

# Duties of a Firefighter

March 2015

## **Nature and scope of work**

This is a skilled position that entails firefighting, rescue, emergency medical care, and other related emergency services. Firefighters participate in programs designed for the prevention of fires and the saving of life and property. A Firefighter is responsible for rapidly, efficiently and safely performing various duties under emergency conditions frequently involving considerable hazard. The work includes routine duties in the maintenance of firefighting vehicles, equipment and fire service facilities. While specific orders and directions are received from an Officer in the normal course of maintenance duties and firefighting, considerable independence of judgment and action is allowed in circumstances of extreme urgency where referral to a superior for instructions is not possible. A periodic review of the work is carried out by an officer in order to maintain and improve the efficiency of the fire service as a whole.

## **Illustrative examples of work**

As a member of a shift or platoon, you will:

- respond to emergency calls, lay and connect hose, hold nozzles and direct water stream, raise and climb ladders, use extinguishers and other equipment.
- provide rescue in various forms from dangerous situations, operational response to dangerous goods calls
- provide emergency medical care to patients including ambulance transportation
- ventilate buildings to release heat, smoke and gases, place salvage covers, and action to prevent water damage
- as assigned, drive and operate firefighting apparatus
- perform varied maintenance tasks on apparatus, equipment and facilities
- fire prevention work, conducts course for other staff and contracted parties, and under direction of an officer performs inspections and clerical duties as required
- mentoring others in emergency medical care, and firefighting
- performs other related duties as assigned

### **Required knowledge, abilities and skills**

- Extensive knowledge of the operation of all apparatus, equipment and methods used in combating, extinguishing and preventing fires and in rescue work.
- Extensive knowledge of emergency medical care, safety practices, ambulance operations, and necessary actions for responses to leaks and spills of hazardous materials.
- Knowledge of rules and regulations of the fire service, and applicable provincial legislation.
- Knowledge of maintenance of service equipment and facilities.
- Knowledge of building construction, wiring, hydraulics and the geography of the municipality/City.
- Knowledge of emergency medical services at registered level of care.
- Mechanical aptitude.
- Agility and strength to perform prolonged and arduous work under adverse conditions.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Skill in the operation of all firefighting, rescue, and medical equipment.