

POSITION DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

PD Tracking 15655
Series, Title and Grade 0081 Firefighter GS-06
Organization Veterans Affairs

Introduction Statement

The purpose of the position is to drive a fire truck and operate firefighting apparatus of significant complexity; e.g., pumpers, aerial and ladder trucks; and to provide firefighting, rescue, and decontamination services.

Major Duties

Drives a fire truck that has complex apparatus such as pumpers and an aerial ladder to the scene of fires; follows a predetermined route, or selects an alternate route when necessary; positions the vehicle, considering factors such as wind direction, water sources, and hazards from falling structures.

Operates pumps, foam generators, boom and ground-sweep nozzles, and other similar equipment; determines proper pressure for the distances to be pumped and the number of lines being used; and applies principles of hydraulics to water flow friction and friction loss. When operating a crash truck, the firefighter maneuvers the vehicle to keep the fire in optimum range while ensuring that back-flash will not occur. The firefighter maintains a constant awareness of water levels in self-contained tanks and warns hand-line and rescue personnel when tanks are close to running dry.

Assists in training other firefighters in the skills of driving and operating the equipment.

Controls and extinguishes fires in large shops engaged in industrial, maintenance and repair activities at medical facilities. Many shops cannot be adequately protected by fire prevention techniques or require innovative prevention methods because of the basically hazardous nature of the operation. The firefighter is involved in activities that use highly toxic or flammable liquids and gases.

As a hazardous material first responder, the firefighter detects the presence of potentially hazardous materials; protects self and others by establishing a safe perimeter around the incident; advises the fire chief to notify responsible agencies and to call for assistance from qualified personnel; controls access to the area until the arrival of law enforcement; surveys the incident from a safe location to identify the name, identification number, or type placard applied for any hazardous materials involved; collects hazard and response information from current reference materials; uses, maintains, and decontaminates common hazardous material response equipment and supplies including protective clothing, breathing apparatus, dry and extinguishing chemicals, and decontamination agents and equipment; and replaces expended chemicals and agents.

Assists the injured by applying knowledge and training for such purposes to use direct pressure and tourniquets to stop bleeding, check the windpipe for obstructions, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, immobilize for safe transport, or provide other assistance at a comparable level of difficulty.

Nature of Assignment/Level of Responsibility

Ability to drive a complex fire truck.

Ability to operate complex firefighting apparatus and equipment.

Knowledge of the nature and location of the various medical facility operations in order to identify the appropriate firefighting procedures and controls to employ.

Proper firefighting, rescue, and decontamination methods and extinguishing agents to use in order to minimize structural damage and help protect building inhabitants.

Fire characteristics of the unique materials being tested in order to determine the most appropriate methods to extinguish fires, evacuate buildings, and eliminate or neutralize hazards.

Knowledge of a variety of first-aid techniques to assist the injured by stopping the bleeding, promoting breathing, and performing other assistance of comparable difficulty.

Knowledge of a variety of special protective gear in order to protecting himself/herself from fire hazards, hazardous materials, poisonous gases.

Supervisory Controls

The supervisor provides general supervision in terms of an outline of duties and responsibilities, issues general instructions, and reviews the work for general adequacy. The incumbent plans and conducts work with considerable independence.