

Job Description/Specifications

JOB TITLE: Support Firefighter

SALARY GRADE: Paid On-call

BRANCH: Fire

REPORTS TO: Assigned Fire Officer

SUPERVISES: None

1. GENERAL FUNCTION:

- a. Under direct supervision, responds to fires or fire related emergencies within the Palmer response area to protect life, property and environment; carry out the full range of exterior zone fire-ground tasks, supports tasks and functions in the interior zone; participates in fire safety inspections, fire prevention activities, station and equipment maintenance activities, and continual training activities; and to do other work as related.

2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. Don and doff personal protective clothing.
- b. Respond on apparatus to emergency scenes.
- c. Receive business or personal telephone calls.
- d. Assist Engineers in spotting and backing apparatus.
- e. Extinguish incipient fires with portable fire extinguishers.
- f. Select ropes and tie correct knots for hoisting tools and equipment.
- g. Transmit and receive messages via fire department radio.
- h. Use self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) during emergency operations. Exterior operations only and must have been fit tested.
- i. Set up ground ladders for various tasks.

- j. Extinguish fires from exterior at safe distance.
 - k. Combat urban-wildland interface fires.
 - l. Connect fire department apparatus to a water supply.
 - m. Deploy water supply hose for forward and reverse hose lays.
 - n. Load and off-load mobile water supply apparatus.
 - o. Illuminate the emergency scene.
 - p. Secure building utilities during emergency operations. Exterior accessible only.
 - q. Assist with vertical ventilation activities.
 - r. Clean, check and maintain ladders, ropes and hand tools.
 - s. Clean, inspect and return fire hose to service.
 - t. May drive and operate apparatus after certified through the Palmer Fire & Rescue driver/operator program on specific apparatus.
3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING:
- a. Must be at least 18 years of age.
 - b. Must have a high school diploma or state recognized equivalent.
 - c. Must have met all Hazardous Materials Awareness Level training requirements.
4. KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:
- a. No previous experience required. Skills and knowledge will be acquired through departmental training.
5. INITIATIVE AND JUDGMENT:
- a. Requires initiative in preparing for emergencies with training and maintenance activities. Should use his/her good judgment in performing all tasks and assignments following the Palmer Standard Operating Guidelines.
6. SUPERVISION:
- a. None. Work is performed under direct supervision.
7. PROPERTY AND RESOURCES:

- a. Expected to be familiar with the approved Standard Operating Guidelines for their level of training and role as a member within the department.
- b. Expected to carry out a full range of exterior zone fire-ground tasks using a variety of resources and equipment.
- c. Responsible for maintaining stations, protective gear and all equipment needed to carry out assigned tasks.

8. CONTACTS:

- a. Regular contact with personnel, supervisors and the public requires effective oral and written communication, tact and courtesy. Must establish and maintain effective working relationships with personnel, public and private officials and the community members.

9. WORKING CONDITIONS:

- a. Support Firefighter should work or live within the Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area. Work is on-call for emergencies and pre-scheduled for training. Work is performed in classrooms and out-of-doors involving essential firefighting functions as follows:
 - i. Operate as a team member at incidents of uncertain duration.
 - ii. Spend extensive time outside exposed to the elements.
 - iii. Work in wet, icy or muddy areas. Perform a variety of tasks on slippery, hazardous surfaces.
 - iv. Work in areas where sustaining traumatic or thermal injuries is possible.
 - v. Face exposure to infectious agents such as hepatitis B or HIV.
 - vi. Perform complex tasks during life-threatening emergencies.
 - vii. Be exposed to grotesque sights and smells associated with major trauma and burn victims.
 - viii. Operate in environments of high noise and poor visibility.
 - ix. Use manual and power tools in the performance of duties.
 - x. Rely on senses of sight, hearing, smell and touch to help maintain personal safety, and make critical decisions in a confused, chaotic and potentially life-threatening environment throughout the duration of the operation.

10. PHYSICAL EFFORT:

- a. Moderate physical exertion required in standing, walking, traveling between locations and performing support firefighter duties. Wear personal protective equipment that weighs approximately 30 lbs. while performing firefighting tasks. Work for long periods of time, requiring sustained physical activity and intense concentration.

John McNutt
Fire Chief