

# 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 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 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 a.m.	Station and apparatus maintenance.
12 p.m.	Lunch
1 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 p.m.	Dinner
7 p.m.	Evening hours are left unscheduled. Many firefighters work on special projects, or prepare for promotional exams.
10 p.m.	Sleep
7 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 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.
- ▶ Ability to pass a Pre-Academy Physical Ability test.
- ▶ Valid Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate at time of hire issued by an approved California certifying agency or National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

## CANDIDATE RESOURCES

Available on our website: [vcfd.org](http://vcfd.org)

### Information for:

- ▶ EMT Programs
- ▶ Fitness Preparation/Testing
- ▶ Written Exams
- ▶ Oral Exams

*Join our team today!*

## VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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JOIN OUR FAMILY

VENTURA COUNTY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HOW TO  
BECOME A  
FIREFIGHTER  
TRAINEE

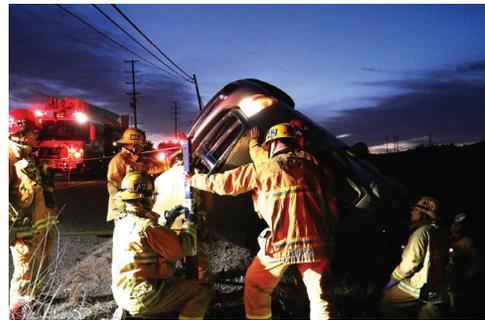


# HOW TO JOIN

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.vcfcd.org/jobs).

### STEP 2: ORAL EXAMINATION AND INTERVIEW

- ▶ 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, and participate in pre-academy fitness classes to help prepare for these steps.
- ▶ If a candidate passes the initial oral exam, he/she advances to selection interviews with VCFD leadership.

### STEP 3: BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION/MEDICAL

- ▶ 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 Fire Human Resources:

**(805) 389-9710 • [JoinVCFD@Ventura.org](mailto:JoinVCFD@Ventura.org)**