

**CITY OF SALEM
FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR**

1250

NATURE OF WORK

The work involves driving emergency vehicles to fires and other emergencies, operating pumps and equipment at emergencies, and performing general firefighting, emergency medical service, and fire prevention work.

Vehicles operated include fire engines, aerial trucks, tankers, air supply vehicles, grass fire response trucks, and other more standardized vehicles such as vans and passenger vehicles. A Fire Apparatus Operator attends organized training classes and participates in planned drills; there is substantial station, property, and equipment maintenance to be performed. Work is usually performed under the direction of a fire officer.

The work of the Fire Apparatus Operator is distinguished from that of the Firefighter/Paramedic by the focus on apparatus operation to and at emergency scenes, although the work may also involve all duties performed by a Firefighter. The work of this classification is distinguished from that of a Fire Captain by the absence of on-going authority to direct station activities, command emergency incidents, and direct the work of others.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK

(Any single position of a class will not usually involve all of the essential duties listed and many positions will involve essential duties which are not listed.)

Drives assigned fire apparatus or fire vehicle to and from fires and emergencies, determine appropriate route for timely response, maintains knowledge of road closures, out of service hydrants, and construction activities, which would delay arrival; operates pumps and other mechanical equipment; participates in laying and connecting hoses, usually under direction of a fire officer, and controls pressure of water flow. Utilizes lights, sirens, horns, and other signal devices, to communicate to traffic and pedestrians oncoming emergency vehicles are en route. Maneuvers vehicles through heavy traffic, along one way and dead end streets, urban intersections, performs backing maneuvers, aligns vehicles to hydrants, curbs, and positions emergency vehicles for readiness and functionality during the emergency.

Operates pumps and controls, regulates water pressure, air pressure, etc. Connects to a variety of water supplies from emergency vehicle. Assists in laying and connecting hoses, refilling oxygen bottles, transporting supplies and equipment where needed.

Maintains assigned fire apparatus in condition of readiness, inspects, tests, and maintains all equipment and tools carried by fire apparatus.

Participates in organized drills and attends classes; participates in self-study fire training programs.

Participates in fire prevention inspections noting fire hazards, emergency exits, identifying fire load factors, and communicating suggestions for fire prevention to business owners; prepares pre-fire plans, identifying features such as exits, windows, water supply, etc.

Participates in providing basic medical services.

Performs housekeeping assignments at fire station, such as cleaning kitchen, organizing engine bay, replenishing station supplies, etc.

Performs other related duties as required.

WORK QUALIFICATIONS

Two years experience as a Firefighter, with one year current service with the Salem Fire Department, and completion of BPSST Firefighter 1 & 2 accreditation, or verification of same from SFD, and verification of BPSST Apparatus Operator 1 & 2 competencies from SFD; and any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

Knowledge of the operation of pumps, hydraulics, and physical dynamics effecting water and air pressure.

Knowledge of the basic operation of vehicles and their routine maintenance.

Considerable skill in the operation of fire engines, tankers, aerial trucks, and other related apparatus and pumps, motors, and controls of apparatus during emergency responses in urban settings with safety precautions.

Ability to learn various and numerous fire suppression methods, procedures, and techniques, including the operation of specialized fire fighting equipment.

Ability to learn the operation and mechanical principles involved in operating fire apparatus.

Ability to accurately recall the street system pattern and physical design of the City of Salem.

Ability to perform strenuous activity under hazardous and dangerous circumstances.

Possession of a valid Oregon driver's license or Class C license and the ability to meet the City's driving standards.

Skill in the use of personal computers and keyboarding skills is desirable.

Bilingual skills are desirable.

Work Qualifications after Appointment:

Newly appointed Fire Apparatus Operators must successfully complete BPSST Apparatus Operator 3 training, by SFD, during their probationary period.

Work is performed at a fire station and at emergency incidents during a 24 hour rotating shift, including holidays and weekends. Work involves exposure to noise, fumes, chemicals, extreme temperatures, dust, smoke, and large volumes of water, with proper safety precautions. The work can be strenuous on occasion involving driving large apparatus in heavy traffic, backing and maneuvering large vehicles in all weather at various times of the day. Operates a variety of power and hand tools, reading dials and gauges in limited light, wearing breathing apparatus and protective gear, fighting fires, and providing medical services. Physical dexterity and stamina is required to perform a variety of firefighting, station duties, apparatus operation and maintenance duties. Work is performed in traffic, heights, or below ground in emergency settings. Must possess visual, sensory, and hearing acuity to perform duties of position. Work at the fire station may involve routine vehicle maintenance, testing apparatus, participating in drills and related training, and routine station maintenance duties.

Personnel Director

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