

Summary of Duties: Drives specialized heavy fire apparatus such as aerial ladder trucks, aircraft crash rapid intervention vehicles, hazardous materials squad vehicles, and heavy utility vehicles; operates and maintains a variety of rescue equipment and tools; participates in company fire prevention programs, training activities and public relations; may perform the duties of a Firefighter at the scene of an emergency; and does related work.

Distinguishing Features: An employee of this class receives limited direction in determining the proper placement and operation of fire apparatus. The quickness, efficiency, and skill of incumbents have significant affect on the success of emergency operations including rescues. Apparatus Operators often work under conditions involving serious hazards to personal safety, where presence of mind, job knowledge, and physical fitness are essential to minimize danger.

The class of Apparatus Operator is distinguished from the class of Engineer of Fire Department in that the latter operates triple combination fire apparatus including fire pumps and uses a detailed knowledge of hydraulics to pump water for fire suppression purposes. An Apparatus Operator may perform the duties of an Engineer of Fire Department in the latter's absence or when the latter is temporarily performing higher level duties. The class of Apparatus Operator is distinguished from the class of Firefighter in that the latter normally leaves the apparatus at the scene of an emergency to perform regular firefighting or rescue duties such as laying hose, searching for victims, and ventilating structures. However, when not operating fire apparatus, an Apparatus Operator may frequently be assigned firefighting and rescue duties.

Examples of Duties: Inspects and maintains heavy fire apparatus and hazardous materials equipment in readiness to respond to emergencies; drives heavy fire apparatus such as aerial ladder trucks, heavy utility toxic and hazardous materials response, and emergency air supply vehicles, or an aircraft crash Rapid Intervention vehicles; determines safest and most correct response route when notified of an emergency; drives safely and quickly to the scene of an emergency; positions heavy apparatus for safe and effective operations at fires and hazardous materials incidents; operates and maintains hydraulically powered aerial ladders, booms, and a variety of apparatus for firefighting operations to provide access for other members of the firefighting or rescue crew or to rescue trapped people; supervises decontamination operations; operates and oversees use and maintenance of portable pneumatic, electrical, and hydraulic tool such as chainsaws, generators, winches, torches, drills, cutting tools, jackhammers, chisels, bolt cutters, blowers, "Jaws-of-Life", and other forcible entry and rescue tools; inspects and tests engines, ignitions, lights, hydraulic systems, emergency warning devices, communication systems and rescue and entry equipment for proper operation; inspects apparatus for proper condition of oil, water,

fuel, supplies, tires, wiring, linkages, and running gears; on assigned apparatus performs required preventive maintenance; lubricates apparatus as required; maintains necessary records; diagnoses and reports apparatus mechanical problems; performs minor mechanical repairs; maintains an inventory of apparatus and equipment; maintains service log book; cleans assigned apparatus and equipment; trains personnel in apparatus and equipment operations, oil hydraulic theory, safe driving practices and use of decontamination chemicals and test and detection equipment.

Inspects and wears self-contained breathing apparatus and chemical entry suits; makes forcible entry into structures; raises, lowers, and climbs ground ladders; performs rescues and administers first aid; ventilates structures to remove heat, smoke, and hot gases; replaces sprinkler heads and overhauls burned structures to ensure complete extinguishment of fires and to eliminate hazardous conditions; performs salvage operations to minimize water and smoke damage by the proper use of salvage covers, sawdust, shovels, squeegees, water-vac and submersible water pumps; assists in maintaining fire station facilities, hoses, and ladders; participates in station security; attends training sessions and company drills to maintain knowledge and improve on firefighting and rescue skills; makes fire prevention and pre-fire planning inspections under the general supervision of a company officer; issues notices of violations of Municipal Code's and State fire prevention provisions; discusses violations with the public to obtain correction of fire hazards without judicial action; maintains fire prevention files; participates in the company's public relations programs; and may act as a company commander.

Assist in planning and conducting in-service training programs on aerial ladder truck preventive maintenance, repair, aerial techniques, and vehicle operation; assists in administering driver training; instructs field personnel in use and maintenance of new apparatus; coordinates with field and Supply and Maintenance personnel in testing and evaluating equipment; writes procedural guides and training manuals for apparatus;

Instructs Recruit Firefighters in procedures for driving aerial ladder trucks and using vehicle systems.

Participates in helicopter-borne firefighting and rescue operations; operates air transportable firefighting tools and equipment; provides emergency medical service to the public as an emergency medical technician or paramedic. Serves as Apparatus Operator Specialist (Helitac certified) at Air Operations; responds to emergencies and operates specialized air rescue equipment.

Apparatus Operators may occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or unexpected emergencies.

Qualifications : A thorough knowledge of Fire Department rules,

regulations, practices, and procedures; thorough knowledge of the principles of oil hydraulics and mechanics as related to the operation of aerial ladders, heavy fire apparatus, and fire equipment; thorough knowledge of the operations and preventive maintenance of assigned apparatus; thorough knowledge of Fire Department evolutions and procedures; thorough knowledge of firefighting and rescue methods and equipment including first aid; thorough knowledge of firefighting and rescue techniques, principles, and related hazards; thorough knowledge of characteristics of fire; thorough knowledge of tillering techniques; thorough knowledge of standpipe and sprinkler operations and connections; good knowledge of traffic regulations; good knowledge of care and use of power tools, breathing apparatus, resuscitation equipment, ropes, tools and other equipment; good knowledge of the geography of the first and greater alarm districts to which assigned; good knowledge of principles of basic chemistry; working knowledge of fire prevention practices, procedures, legal requirements, and inspection activities; working knowledge of building construction and materials as required for ventilation, forcible entry, salvage, and other firefighting or rescue operations; skill to drive and operate heavy fire apparatus; ability to analyze fire and driving situations and to adopt effective courses of action; ability to position aerial ladder trucks quickly and safely and to operate aerial ladders effectively under hazardous conditions; ability to diagnose mechanical problems and to accurately report the needed repairs; ability to conduct training sessions on theory and operation of the assigned apparatus; ability to work effectively and to communicate with other department members, supervisors, and the public; and ability to carry out written and verbal orders effectively.

Three years of full-time experience as a Firefighter in the Los Angeles City Fire Department is required for Apparatus Operator. Courses in Fire Science/Fire Protection Administration or courses accepted in an approved Fire Science/Fire Protection Administration program of a recognized college or university may be substituted for up to six months of the required experience at the rate of 30 semester or 45 quarter units for six months of experience. At least half of the units must be in Fire Science/Fire Protection Administration courses.

License: A valid Class 2 driver's license is required prior to appointment. A valid Class 1 driver's license may be required prior to appointment to certain positions.

Physical Requirements: Candidates for Apparatus Operator must fully meet the medical standards prescribed by the Board of Civil Service Commissioners.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what the duties and responsibilities of any position

shall be.