

What Is The Job of Firefighter Really Like? (continued)

At present, Firefighters must also be good students to stay up with the technologies and changes in fire prevention, suppression, hazardous materials, rescue and medical procedures. This involves many subjects, such as public education, arson investigation, and emergency medical procedures. In addition, Firefighters are becoming more involved with the mitigation of hazardous material incidents. Therefore, high levels of physical and mental fitness are essential for Firefighters to meet the demands of the job.

How Can I Become a Reserve Firefighter?

First, submit an application and copies of your FFI & EMT-I certifications to the City of Boulder City Personnel Department. Those individuals that meet the established minimum qualifications will be scheduled to participate in the selection process. Applicants passing the emergency medical testing phase of the process are selected to participate in a structured oral interview. Successful candidates must then pass a background investigation and Reserve Firefighter Training Program before appointment as a Reserve Firefighter. The Boulder City Fire Department's Reserve Firefighter Training Program is a Firefighter I skills proficiency and physical agility based program.

Expenses accrued during the process are the responsibility of the candidates.



Reserve Firefighter Application Handbook

BCFD



Prepared By:
THE BOULDER CITY
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dear Recruit Firefighter Applicant:

This pamphlet was developed for Reserve Firefighter recruit applicants by the City of Boulder City Fire Department. It explains what the job involves and how to prepare for the examinations and the interview portion of the process. Adequate preparation and familiarization with the various parts of the examination process will improve your chances of being successful.

If you are serious about an interesting and self-fulfilling position as a Reserve Firefighter, you are urged to prepare as thoroughly as possible for the practical test, interview process, and written test.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The City of Boulder City is committed to the goals of equal opportunity in all aspects of employment. Our equal opportunity program involves specific result-oriented procedures. These procedures, along with our good faith efforts, help to ensure equal employment opportunity. Therefore, it is the official policy of the City of Boulder City to:

- recruit, hire, train, and promote qualified persons for all job classifications without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.
- base decisions of employment to further the principle of equal employment opportunity;
- ensure that promotion decisions are in accord with principles of equal employment by imposing only job-related requirements for promotional opportunities;

What Happens After Each Exam?

After completion of the written exam, successful applicants will proceed to the practical test. Candidates who pass the written and practical test will be eligible to participate in the next phase of the process.

Interview & Background Process

After the completion of the emergency medical testing process, successful candidates will participate in a structured oral interview and background investigation. Upon successful completion of the interview and background investigation, the candidate will receive a conditional offer of employment as a Reserve Firefighter and must successfully pass the Reserve Firefighter Training Program.

What Is The Job of Firefighter Really Like?

Firefighting is an extremely difficult and demanding profession, both physically and mentally. The job requires each member to be able to do a variety of duties. This can range from fighting fires in structures with temperatures approaching 1000° F. or more, being able to remove severely injured people from auto accidents, treating people who have been severely injured, to delivering babies. The conditions that you will work under vary greatly and often are under the worst conditions imaginable. The one characteristic that is most associated with a successful Firefighter is the willingness to help others, regardless of the time of day or the assistance needed.

The physical and mental demands of firefighting are sometimes underestimated. Demanding physical standards are absolutely necessary because firefighting requires high levels of physical fitness and mental alertness.

Structured Oral Interview (continued)

Although this may seem like a lot of work, I can assure you that becoming a Reserve Firefighter with the Boulder City Fire Department will be one of the most rewarding opportunity you will ever experience.

How Do You Apply For Recruit Firefighter?

Qualified applicants should complete a City of Boulder City employment application form which may be obtained from the Personnel Department in City Hall, Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or on the City website. **Completed applications must be received in the Personnel Department during the designated recruitment period.**

What Type of Test Do You Have To Take?

The exam process consists of three tests. A written emergency medical exam, an emergency medical practical exam, and a physical agility test.

- Emergency Medical Written Exam: Multiple choice test covering medical and trauma emergencies. In order to proceed to the practical portion of the testing process, candidates must score at least 80% on the written test.
- Emergency Medical Practical Exam: Designed to evaluate the candidates emergency medical skills, all candidates will be tested at the EMT-I level utilizing the National Registry criteria and must show skill proficiency throughout the testing process.
- 3. Physical Agility Test: Through a series of fire related tasks, candidates must be able to demonstrate strength and stamina during the timed test.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (continued)

Employees and applicants with questions or potential complaints regarding equal employment opportunities are urged to bring these matters to either the attention of the Department Director, the City Manager, or the Personnel Administrator in order that appropriate review and/or action can occur.

All personnel actions will be reviewed by the Personnel Director to ensure compliance is being adhered to. Division and department managers are expected to cooperate fully in meeting our equal opportunity

What are the Qualifications and Special Requirements?

Ability to:

Maintain physical condition appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities which may include the following:

- *Performing life threatening firefighting activities in an emergency situation;*
- *Running, walking, crouching or crawling during emergency operations;*
- *Moving equipment and injured or deceased persons;*
- *Climbing stairs/ladders;*
- *Performing life-saving and rescue procedures;*
- *Walking, standing or sitting for extended periods of time; and*
- *Operating assigned equipment and vehicles.*

Effectively deal with personal danger which may include exposure to:

- *Fire encompassed surroundings;*

What are the Qualifications and Special Requirements?

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- *Dangerous persons;*
- *Dangerous animals;*
- *Hazards of emergency driving;*
- *Hazards associated with traffic control and working in and near traffic; and*
- *Natural and man-made disasters.*

Maintain effective audio-visual discrimination and perception needed for:

- *Making observations;*
- *Communicating with others;*
- *Reading and writing; and*
- *Operating assigned equipment and vehicles.*

Maintain mental capacity which allows the capability of:

- *Exercising sound judgment and rational thinking under dangerous circumstances;*
- *Evaluating various options and alternatives and choose an appropriate and reasonable course of action; and*
- *Demonstrating intellectual capabilities during training and testing processes.*

Experience and Training Requirements

Experience:

Six (6) months of EMS transport experience preferred. Firefighting experience is desirable.

Training:

Equivalent to graduation from high school. Must possess a Clark County Health District EMT-I certification and a Firefighter 1 certification. College level course work in fire science, fire administration or a related field is desirable.

How Can You Prepare For The Written Exam

The written emergency medical test consists of a 75 question multiple choice test and 1 essay question that covers medical and trauma emergencies at the EMT-I level.

It is suggested that reviewing the National Registry Curriculum will help you prepare for the test. A minimum competency score of 80% will be utilized as a passing score.

How To Prepare For The Structured Oral Interview

This step is often overlooked by many applicants and, in reality, is the first thing you should do in preparation for the Reserve Firefighter test. You should find out as much as you possibly can about the Boulder City Fire Department and the duties of a reserve firefighter. The best way to obtain this information is to visit the fire station during normal working hours (7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.). The Fire Department encourages everyone to spend some time at the station and speak with as many firefighters as possible. During these conversations you should ask questions about training requirements, day-to-day duty assignments, response calls, and how working 24-hour shifts affects their lives. In short, ask any questions that will help you understand what being a Firefighter is really like.

In addition, ask the on-duty Captain questions regarding the Department's expectations for Reserve Firefighters, how you will interact with the other firefighters, and how could this opportunity lead to a full time position with the department. This information will prove to be extremely valuable as you answer your interview questions.