



MARCH 2025
FLSA: EXEMPT

FIRE CHIEF

DEFINITION

Under administrative direction, plans, organizes, manages, and provides direction and oversight for all functions and activities of the Fire Department, including fire prevention and inspection programs, response to fires, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous materials, natural and man-made incidents, and other public services; coordinates assigned activities with other City departments, officials, outside agencies, and the public; fosters cooperative working relationships among City departments and with intergovernmental and regulatory agencies and various public and private groups; provides responsible professional assistance to the City Administrator in areas of expertise; and performs related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives administrative direction from the City Administrator. The work provides for a wide variety of independent decision-making, within legal and general policy and regulatory guidelines. Exercises general direction and supervision over supervisory, technical, and administrative support staff through subordinate levels of supervision.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is a Department Director classification that oversees, directs, and participates in all activities of the Fire Department, including short- and long-range planning, development, and administration of departmental policies, procedures, and services. This class provides assistance to the City Administrator in a variety of administrative, coordinative, analytical, and liaison capacities. Successful performance of the work requires knowledge of public policy, municipal functions and activities, including the role of an elected City Council, and the ability to develop, oversee, and implement projects and programs in a variety of areas. Responsibilities include coordinating the activities of the department with those of other departments and agencies and managing and overseeing the complex and varied functions of the department. The incumbent is accountable for accomplishing departmental planning and operational goals and objectives and for furthering City goals and objectives within general policy guidelines.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

Management reserves the right to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.

- Assumes full management responsibility for all Fire Department programs, services, and activities.
- Develops, directs, and coordinates the implementation of goals, objectives, policies, procedures, and work standards for the Fire Department.
- Manages and participates in the development and administration of the department's budget; directs the forecast of additional funds needed for staffing, equipment, and supplies; directs the monitoring of and approves expenditures; directs and implements budgetary adjustments as necessary.
- Selects, trains, motivates, and directs department personnel; evaluates and reviews work for acceptability and conformance with department standards, including program and project priorities and

performance evaluations; works with employees to correct deficiencies; implements discipline and termination procedures; responds to staff questions and concerns.

- Administers, coordinates, manages, and personally performs work in support of a variety of departmental programs and activities such as fire administration, prevention, public education, inspection, rescue, emergency medical treatment, hazardous material response, fleet equipment maintenance, inventory, training, or other aspects of the fire prevention and suppression programs.
- Establishes incident command system at emergencies; directs firefighting operations, including commanding tactical and safety activities to ensure all response activities are conducted in a manner consistent with prescribed policies and procedures.
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- Contributes to the overall quality of the department's service by developing, reviewing, and implementing policies and procedures to meet legal requirements and City needs; continuously monitors and evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and procedures; assesses and monitors the distribution of work, support systems, and internal reporting relationships; identifies opportunities for improvement; directs the implementation of change.
- Directs all activities of the pre-fire inspection, including administration of City codes/ordinances as adopted, and permit procedures.
- Represents the department to other City departments, elected officials, and outside agencies; explains and interprets departmental programs, policies, and activities; negotiates and resolves significant and controversial issues.
- Conducts a variety of departmental organizational and operational studies and investigations; recommends modifications to programs, policies, and procedures as appropriate.
- Participates in and makes presentations to the City Council and a wide variety of committees, boards, and commissions.
- Participates in response to all risk emergency calls; directs regular and part-time staff at incident scenes.
- Attends and participates in professional group meetings; stays abreast of new trends and innovations in the field of fire safety and other services as they relate to the area of assignment.
- Maintains and directs the maintenance of working and official departmental files.
- Monitors changes in laws, regulations, and technology that may affect City or departmental operations; implements policy and procedural changes as required.
- Prepares, reviews, and presents staff reports, various management and information updates, and reports on special projects as assigned by the City Administrator.
- Responds to public inquiries and complaints and assists with resolutions and alternative recommendations.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Administrative principles and practices, including goal setting, program development, implementation, and evaluation, and supervision of staff, either directly or through subordinate levels of supervision.
- Public agency budget development, contract administration, City-wide administrative practices, and general principles of risk management related to the functions of the assigned area.
- Organizational and management practices as applied to the analysis and evaluation of projects, programs, policies, procedures, and operational needs; principles and practices of municipal government administration.
- Principles and practices of fire safety program development, management in a municipal setting, and fire safety program planning and budgeting.
- Applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulatory codes, ordinances, and procedures relevant to assigned area of responsibility.

- Methods and techniques for the development of presentations, contract negotiations, business correspondence, and information distribution; research and reporting methods, techniques, and procedures.
- Record keeping principles and procedures.
- Modern office practices, methods, and computer equipment and applications related to the work.
- English usage, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation.
- Techniques for effectively representing the City in contacts with governmental agencies, community groups, and various business, professional, educational, regulatory, and legislative organizations.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, vendors, contractors, and City staff.

Ability to:

- Develop and implement goals, objectives, policies, procedures, work standards, and internal controls for the department and assigned program areas.
- Provide administrative and professional leadership and direction for the department and the City.
- Prepare and administer budgets; allocate limited resources in a cost effective manner.
- Interpret, apply, explain, and ensure compliance with federal, state, and local policies, procedures, laws, and regulations.
- Plan, organize, direct, and coordinate the work of management, supervisory, professional, and technical personnel; delegate authority and responsibility.
- Select, train, motivate, and evaluate the work of staff and train staff in work procedures.
- Research, analyze, and evaluate new service delivery methods, procedures, and techniques.
- Effectively administer special projects with contractual agreements and ensure compliance with stipulations; effectively administer a variety of public works programs and administrative activities.
- Conduct effective negotiations and effectively represent the City and the department in meetings with governmental agencies, contractors, vendors, and various businesses, professional, regulatory, and legislative organizations.
- Prepare clear and concise reports, correspondence, policies, procedures, and other written materials.
- Conduct complex research projects, evaluate alternatives, make sound recommendations, and prepare effective technical staff reports.
- Establish and maintain a variety of filing, record-keeping, and tracking systems.
- Organize and prioritize a variety of projects and multiple tasks in an effective and timely manner; organize own work, set priorities, and meet critical time deadlines.
- Operate modern office equipment including computer equipment and specialized software applications programs.
- Use English effectively to communicate in person, over the telephone, and in writing.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

An associate's degree in fire science, business or public administration or related field is required. A minimum of seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience, including two (2) years management experience at a Fire Captain level or above. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in fire science, business or public administration or closely related courses is preferred.

Licenses and Certifications:

- Possession of a valid California Class C Driver's License with a Firefighter endorsement and have a responsible driving record. If applying from out of state, must possess a valid driver's license with a responsible driving record, and be able to obtain a California Class C Driver's License with a Firefighter endorsement within 6 months of appointment.
- Possess and maintain a valid EMT-I certification, or possess and maintain a valid EMT-P issued by the State of California.
- Federal Emergency Management Association's National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS700 and National Response Framework (NFR) IS800, ICS 100 and 200 courses.
- Possession of a Chief Fire Officer Certificate.
- Ability to obtain within 24 months California State Fire Marshal Certification is desirable.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer; mobility, physical strength, and stamina to respond to all risk emergency situations and use all emergency apparatus and equipment; perform medium to heavy physical work, to work in confined spaces, around machines, and to climb and descend ladders; to operate a motor vehicle and to visit various City and meeting sites; vision to discern colors and assess emergency situations, including medical incidents and to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person, before groups, and over the telephone or radio. This is partially a sedentary, partially a field classification that requires operating in emergency situations and identifying and assessing problems or hazards. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator, operate standard office equipment, and to operate above-mentioned apparatus and equipment. Positions in this classification bend, stoop, kneel, reach, and climb to perform work and inspect work sites and push and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials, objects, and individuals necessary to perform job functions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Employees partially work in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and no direct exposure to hazardous physical substances. The work also involves work in the field with exposure to loud noise levels, extreme temperatures, inclement weather conditions, road hazards, substantial heights, vibration, confining workspace, chemicals, mechanical and/or electrical hazards, and hazardous physical substances and fumes. Employees may interact with upset staff and public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

WORKING CONDITIONS

May be required to work on evenings, weekends, and holidays and monitor radio traffic on 24-hour shifts as assigned.