations and develop an effective course of action.
- Keep records and prepare required reports.
- Establish and maintain effective relationships with employees and the general public.

- Perform any other related duties as assigned.

- **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Minimum of State of Connecticut Fire Fighter I Certification.
- Basic Knowledge of the hydrant system and static water supplies.
- Knowledge of the street system and physical layout of the town of Colchester.
- Knowledge of the locations of public buildings, and local hazards in the Town of Colchester.
- Understanding of the Fire Department rules and regulations and procedures.
- Encouraged to become Qualification of department apparatus.

Ability to:

- Apply modern firefighting procedures.
- Understand and learn firefighting information from oral and written sources.
- Read and write the English language at a level necessary for efficient performance.
- Understand and follow oral instructions.
- Work long hours under stressful conditions.
- Apply a wide variety of firefighting duties, methods and procedures including the operation of firefighting apparatus, equipment, and tools.
- Perform physical and strenuous firefighting work requiring physical strength, coordination, endurance and flexibility.
- Establish and maintain cooperative relations with others.
- Operate and maintain various types of equipment and apparatus used by the Fire Department.

Education:

High school diploma or G.E.D equivalent.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATION:

Age:

Must be at least 18 years of age.

Physical Performance:

- Tolerate extreme fluctuations in temperature. Must perform physically demanding tasks in extreme heat (over 400 degrees Fahrenheit) with humidity up to 100% while wearing personal protective equipment which impairs the body's cooling system.
- Must perform duties in sub-zero weather and contend with wind chill factors.
- Must often work in wet, muddy or icy areas.
- Must frequently work on slippery or uneven surfaces such as roof tops, ladders and icy ground surfaces.
- Must perform work on or about moving machinery or equipment or in the vicinity of vehicles in motion (i.e., emergency vehicles, power tools, cutting torches, etc.).
- Face exposure to infectious agents such as Hepatitis B or HIV.
- Face exposure to hazardous substances such as asbestos, hydrogen cyanide, hydrochloric acid, other acids, carbon monoxide, organic solvents, gasoline, etc. either through inhalation or skin contact.
- Functioning under poor/no visibility.
- Exposure to sharp objects.
- Exposure to vibration when riding in emergency vehicles or operating power tools.
- Required to perform work in confined spaces or cramped body positions (i.e., attics, cars, under houses, closets, etc.).
- Must perform work, balance self and equipment or people from heights while working on ladders.
- Exposed to possibility of burn injuries from heat, fire, chemicals and electricity.
- Exposure to smoke and dust.
- Exposure to oil and grease, especially during maintenance and repair of firefighting equipment.
- Exposure to uninsulated or unshielded electrical equipment.
- Exposure to radiation hazards.
- Exposure to a variety of stressors:
 - a. Critical decision making in life threatening situations
 - b. Performance of complex tasks during life threatening situations
 - c. Dealing with critically injured/ill people and their families/friends
 - d. Tight time frames
 - e. Tasks requiring long periods of intense concentration
 - f. Unpleasant or traumatic situations (i.e., critically injured people, death, mass casualty incidents, mass fatality incidents, injury to self or co-workers, etc.)
 - g. Work 24-hour shifts during which sleep may be interrupted or prevented
 - h. Working in unknown situations
 - i. Must be constantly prepared to respond to emergency situations without warning
- Required to wear personal protective equipment weighing 50-70 lbs., depending upon situation.
- Exposure to all weather elements (i.e., sun, heat, rain, sleet, snow, ice, etc.).

Exposure to noxious odors.