



## **FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC APPARATUS OPERATOR**

### **Definition:**

Under supervision, the Firefighter/Paramedic - Apparatus Operator responds to fires and other emergency calls to protect life and property. He or she operates and maintains District apparatus and equipment, participates in training and fire prevention activities, and performs other duties relative to firefighting, and medical care as required. He or she provides Advanced Life Support First Responder pre-hospital emergency medical care and assistance to victims of accidents, injuries or illness.

### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Possess a valid California Class C Driver's License and pass an "insurability" check by the District's insurance carrier.
- Possess and maintain a valid State of California Paramedic License and accreditation from Santa Cruz County.
- Possess and maintain a valid Basic Life Support (BLS), and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certification card.
- Provide proof of eligibility to work in the United States.

### **Education:**

- Experience which demonstrates the possession of and competency in the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for job performance as a Paramedic.
- Hazardous Materials First Responder (Operations) Certification.
- State Driver/Operator 1A and 1B Certifications.
- ICS 200 Certification.

**Note: Successful completion of an approved State of California Paramedic**

**Program recognized by Santa Cruz County, would demonstrate possession of requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities.**

**Typical Duties:**

- Applies the proper use of ladders, fire hose, forcible entry tools and self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Performs salvage and overhaul operations.
- Administers emergency first aid and CPR using resuscitators and other emergency medical equipment.
- Maintains familiarity with the District policies, procedures and programs.
- Maintains proficiency in firefighting and rescue techniques and participates in District training programs.
- Drives and operates all fire apparatus and, if qualified, the Districts' aerial in a safe manner and with due regard for the welfare of the public and the District.
- Maintains familiarity of streets, topography, physical conditions and other matters affecting response within the District.
- Maintains basic familiarity with practices and procedures relative to water supply, fire hydraulics, pumps and other operations to enable efficient performance of duties.
- Participates in fire prevention and public safety programs.
- Performs work as assigned by the Fire Chief or designated representative relative to firefighting, the District's equipment and related facilities and grounds.

**Typical Duties as Paramedic:**

- Respond to emergency medical calls.
- Take and monitor vital signs.
- Evaluate condition of patient based on medical evaluation, history, protocol, and orders.
- Effectively communicate with base hospital Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICNs) and E.R. physicians.
- Interview patients and witnesses.
- Observe evidence at scene.
- Coordinate with transport personnel.
- Direct and work with Firefighter/EMTs at the scene.

- Complete patient care reports and other related paperwork associated with Advanced Life Support (ALS).
- Ensure that all medical equipment, supplies, and medications are accounted for, and in good working order.
- Train with company personnel so as to provide expeditious ALS care.

**Ability to:**

- Maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to adequately perform the typical duties outlined above.
- Become certified as a Driver/Operator of all District apparatus (within the eighteen (18) month probation period).
- Successfully pass eighteen (18) month probation period and associated tests.
- Become certified as a Firefighter I.
- Observe and evaluate patient status and conditions at scene.
- Determine appropriate BLS and ALS procedures.
- Make decisions rapidly under stressful conditions.
- Perform BLS and ALS life support including CPR, cardiac monitoring (EKG interpretation), and defibrillation.
- Administer medications via appropriate route per protocol.
- Monitor and maintain patient airway to include endotracheal intubation and needle cricothyroidotomy.
- Communicate technical and medical information effectively.
- Learn and apply Santa Cruz County radio protocol to transmit medical information to base hospitals.
- Prepare accurate and complete Pre-hospital Care Reports (PCRs) and other related documents.
- Learn and apply fire suppression methods and techniques.
- Maintain physical health, strength, stature and ability to meet the demands of the position.

**Knowledge of:**

- Fire suppression, ventilation, rescue, and salvage techniques.
- Fire prevention and safety inspection techniques.
- Applicable laws, codes, ordinances, policies, and protocol.

- Advanced Life Support pre-hospital emergency medical care.
- Basic human anatomy and physiology.
- Medical terminology
- Techniques and analytical processes used in the description and assessment of patient status.
- Categories, indications and contraindications, and appropriate dosage levels of medications. Procedures and equipment used in monitoring patient vital signs, symptoms of impaired cardiac and respiratory functioning, altered states of consciousness, various types of toxicity, and poisoning, shock, and common diseases.
- Basic arithmetic and metric system.

**Desirable Qualifications:**

- S190 and S290 Certifications.
- Command 1A and 1B Certifications.
- Six courses in the field of Fire Protection Technology.