

**FIREBOAT MATE
(Class Code 5125)**

TASK LIST

I. FIREBOAT OPERATION

1. Visually inspects area for conditions which may affect boat operation such as objects floating in the water or loose objects on the deck in order to have them corrected or to take them into consideration when operating the boat in order to avoid damage to the boat and/or equipment.
2. Reads charts of the harbor for purposes such as determining the exact location of a destination, depth of water at a particular location, or alternate safe route if the most direct route cannot be used.
3. Energizes electrical circuits by activating switches such as annunciator, steering, communications systems, radios, depth sounder, and/or radar in order to have the boat ready for start up.
4. Checks position of transfer control to ensure that controls will operate at the desired pilot station.
5. Starts the engines by pressing the starter switch and observing the tachometer and oil pressure gauge for indication of engine speed and correct operating oil pressure in order to have the boat ready for operation.
6. Checks that the independent power sources (batteries and/or generators) are in working order by observing the overall operation of the boat.
7. Confirms one of the boat crew to disconnect the land-based alternating current (A.C.) power lines.
8. Confirms that the boat is ready for operation by reading meters and dials such as engine rpm, hydraulic pressure for propeller and/or valve controls, and/or water pressure at the pilot station.
9. Orders one of the boat crew to cast off the mooring lines so that the boat is free to move.
10. Operates small fireboat by moving the gear levers to put the engine in gear, moving the throttle levers to position for the desired speed and direction (forward or reverse), and turning the wheel to port or starboard to steer the boat.

11. Turns on required port, starboard, bow, and stern lights when operating the fireboat after dark or when visibility is poor in order to avoid accidents and to comply with regulations.
12. Takes boat to emergency or fire site by the most direct route taking into account Coast Guard and Harbor Department rules regulating boat traffic in the harbor.
13. Reads the compass when visibility is poor in order to turn boat to correct heading for course planned after reading a chart and to ensure that the boat is moving in the desired direction.
14. Interprets data on forward looking infrared (FLIR) and radar screens at various scale settings in order to navigate the boat avoiding obstacles and other boat traffic when visibility is poor.
15. Uses two-way radio and phone (in compliance with LAFD and FCC regulations), deck speakers, or bullhorn to communicate with the fire station, other fireboats, other firefighting personnel, other vessels, and Harbor patrol, and Coast Guard officers in order to receive and/or to provide information.
16. Uses wheel, transmission shift levers, throttle levers, and thrusters to perform maneuvers with small fireboats such as holding position while compensating for wind, tides, and recoil effect of pumping a high volume of water through one of the nozzles while doing a wharf sweep; holding the boat in position while divers are underwater; backing into a slip; and turning the boat around.
17. Makes notes or verbal reports of damaged or defective equipment which need repair or which have been removed for some reason in order to provide information for the mate on the next shift and/or the Fire Captain.
18. Takes fireboat and crew out for practice and/or for scheduled drills, as directed by the Fire Captain, in order to maintain boat operating and handling skills at a high level.
19. Instructs new crew members and visitors in safety such as safe methods of boarding the boat, safe use of steps and ladders, keeping away from moving or pressurized equipment, and safe handholds in order to avoid accidents and to prevent injury.

Operates large fireboats under the supervision of a Fireboat Pilot or when the Fireboat Pilot is incapacitated by:

20. ordering the engineer to start the pumps supplying water to the maneuvering jets and to start the hydraulic pump which operates the valves controlling the water supply for the maneuvering jets in order to have the jets ready for use when needed;

21. moving the boat by opening the bow and stern maneuvering jets, for example, moving the boat sideways by opening both jets on the side opposite the desired direction of motion;
22. giving directions to the boat personnel using voice, phone, loudspeaker, or setting “start” or “stop” on the engine telegraph dials at the pilot’s station, or by using proper deck channel;
23. operating the underwharf nozzle by moving toggle switches to direct the stream of water in the desired direction and elevation as required for a drill or as instructed by the Fire Captain during an emergency;
24. using rudder, engine throttles, and maneuvering jets to perform maneuvers or cycloidal drive, such as holding position while compensating for wind, tides, and recoil effect of pumping a high volume of water through one or more of the nozzles; doing a wharf sweep; or holding position while feeding water to land-based firefighters;
25. landing boat at locations other than the station dock by reducing speed, turning to the correct heading, bringing the boat to the desired position, ordering the mooring lines and fenders attached, and stopping the engines when the boat is secure if they are not needed for purposes such as pumping water or generating power;
26. supervises dropping the anchor over the bow, making sure it is safe to let the line run, letting out the proper amount of line for the depth, pulling on the line to check that the anchor is secure and/or tying off the line to the forward bitt, looking to see if the boat drifts, and letting out additional line as needed to correct scope to correct the slope and drift in order to hold the boat in position at the desired location;
27. raising anchor by positioning the boat directly over the anchor (or asking the pilot to position the boat), pulling up line, bring anchor and chain back on board, and stowing the line and anchor in the correct places in order to allow the boat to move;
28. docks boat at station by turning boat so stern is toward the dock, reversing the engines, slowly backing in alongside the dock, and ordering the mooring lines attached;
29. orders boat connected to land-based alternating current (A.C.) power source;
30. turns off the engines, running lights, radar, radio and other communications systems;

31. enters data about destinations, reason for boat operation (such as drill or incident), times of departure and arrival, time spent pumping, and condition of equipment in logs and/or other required records in order to have data available when needed and to meet requirements for record keeping.

II. FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, SMALL BOATS

32. Assists divers getting into suits and diving gear by holding suit to make it easier for diver to get arms into it, fastening zipper on dry suits, and/or holding tanks and fastening tank straps.
33. Visually checks suited divers for proper sealing of suits and/or face masks and proper attachment and connection of air tanks.
34. Acts as dive master while divers are underwater by flying the “diver down” flag; logging time and depth of water for each diver; operating the underwater communications systems; keeping the area where divers are working under observation for location of divers by bubble streams and for possible hazards; and keeping other boats out of the area.
35. Assists divers in firefighting by throwing out floats, paying out hose, pumping water, watching for hazards, and/or maneuvering the boat.
36. Assists divers in rescue or salvage work by dropping ropes, handing them tools or buoys, lowering tools on ropes, watching for hazards, maneuvering the boat as needed, and by positioning and/or repositioning the search weight and buoy to direct the search pattern in order to search the area efficiently.
37. Coordinates other boats in a search pattern by indicating previous locations of the search weight and divers and directing the boat operators of other boats to unsearched areas in order to search a large area efficiently.
38. Assists divers in bringing rescued persons or salvaged objects on board by dropping or throwing ropes; catching the person or object with a rescue tool and holding it in position or pulling it closer to the boat; or grasping it and pulling it onto the swim steps and transferring it to the boat.
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39. Assists divers returning to the boat by helping them get over the swim steps, take off their air tanks, and take off their suits.
40. Operates levers at pilot station to control direction and elevation of water from bow nozzle in order to fight fires effectively and/or to coordinate water placement with that of other fireboats and/or land-based units at the fire scene.
41. Assumes role as incident commander when first to arrive at the scene of an emergency by giving accurate size up (exact location, type and size of incident,

and need for additional resources), formulates strategy for dealing with the incident, and gives orders until a higher ranking officer arrives.

III. FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, GENERAL

42. Observes boats, wharves, storage areas, and other waterfront structures for possible violations of fire safety regulations or other hazardous conditions when using the fireboat in non-emergency circumstances in order to investigate and/or report possible violations.
43. Inspects installations in the harbor area for compliance with City and Harbor Department regulations for fire safety and storage of toxic or hazardous substances either alone or accompanied by another member of the Fire Department.
44. Inspects tank ships by taking the fireboat to the designated marine oil terminal and checking for violations of Division 95 of the Los Angeles Fire Code/Joint Tankship Inspection Program (JTIP) such as not having sufficient fire protection equipment on both the tanker and terminal facilities, electrical equipment not grounded, or hoses improperly connected or maintained.

IV. FIREBOAT MAINTENANCE

45. Conducts daily apparatus and equipment checks of items such as communications equipment, radar, battery power supply, and resuscitator and corrects problems by means such as replacing batteries or sending equipment to the shop for repairs.
46. Conducts periodic apparatus and equipment checks of items such as dry chemical extinguishers, radios, hull and engine zincs, pumps, and alarms and performs routine maintenance such as refilling, recharging, or lubricating.
47. Checks that required supplies and equipment (except equipment personally assigned to divers or firefighters) are on board and in usable condition including hoses, fittings, spare air tanks, foam containers, ropes, buoys, dewatering equipment, ventilation equipment, portable impeller and siphon ejector pumps, floats, and batteries.
48. Cleans, and lubricates as needed, chain saws and other power tools kept on the fireboat for use in emergencies and firefighting.
49. Checks status of oxygen and gasoline cylinders kept on the fireboat for use with petrogen cutting torches and has them refilled or replaced, as needed.
50. Directs boat crew in refilling foam tank after use by pouring in liquid concentrate.

51. Participates in pre-fire planning inspections of boats and waterfront property to determine factors such as access and best approaches, stored hazardous materials or other hazardous conditions, location of utility lines, and layout and construction of boats or facilities in order to plan for a possible fire in advance of the emergency.
52. Completes inspection records kept on the boat and transfers the information into the logbook in order to document regular inspection.
53. Performs routine cleaning tasks such as sweeping, dusting, removing trash, and cleaning glass instrument dials and windows personally or with the assistance of the boat crew in order to have it in condition for most efficient operation.
54. Observes conditions of the fireboat including permanently installed equipment and fittings such as checking for water damage to painted surfaces, pumps and engine hosing, ladders, and metal fittings and noting damaged or defective equipment including latches, ropes, or hoses so the damage can be repaired before serious problems develop.
55. Cleans and paints surfaces where protective coatings have failed by chipping away rust, sanding, and/or washing with solvents or detergents and by applying primer and/or paint with a brush or roller either personally or with the assistance of the crew in order to protect surfaces exposed to water or other types of damage.
56. Makes minor repairs such as replacing defective latches, replacing stripped screws, and replacement of weather stripping or straps either personally or with the assistance of the crew in order to have boat and equipment in condition for safe and efficient operation.
57. Keeps tools used for maintenance and repair of fireboats and equipment in condition for use by cleaning them after use and performing other maintenance as needed such as sharpening chisels and squaring off screw drivers using the grinder, and cleaning and lubricating portable power tools such as chain saws, metal saws, and drills.
58. Rinses hoses and fittings in fresh water after use by fireboat crew either personally or with the assistance of the crew in order to prevent damage or deterioration after exposure to salt water.
59. Checks hoses and/or fittings for damage such as abrasion, leaks, and stripped threads in order to have them replaced and/or repaired.
60. Ensures annual pressure tests of hoses in accordance with LAFD policy by running water through the hose at specified pressures and time periods for each type of hose.

61. Ensures that hose is properly stored after each use either personally or by directing crew in order to have it available for rapid, efficient use when needed.
62. Checks ropes for damage such as abrasion or broken strands in order to have them repaired or replaced so they will be ready for use when needed.
63. Tests operation of navigation and communication equipment and makes minor repairs such as adjusting ranges or replacing batteries.
64. Checks periodically to see that materials such as charts, Notice to Mariners (Coast Guard information), and tide tables are up to date and reorder them as needed in order to have current navigation materials, regulations, and other required information available for use when needed.
65. Lubricates fixed equipment on the fireboat such as valves, swivels, and threads in order to maintain them in good operating condition.
66. Reports need for major repairs to boat or equipment to the Captain in order to have them scheduled promptly.
67. Assists with major repairs by means such as removing bolts or covers, helping rig tackle to move parts to provide access or to remove defective parts and bring in new ones, or turning equipment on or off as directed by repairer.

V. COMMUNICATION

68. Discusses such matters as work assignments, schedules, and problems with Fire Captains, Fireboat Mates, engineers, and/or firefighters for such purposes as exchanging information, giving directions, and giving orders.
69. Completes standard forms such as service records, and accident reports, which are required by Department procedures.
70. Writes notes to supervisor or other LAFD personnel or fills out forms to requisition or order parts, materials, and tools needed to install, maintain, and/or repair fireboat equipment so that fireboats are always in condition for use when fires or other emergencies occur.

VI. SUPERVISION

71. Supervises deckhands in assigning tasks to crew members, directing them during routine maintenance, and checking that boat maintenance and other routine tasks have been performed correctly by spot checks and/or periodic inspections in order to ensure that required work is done correctly.

72. Trains firefighters in operation of fireboats by giving instructions and observing performance in order to have relief available when needed and to prepare firefighters for promotion.
73. Coordinates with engineers when fireboat is in operation by giving instructions and discussing problems, which may arise in order to operate the fireboat and to perform firefighting effectively.
74. Operates fireboat by using a combination of controls (wheels and sticks) to control the speed and direction.
75. Demonstrates the proper procedure and safe operation of hydraulic crane assigned to fireboat.
76. Resuscitates or treats victims in case of drowning, heart attack, and/or other medical emergencies.