

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is the Department currently accepting applications?

A: No. We will be doing continuous recruitment through out the year. You will be able to submit an application that will be held until the next hiring cycle.

Q: Do I need firefighter or emergency medical services volunteer experience in order to be considered?

A: No. Previous experience is not required, all factors are considered when you apply, such work history, education, the ability to work in a team environment and the desire to serve the public in all facets as a firefighter / Rescuer.

Q: Will negative points on my driving record affect my chances of being considered?

A: Yes, these will be examined on a case by case basis. If you have more than -4 negative points on your driving record, this could hurt your chances in our process. Check with you local jurisdiction to see how to reduce your –negative point total.

Q: Once I have completed the process, will I be hired?

A: This is a competitive process, and not all candidates can be hired for recruit school.

Q: How many candidates do you plan to hire in the coming year?

A: Based upon budget considerations and current vacancies, we hope to hire between 15-24 Firefighter/Rescuers over the next year.

Q: If I have successfully passed the Candidate Physical Ability test (CPAT) with another jurisdiction, can I be exempted from your CPAT?

A: You may be CPAT exempted as long as you have provided valid documentation with verification that you have successfully passed CPAT with a jurisdiction licensed under the IAFF and IAFC. *However, a valid CPAT must have been completed before the date of our scheduled CPAT test. Our dates for the CPAT exam are January 12th and 13th 2010.(CPAT is valid for six months after your test date).*

Q: If I took the written test with another jurisdiction, is my score accepted by you?

A: NO We use the CWH Firefighter Test (first edition). We recommend that you take the exam again, even if you have taken the CWH test in the past 12 months. Cut off scores vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

What are the working hours of this position?

A: We average a 56-hour work week. Firefighter/ Rescuer's in Alexandria work on average ten 24 hour shifts per month. The shifts rotate with a member working weekends and holidays. These shifts start at 7 a.m. and end at 7a.m.

Q: I am a Firefighter/EMT in another jurisdiction. Do you accept lateral transfers without competition?

A: We do not accept lateral transfers. All applicants are required to complete a competitive process.

Q: I am in the military and want to start the process, when should I apply?

A: We highly recommend you apply about 6 – 12 months prior to your end time in service. Our training academy will start in February. You will need to be available to complete all scheduled events, because failure to do so will disqualify you from the current process. We will work with military candidates to insure they have a fair chance to make all scheduled events in the process.

Q: Do you hire individuals who are not United States citizens?

A: You do not need to be a U. S. citizen; however, you must present official documentation that you are legally eligible to work in the U.S.

Q: Do I need to be a resident of Virginia or the City of Alexandria in order to work there?

A: No, we have no residency requirements.

Q: Do you consider applicants who have legal, drug, etc. issues in their backgrounds?

A: We will discuss these issues with candidates on an individual basis. However, you will be disqualified if you are not truthful about these issues on your application form or any time during the selection process. We cannot hire anyone who has been convicted of a felony. Any recent drug use is a disqualifier also.

Q: How do I find out if a medical condition is not allowed under National Fire Protection Association regulations?

A. You may inquire with the Fire Department's Human Resource Manager to clarify any questions about the medical conditions not allowed under NFPA regulations.

Q: I wear glasses will that disqualify me?

A: We follow NFPA regulations on medical allowances. This will be evaluated by a doctor who will determine if your vision meets the standards. Eye glasses and contacts are allowed.

Q. I currently possess a Virginia EMT-I (Paramedic Intermediate) license or a NREMT-P (National Registered Paramedic) license. Does this help me in the hiring process?

A. Yes, when you have completed all phase of the hiring process, this will give you an extra factor to consider in the final selection process for candidates.