

St. Andrews Fire Department



1775 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 (843) 556-8951 www.standrewspsd.org

Position: Fire Fighter

Reports to: Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief of Training, Deputy Chief of Operation, Deputy Chief of Administration

Direct Supervisor: Fire Chief

Function:

As a firefighter, we are required to perform a large variety of tasks. These tasks are very diverse and may include rescue and care of victims, fire prevention, cleanup, hazardous materials containment, and community service.

Firefighters must be able to read, comprehend and correctly apply routine district and department policies and procedures as well as follow oral and written instructions; and to understand and apply available guidelines to varied operational requirements.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

Emergency Response:

- Emergency response calls can come in at any time of the day or night and must be responded to immediately.
- Sleep may be frequently interrupted.
- Firefighters must be experts at getting themselves dressed in the appropriate gear/equipment and onto the emergency vehicles quickly when responding to an emergency call, regardless of what they might be busy with at the time the emergency call comes in.
- Emergency calls can cover anything from brush fires, structure fires, automobile accidents, alarm activations, and false alarms. All must be responded to with the same speed and professionalism.
- Firefighters must immediately size up each emergency situation upon arrival, including: properties of the fire, probability of the fire spreading, the needs of victims, medical conditions, effects of weather conditions, etc. in order to effectively deal with the emergency.
- Once on an emergency scene, firefighters are responsible for gathering information from witnesses and other sources. It is critical that the firefighters think quickly and obtain the appropriate information to deal with each unique situation.

St. Andrews Fire Department



1775 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 (843) 556-8951 www.standrewspsd.org

- Firefighters must intimately coordinate their activities and work as a team. This includes those firefighters working directly with the emergency, those directing, and those standing by to relieve other firefighters.
- Firefighters must work within a command structure requiring strict adherence to the following of orders.

Fire Scenes:

- Firefighting is a dangerous occupation. Firefighters must enter burning structures. Once inside the structure, firefighters must search for victims, the source of fire, and ways to extinguish the fire. In this process, firefighters are exposed to extreme heat, smoke, and fumes.
- Firefighting is very physically demanding. Firefighters carry 80 to 100 lbs. of equipment such as hoses, axes, ladders, chain saws, and extinguishers into and around the fire scene to rescue victims and put out the fire. This may include climbing many flights of stairs.
- Firefighters make forced entries into structures by cutting locks, breaking doors, windows, or roofs as needed to gain access to ventilate structures. This may involve using hand tools such as axes, sledge hammers, battering rams, and power tools.
- While at a fire scene, firefighters must constantly evaluate personal safety by examining structures for cracks, breaks, charring, or partial collapse.
- Firefighters use ladders and work at heights to rescue victims and fight fires. They must; carry, raise, lower, rotate, and extend these ladders.
- Firefighters locate hydrants and other sources of water. Firefighters connect hoses to sources of water using various tools, and considerable strength.
- Firefighters operate handheld hose lines without assistance and get the hose into position by dragging, carrying or hoisting it into place.
- Firefighters are responsible for the clean- up of fire scenes. Firefighters carry burnt furniture, clothing, appliances, etc. from buildings to reduce fire and smoke damage. Firefighters scoop, shovel, sweep and mop excess water and debris caused by the fire and firefighting efforts. Firefighters tear down or shore up weak or dangerous parts of fire structures such as floors, roofs, or overhangs.

St. Andrews Fire Department



1775 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 (843) 556-8951 www.standrewspsd.org

Rescue Operations:

- Firefighters use systematic search procedures to try to find trapped victims without getting lost or trapped themselves.
- Firefighters free trapped victims from a variety of situations including car crashes, cave-ins, structure collapses, floodwaters, chemical spills, and all kinds of unusual occurrences. Firefighters may be required to use special tools to accomplish a rescue.
- After locating and freeing the victim, firefighters must determine the safest path of evacuation. Firefighters may be required to lift and/or carry the victim with or without assistance in dangerous situations.

Emergency Medical Care:

- Performs thorough patient evaluations and intervenes with the appropriate medical care for persons requiring medical care and/or requesting assistance with medical care as it pertains to our standards of care. Many skills can be labor intensive for extended periods of time.

Equipment Maintenance:

- Checks, cleans and maintains personal gear and equipment to ensure proper and safe operations.

Training and Professional Development:

- Participates in training drills and classes to enhance job-related skills and abilities. Reads internal memos and bulletins to keep apprised of new developments in departmental operations and procedures.

Public Service Responsibilities:

- Participate fire inspections for local businesses.
- Participate in fire prevention activities and other educational opportunities.
- Participate in pre-planning buildings and hydrants.

Station Maintenance & Duties:

- Checks, cleans and maintains house facilities. This includes the performance of routine housekeeping chores in and around the station.

St. Andrews Fire Department



1775 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 (843) 556-8951 www.standrewspsd.org

Qualifications, Skills, & Knowledge:

- Must be 18 years old
- Must have a valid state issued driver's license.
- Must be a United States citizen
- Principles and practices of fire suppression, rescue operations, emergency medical services, and fire prevention.
- Maintain physical condition appropriate to perform the required duties.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Education, Training and Experience:

- Must have a diploma from an accredited high school or GED.
- Must have IFSAC Firefighter II (or equivalent) and NREMT certifications preferred, but will assist the right person to obtain within the first year of their employment.

Failure to obtain these certifications will result in either termination or the extension of the one year probationary period.

Physical Demands:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; handle or operate objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to sit; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; talk or hear; and taste or smell.

The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 10 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 100 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and the ability to focus. The employee must possess the stamina to meet the physical demands during any emergency.

Work Environment:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

St. Andrews Fire Department



1775 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 (843) 556-8951 www.standrewspsd.org

While performing the duties of this job, the employee regularly works in outside weather conditions. The employee occasionally works near moving mechanical parts and in high, precarious places and is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions, fumes or airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals and vibration.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. Frequently, work is done at various locations and may be required to drive there. The position may also require travel for the purpose of attending training workshops.

The duties listed above are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

Signature

Date