

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FIREFIGHTER

This is an overview of an average day for firefighters, outside of supporting daily emergency calls for service.

- 7:30 a.m. – Arrival at assigned fire station to prepare for the 8 a.m. shift start. Put personal gear by assigned apparatus.
- 8:00 a.m. – Shift change and briefing between crews to discuss what occurred during the prior shift.
- 8:30 a.m. – All personnel inspect personal gear and begin morning fire apparatus checks to ensure operational readiness.
- 9:00 a.m. – Company officer/crew briefing and physical training. Firefighters must maintain a high fitness level and dedicate time each day for physical activity.
- 11:00 a.m. – Station and apparatus maintenance.
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – The afternoon is used to train, perform inspections and support special programs, such as fire hazard reduction inspections, station visits, school presentations, hydrant maintenance and hose testing.
- 6:00 p.m. – Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. – Evening hours are left unscheduled. Many firefighters work on special projects, or prepare for promotional exams.
- 10:00 p.m. – Sleep
- 6:00 a.m. – Wake up and begin morning cleanup for the oncoming shift.
- 7:30 a.m. – The off going shift briefs the oncoming shift and shares important information about the apparatus, equipment or station.
- 8:00 a.m. – Released from duty



CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

- Valid California Class C driver's license
- Must be 21 years of age at time of application
- Graduation from high school or equivalent at time of application
- Valid Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) at time of hire
- Valid Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate at time of hire issued by an approved California certifying agency or National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

TESTING RESOURCES

CPAT Testing:


- Oxnard College Fire Academy
- Testing Centers: Orange, Livermore and Sacramento
- Visit YouTube for CPAT testing videos

Sample Oral Exam Questions:

- California Joint Apprenticeship Committee
- Oral Exam Video – vcfd.org

VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

 vcfd.org

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VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HOW TO
BECOME
A FIREFIGHTER
TRAINEE



HOW TO JOIN

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit an online “Job Interest Card” at [Ventura.org/Jobs](https://www.ventura.org/jobs) to be notified of VCFD employment opportunities. Once the filing period is open, applicants must complete a VCFD employment application.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE DUTIES

- Suppress and control building and other fires by operating firefighting equipment in hazardous areas, confined spaces and high places such as ladders. Suppress grass and brush fires using fire hose and equipment and wildland firefighting hand tools.
- Conduct rescue operations from smoke filled or confined areas that have been compromised by fire. Clean up debris and perform salvage work during and after firefighting.
- Perform emergency medical treatment on ill and injured persons while in training. For paramedics only: Following completion of firefighting training, and upon recertification as a paramedic, you will be assigned to an advanced life support apparatus to perform paramedic duties for a period of at least three years.
- Perform technical rescues using ropes and associated rescue hardware, various power tools and hand tools, and techniques for special rescue situations (mechanical entrapments, confined spaces, high angle and trench rescues).
- Respond to hazardous materials releases to safely isolate and deny entry, to make appropriate notifications, and to perform mitigation tasks as appropriate.
- Perform company level fire prevention inspections and hazard reduction activities.
- Connect with the community; participate in public speaking events and provide fire safety educational messages to civic and school-based groups.
- Drive and maintain firefighting apparatus. Perform minor repair and inspection work.
- Complete daily fire station janitorial and maintenance tasks.



STEP 1: APPLICATION EVALUATION/TESTING

- County HR reviews applications to determine if stated requirements and competencies are met.
- A written test is administered to assess competencies in the following areas: mechanical aptitude, math, reading comprehension and community relations.
- For more information on the testing process, visit [VCFD.org/jobs](https://www.vcfd.org/jobs).

STEP 2: ORAL EXAMINATIONS

- Oral exams evaluate the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for successful performance as a firefighter.
- Candidates are encouraged to review the job classification bulletin, attend VCFD open house events, participate in pre-academy fitness classes and schedule station visits.
- If a candidate passes the initial oral exam, he/she advances to round two interviews with VCFD leadership.

STEP 3: BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION/MEDICAL EVALUATION

All applicants undergo a thorough background and medical investigation, including past employment, education, criminal history and driving record.

STEP 4: SELECTION

The fire chief makes the final hiring decision from an approved list of candidates. The applicants are invited to the Ventura County Regional Fire Academy.

VCFD complies with all local, state and federal laws when making hiring decisions.

For more information, contact the County of Ventura Human Resources:

(805) 654-5129 | HR.ADMIN@VENTURA.ORG