



## **KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE 7**

123 East First Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922

Phone 509.674.5371 Fax 509.674.7263

Email - office@kcf7.com

*"Neighbors helping Neighbors"*

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### **FIREFIGHTER**

#### **DEFINITION**

The firefighter's work includes responding to and dealing with emergency situations, natural conditions that pose a threat to life and property, and incidents of service to the citizens. Personnel in this position are responsible for the protection of life and property through firefighting activities, emergency medical services, fire inspection activities, public education and other like duties. They perform a full range of emergency work under adverse, and strenuous physical conditions. Firefighters have a high risk of exposure to hazardous conditions, toxic chemicals and infectious diseases encountered during firefighting or emergency medical incidents.

Firefighters perform duties in the following areas: emergency firefighting operations, emergency medical and rescue operations, company level fire & life safety building inspections, other fire prevention programs which include public education, minor maintenance of apparatus, equipment and facilities, testing of fire hydrants, hose and ladders, and maintenance of quarters in accordance with District policies and procedures. Firefighters work under the direction of a company officer. Firefighters assume the duties and responsibilities of a lieutenant, in an acting capacity, when assigned or at an emergency in the absence of an officer.

Work performance of the firefighter will be evaluated by a chief officer for the quality of work, level of proficiency and knowledge of drills, equipment and related responsibilities. The firefighter is also evaluated for his/her ability to work as part of a team including working with Volunteer's in the effective and timely achievement of District goals and objectives. Such evaluation will also be based on their level of experience.

#### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Performs hazardous tasks for long periods of time in emergency conditions of high stress, strenuous physical exertion under such conditions as heights, cramped surroundings, and hot smoky environments with limited visibility.
2. Remove individuals, which may require lifting or carrying them, from dangerous environments while administering emergency medical aid in accordance with medical aid protocol.
3. Participate in fire drills and attend classes on firefighting, emergency medical services, disaster control, etc.
4. Maintain physical and decision-making skill levels through ongoing training to prevent degradation of skills.
5. Receive emergency alarm; operate radio and other communications equipment under routine and emergency and high stress.
6. Respond to fire/emergency service calls, drive or ride in Fire District apparatus, use manual and power equipment, lay and connect hoses and nozzles, raise and climb ladders, use high pressure water hoses, and chemical agents.

7. Ventilate burning structures using manual or power tools, perform salvage operations and other related tasks.
8. Complete and maintain paper work, records and forms as directed by the company officer.
9. Participate in the in-service company inspection program.
10. Drive, operate and maintain Fire District equipment and apparatus.
11. Responsible for maintaining a working knowledge of, and adhering to, all District policy and procedures.
12. Perform minor maintenance and inspection of fire hydrants, apparatus, and equipment.
13. Test hose, ladders and extinguishers.
14. Maintain a positive and productive relationship with volunteers, members of the community, and adjacent fire personnel.
15. Participate in a wide range of public education specific to fire prevention.
16. Perform maintenance of the station.
17. Maintain personal appearance as directed by District policy and procedures.
18. Support the Volunteer Firefighter program to include working collaboratively with volunteers, provide training, and provide oversight to insure the safety of all personnel.
19. Perform other related work as assigned.

### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS**

1. Modern methods, principles, techniques and practices applied to firefighting, fire inspection, disasters and related fields.
2. Principles and practices of first aid including EMT training.
3. Hazardous materials operations level.
4. Topography and street locations within the fire protection area. General knowledge of basic building construction, hazards, protection devices in buildings, and operation of public utilities.
5. Traffic laws, ordinances and regulations involving apparatus and equipment operation.
6. Mechanical and operating principles involved in the operation and maintenance of firefighting apparatus and equipment.
7. District policy and procedures.
8. Analyzing dangerous situations rapidly and accurately and taking reasonable course of action.
9. Performing hose and ladder evolutions and apparatus operations.
10. Perform physically demanding firefighting skills and duties including, but not limited to, carrying and manipulating hose, ladders and rescue equipment.
11. Adequate knowledge of fire prevention codes and fire safety as it relates to the company level.
12. Inspect and detect violations and hazards in dwellings and other buildings and to make proper recommendations for the correction of findings through company inspections.
13. Deal with the public courteously and effectively.
14. Work collaboratively with co-workers, fire command, and volunteers.
15. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
16. Understand and execute specific orders or instructions.
17. React quickly and calmly in a stressful and hazardous condition.
18. Ensure that all work is performed in a safe manner, following all applicable safety guidelines. Work in real and potential hazardous conditions to the extent of possible serious injury or loss of life.
19. Recall facts and conditions observed while under severe physical and emotional stress.

## **TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

1. Graduation from a high school, GED or equivalent.
2. Must possess a valid Washington State Driver's License and successfully complete the employer's defensive driving program.
3. Must obtain EMT certification within 12 months of joining District and maintain a current level of certification.
4. Must be able to mentally and physically perform the described duties and/or tasks as a firefighter.
5. Must be able to act/react calmly with a professional demeanor when faced with grotesque, traumatic injuries.
6. Must meet all the requirements outlined in the third, second & first class testing to advance in a timely progression.
7. Attending courses in the Associate degree program(s) in areas of Fire Science, Supervision and/or Management is recommended for future promotion within the District.

## **ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ABILITIES**

1. Can carry a self-contained breathing apparatus weighing approximately 35 pounds on his/her back and support 100 pounds of hose on his/her shoulder while walking to a fire.
2. Can crawl on his/her hands and knees.
3. Can climb up and down stairs with equipment or hose lines.
4. Can pull heavy objects such as a person from a hazardous condition.
5. Can work in ambient temperatures of 100 to 150 degrees wearing self-contained breathing apparatus.
6. Can work in a confined space as an attic or crawl space of a structure.
7. Can lift a loaded stretcher into an ambulance.
8. Can grip ropes and tools with gloved hands.
9. Can use equipment to pull down ceiling or walls requiring his/her arms to be above his/her head.
10. Can cut or chop holes in roofs, walls, and floors using an axe.
11. Can lift a ladder weighing 75 pounds off of a truck or off the ground safely.