

**FIREFIGHTER - 1**  
*(Call Department)*

**Position Purpose:**

The purpose of this position is to protect life and property by performing firefighting, emergency aid, hazardous materials, and fire prevention duties for the South Berwick Fire Department; all other related work as required. The Firefighter is responsible for maintaining and improving upon the efficiency and effectiveness of all areas under his/her direction and control.

**Supervision:**

*Supervision Scope:* Performs highly responsible duties; makes decisions which involve choices of action within limits defined by standard practices and instructions.

*Supervision Received:* Works under the general direction of the superior officer and in conformance with departmental regulations and professional standards. Refers all unusual cases to supervisor. The position is subject to review and evaluation according to the town's personnel plan.

*Supervision Given:* None.

**Job Environment:**

Majority of work is performed at the scene of fires/emergencies under varying weather conditions and under conditions which may involve considerable personal danger with exposure to smoke, noxious odors, fumes, chemicals, liquid chemicals, solvents and oils. The noise level may be very loud at an emergency scene. When on call, required to immediately report to duty 24 hours a day.

Operates emergency medical aid equipment, fire apparatus, fire pumps, hoses, ladders, first aid equipment, radio, pager, and other standard fire fighting equipment. Required to wear protective clothing/equipment.

Makes contacts with the general public, other town departments, and other public safety personnel.

Has limited access to confidential information including personal information about citizens, sensitive medical information, and criminal investigations.

Errors could be costly in terms of decreased or less efficient protection to persons and property, confusion and delay, possible personal injury/death, and result in direct financial and legal repercussions.

**Essential Functions:**

*(The essential functions or duties listed below 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.)*

Responds to fire department alarms and calls for assistance. Drives apparatus. Performs firefighting activities utilizing fire hose, heavy stream appliances and extinguishers, and ladders; ventilates burning buildings, using forcible entry tools, if necessary; enters burning buildings to evacuate and rescue persons in danger and control fire. Protects fire-damaged property by spreading salvage covers, removing excess water and debris, and securing buildings against rekindling.

Performs emergency rescue and extrication work at accident scenes.

Responds to and assists in the control and mitigation of hazardous materials emergencies. Responds to and assists in controlling the effects of environmental emergencies, i.e. earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, etc., including performing rescues and evacuations.

Administers advanced first aid and resuscitation.

Assists in investigating the cause and origin of fires and explosions.

Attends drills and training classes in firefighting, rescue, emergency medical work, and related subjects.

Cleans, maintains, repairs and tests fire apparatus and equipment.

Performs similar or related work as required, directed or as situation dictates.

**Recommended Minimum Qualifications:**

Education, Training and Experience:

High school education; a minimum of one year of firefighting experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Requirements:

Certification as a Firefighter Level 1  
Possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license  
Certification in CPR  
Certification as a First Responder  
Medical Testing Certification  
Physical Testing Certification  
Hazmat Certification

Knowledge, Ability and Skill:

*Knowledge:* Working knowledge of the hazards and safety precautions involved in the work performed. Working knowledge of fire suppression and prevention principles, procedures, techniques and equipment. Working knowledge of first aid and resuscitation techniques and their application. Basic knowledge of pumps and hydraulics. Basic knowledge of flammable gases/liquids and hazardous materials. Knowledge of building construction/

*Ability:* Ability to understand and follow verbal and written instructions. Ability to communicate effectively verbally. Courage and emotional stability. Ability to be effective under conditions, which create emotional and physical stress. Ability to apply standard fire fighting and emergency aid techniques to specific situations. Ability to follow proper methods, procedures and safety precautions of a Firefighter. Ability to perform arduous tasks requiring physical endurance and agility under adverse conditions

*Skill:* Skill in operating all fire equipment and apparatus.

Physical Requirements:

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. The position involves physically hazardous functions under emergency conditions. Must be able to connect and pull and operate hose lines; operate a pump; position and climb ladders/stairs; lift/carry equipment or persons weighing more than 150 pounds; push; climb; stoop; kneel; crawl; and reach with hand and arms. Performance of work also involves standing and walking for long periods of time. Accesses all areas at the scene of a fire, which may consist of a building, collapsed building, trench, etc. Wears protective equipment weighing over 50 pounds. Performs duties under conditions of extreme heights, confined spaces, intense heat, cold, toxic fumes or dense smoke. Required to detect odors and have temperature sensitivity. Communicates verbally. Vision and hearing at, or correctable to, normal ranges; ability to distinguish colors. Must meet all of the physical requirements of a firefighter.

*(This job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee. It is used as a guide for personnel actions and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.)*