

PARAMEDIC/FIREFIGHTER

MAJOR FUNCTION

This is a technical position concerning work in the protection of life and property of an emergency and hazardous nature. Additionally responsible for handling and treatment of patients in a manner conducive to their safety and comfort and adhering to instructions provided by the Medical Director, physician, nurses or other paramedics as established by hospital and County policies and procedures and level of training attained.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The following statements describe the principal functions of this job and its scope of responsibility, but should not be considered an all-inclusive listing of work requirements. Individuals may perform other duties as assigned, including working in other functional areas to cover absences or relief, to equalize peak work periods or otherwise to balance the work load.

- Performs firefighting and paramedic duties for the protection of life and property and operates fire and emergency medical service equipment as emergencies and conditions demand. Performs all duties that are required of an Paramedic/FF.
- Learns, understands and abides by all County, Fire Department, and Medical Director operational, procedural, personnel, and safety rules, regulations and protocols. Reports accidents and hazards promptly and properly.
- Maintains vehicle in efficient operating condition and maintains clean and well stocked advanced life support or basic life support rescue units. Accurately inventories assigned equipment and supplies each shift. Operates vehicle and portable radios in compliance with accepted policies and procedures. Fully completes all necessary paperwork and submits copies to administration in a timely manner, including but not limited to, run reports, State EMS reports, training records and time sheets.
- Inspects building, facilities and properties for safety hazards upon request of owner or occupant.
- Takes regular turn in the housekeeping and maintenance of living quarters, grounds keeping, of the area around the assigned stations, etc.
- Proficiently uses, assembles, services and makes repairs to firefighting, rescue and medical equipment as assigned. Performs such duties as inspecting, cleaning and testing apparatus daily.
- Determines and understands fire behavior, the burning process, heat transfer, products of combustion, classification of fires and the methods used for extinguishment.
- Operates and inspects a variety of types of fire extinguishers, ties and utilizes ropes and knots for equipment and safety. Understands self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) types, how and when to use, inspection and care and safety precautions regarding the SCBA.

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- Uses a 35 foot extension ladder that weights up to 185 pounds and is lifted by a two person team when necessary.
- Uses forcible entry tools, and understands types, care, maintenance, and safety usage of these tools.
- Participates in training and inservice sessions dealing with rescue and emergency situations.
- Assists in the orientation, evaluation, and training of new and existing personnel, students, or volunteers.
- Required to report to work at the appointed hour, as scheduled, and to work the entire assigned shift.

Performs the Following:

- Upon arrival at the scene of a major incident, may be required to lay supply line (fire hose) manually using both hands and pulls supply line from back of fire truck and wraps it around hydrant and visually monitors truck. Manually attaches fire hose to hydrant and manually use hydrant wrench, turns hydrant to allow water to flow. Physical strength is required to turn on hydrant valve.
- Reports and receives additional verbal instructions. Pulls 200 feet of pre-connected 1-1/4 inch attack line from side of vehicle and holding line with both hands, advances toward fire. Will assist in placement and utilization of heavy appliances (devices which allow the flow of large amounts of water). Lifts line over shoulder and uses physical strength to continually pull line. Upon charging of attached line, proceeds to fire scene and stands and holds line to fire base, bends, stoops but mainly crawls while inside of structure, putting out fires for periods of 15 to 30 minutes on a regular basis.
- Upon emergency notice (an audible alarm) dons emergency equipment, weighting 85 pounds and climbs onto engine. Based on type of emergency, will perform a variety of tasks ranging from extrication, delivering or direct patient care, and firefighting duties. Physical agility, strength and stamina are used during emergency situations. Will extricate by a variety of methods ranging from holding and using rescue saw (weights 50 pounds), holding and using the Amkus rescue tool (weight 75 pounds) and applying physical strength to pry open doors, hoods, and separate heavy metal objects. Manually uses hux bars, pry bars, and applies physical strength to clear the way to reach trapped and injured patients. Bends, stoops, crawls, leans, stands, reaches overhead to operate these tools. Visually and audibly alert to detect hazards and other safety concerns. Remains calm and professional during emergency situations and constantly follows proper safety procedures.
- In teams of two or alone, with little or no visibility, crawls throughout structure on hands and knees or lying flat and dragging self by hand and arms and searches for potential victims. Upon finding persons, will physically remove them by dragging or carrying them out of the structure to safety.

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- Performs ventilation of structure by carrying and placing ladders outside of structures. Climbs ladder to point above seat of fire and carries tools with them to designated location. Manually cuts roof open with ax, chain saw or rescue saw. Ladders will vary in length depending on structure. Ladders extend 85 feet above ground and agility and speed are required to reach designated areas and for some emergencies to physically remove victims from roofs and similar heights.
- Understands and operates ventilation systems, sprinkler systems and other types of water supplies. Knows how and when to locate, care for, and use alternative water supply sources and general maintenance and usage of fire streams, extinguishing properties of water, types of water pressures, variety of foam and foam application. Job functions require being able to bend and stoop, push, pull, reach overhead, be able to carry a 200 pound person from a building. Requires frequent standing and walking for extended periods of time.

NON-ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Performs other tasks as assigned.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Direct service is provided to anyone in need of emergency or medical care of fire protection services, the general public, and other employees in person and by telephone.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Majority of duties are performed outside at varying heights and elevations in varying terrain with exposure to extreme weather conditions. Operations typically expose employees to a wide variety of adverse or hazardous environments. Employees are exposed to extreme temperature variations, loud noises, fumes, and noxious or airborne particles and potentially hazardous diseases and substances. The employee may occasionally be exposed to explosives, toxins, radiological particles (including mutagens and teratogens), and excessive vibration. Services are performed anywhere inside the particular zone as designated by Marion County Fire Department. This could be a fire station, Marion County streets, forest areas, or private homes. An employee in this position may be required to act without direct supervision and must be able to exercise judgment in meeting emergencies. Supervision is received from the station lieutenant or captain, or the District Chief

acting as shift supervisor. Work is performed on a rotating shift basis which may require the highest level of physical exertion and agility on a sustained basis. Emergency work after hours and on holidays may be required.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Minimum Experience

High School graduate or its equivalent; at least 18 years of age. State certified Paramedic and certified Firefighter as provided by Florida State statutes. Successful completion of the provisional paramedic program, AIDS awareness course and an Emergency Vehicle Operator

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Course. Successful completion of a vehicle extrication course within six months of hire. Must have physical examination, prior to employment. Physical requirements as stipulated by Florida Statutes, Chapter 633.34 and satisfy requirements of NFPA 1582.

Job Skills

- Ability to demonstrate respect for patient by preserving patient's dignity and instilling confidence in patient to obtain and interpret information in order to correctly assess the patient's condition. Ability and skill in using appropriate emergency techniques and equipment to move patients of various sizes, weight, and condition, from initial location to final destination. Ability to demonstrate clinical competency.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions. Ability to perform a wide variety of methods and procedures of emergency and rescue operations. Ability to react quickly and calmly during emergencies. Ability to communicate patient information in clear and concise manner to emergency service center and personnel.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with fellow employees and supervisors. Demonstrates role model behavior (i.e. initiative, tact, professionalism, innovation, respect for others, team and consensus builder).
- Ability to operate complex equipment, mechanical aptitude, strength and ability to do manual and mechanical work under adverse conditions. Maintains a state of mental and physical readiness to perform any and all job requirements with little or no notice.
- Knowledge of firefighting and emergency medical service techniques, methods and equipment. Keeps all fire and rescue equipment in state of readiness.
- Ability to apply knowledge of Standing Orders and their interpretation. Ability to apply knowledge of Chapter 10D-66 and the interpretation on that rule. Ability to apply knowledge of Fire department rules and regulations. Ability to learn geographic territory and demonstrate working knowledge of assigned response area by arriving at scenes within an acceptable time frame. Demonstrates ability to read maps.
- Physical requirements as stipulated by Florida Statutes, Chapter 633.34.
- Ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- Ability to take a teamwork approach to the job by cooperating with others, offering to help others when needed, and considering larger organization or team goals rather than individual concerns. Includes the ability to build a constructive team spirit where team members are committed to the goals and objectives of the team.

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Licenses

Must possess a valid state of Florida Driver License. EVOC required before operating any County owned vehicles.

Certifications

Florida State Certified Firefighter and Florida State certified Paramedic, American Heart Association or Red Cross CPR certification, and basic and advanced cardiac life support certification.

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