

**CITY OF RIO VISTA**  
**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER**

*Class specifications are only intended to present a descriptive summary of the range of duties and responsibilities associated with specified positions. Therefore, specifications **may not include all** duties performed by individuals within a classification. In addition, specifications are intended to outline the **minimum** qualifications necessary for entry into the class and do not necessarily convey the qualifications of incumbents within the position.*

**DEFINITION:**

Under general supervision, performs the full array of duties assigned to classes in the Firefighter series including participates in suppression, emergency medical services and fire prevention activities; participates in training exercises and studies firefighter techniques; assists in the maintenance and care of all stations, apparatus and equipment; performs various fire support assignments; performs related duties as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

The **Volunteer Firefighter** is the entry level position responsible for medical care, fire combat work and fire prevention. Once assigned to duty, firefighters are expected to perform the full range of safety, medical, suppression and prevention duties assigned to the class and to perform entry to journey level skills in all areas of work assigned. This classification is distinguished from the next higher classification of Fire Engineer by the performance of more complex duties, especially in the areas of equipment and vehicle operation and maintenance, firefighting and incident command.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED/EXERCISED:**

General supervision is provided by the Fire Captain. Incumbents of this class do not routinely exercise supervision.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:** *(include but are not limited to the following)*

- Performs the full array of duties assigned to classes in the Firefighter series including responding to medical and fire suppression emergencies; connects and lays hose lines; operates hose nozzles and other fire extinguishing appliances; raises, lowers and climbs ladders; uses hand tools; makes forcible entry into buildings, enters burning buildings and performs in necessary suppression activities.
- Applies modern techniques relative to fire code enforcement, interpretation and inspection; assists in hydrant and hose testing.
- Assists in getting equipment and apparatus prepared for further alarms; assists in maintaining apparatus, equipment, station and grounds; ensures adequate stock levels and proper operation of equipment and supplies; performs routine housekeeping duties.
- Participates in fire drills and training exercises.

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- Adheres to Federal, state, local and City rules, regulations and procedures related to duties, including fire suppression related protocol and radio and vehicle operation; maintains familiarity with all applicable map books, information resources and response areas.
- Serves in special duty at public gatherings; conducts fire prevention programs in schools.
- Volunteers for specialized assignments such as water rescue and urban search and rescue.
- Serves as disaster worker, is subject to recall; responds to fire and rescue calls during non-duty hours.
- Establishes positive working relationships with representatives of community organizations, state/local agencies and associations, City management and staff, and the public.

### **WORKING CONDITIONS:**

The position may require performing strenuous tasks for extended periods of time, requiring lifting or carrying up to 45 pounds and over, pulling, pushing, reaching above the shoulder, crawling, kneeling, climbing and bending; making rapid transitions from rest to near exertion without warm-up periods; and working inside or outside. Incumbents perform physically demanding work wearing self-contained breathing apparatus and heavy personal protective equipment while performing firefighting tasks in hot, humid atmosphere; the incumbent may perform a variety of tasks on slippery, uneven, or hazardous surfaces, work on ladders and roofs, perform complex task during life-threatening emergencies, relying on senses of sight, hearing, smell and touch to help determine the nature of the emergency, maintain personal safety and make critical decisions in a confused, chaotic, and potentially life-threatening environment throughout the duration of the critical incident or emergency response; the incumbent may work closely with others, deal with people in trauma and risk exposure to bloodborne pathogens. The position also requires individuals to operate a motor vehicle with lights and siren subjecting the incumbent to high noise, vibration, electrical energy, moving objects, and vehicles. The incumbent may be exposed to the elements outside, dusts, toxic chemicals, fumes, smoke and gases.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** *(The following are minimal qualifications necessary for entry into the classification)*

#### **Education and/or Experience:**

Any combination of education and experience that has provided the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for a **Volunteer/Firefighter**. A typical way of obtaining the required qualifications is possession of a high school diploma or equivalent and be at least 18 years of age.

#### **License/Certificate:**

Possession of a valid class C California driver's license.

**KNOWLEDGE/ABILITIES/SKILLS:** *(The following are a representative sample of the KAS's necessary to perform essential duties of the position)*

**Knowledge of:**

Principles, practices operations and standard operating procedures of modern emergency medical services, fire prevention, hazardous materials and suppression programs; functions, characteristic, and proper use of and maintenance of paramedic and firefighting equipment and supplies; departmental rules and regulations; current laws and regulations pertaining to paramedics, fire prevention and safety; city geography; fire hazards; firefighting resources; hazardous materials storage, transportation and uses; first aid and rescue methods; modern office equipment including a computer and applicable software; methods and techniques for basic report preparation and writing; methods and techniques for record keeping; proper English, spelling and grammar.

**Ability to:**

Learn basic mathematics expressions and formulas and the application of elementary mechanical, chemistry and physics principles; understand and act in accordance with departmental policies, rules, instructions and written material in the field of paramedic and fire fighting; learn paramedic and fire fighting techniques and procedures; demonstrate mechanical aptitude; effectively interpret rules and regulations and make appropriate decisions; drive an ambulance and fire truck safely and in accordance with traffic laws and ordinances; learn and apply first aid techniques; analyze fire and driving situations and adopt effective course of action; operate vehicles, apparatus, tools and equipment used in modern paramedic fire fighting activities; deal firmly and fairly with violators and prospective violators of fire codes; courteously respond to community issues, concerns and needs; remain calm under emergency situations; understand and carry out oral and written direction; establish and maintain effective working relations with other employees and members of the public; communicate effectively, orally and in writing; work independently; respond to issues and concerns from the community; work a variety of shifts including week-ends, holidays, and emergency call-back; understand and follow instructions establish and maintain effective working relationships.

**Skill to:**

Operate safety and firefighting vehicles, apparatus, equipment, tools, devices and facilities; operate a computer and use applicable software; perform emergency medical services; operate two-way radio and other communications equipment.