



CFD

CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE

The Firefighter Trainee is an entry-level fire suppression, prevention, and emergency response position for the Charleston Fire Department (CFD).

FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE

This is an Application for the position of Firefighter Trainee. Applications received will be considered for the next recruit academy based on department needs.

The **Firefighter Trainee** is an entry-level fire suppression, prevention, and emergency response position for the Charleston Fire Department (CFD). Upon successful completion of the required recruit academy, personnel will progress into the position of a probationary firefighter.

Firefighter Academy:

The recruit academy's focus is on training and preparing the candidate to meet specific standards of the CFD. The program includes classroom instruction and hands on training in firefighter techniques, search and rescue, vehicle extrication, emergency medical services, firefighter survival, and the use of various firefighting tools and equipment. The candidate will work an 8-hour shift (overtime, nights, and weekends may be required) and upon completion may move to a 24 on, 48 off standard firefighter shift schedule.

Physical Tasks:

The CFD recruit academy program uses Peer Fitness and Practical Skill fitness training. Our Peer Fitness Instructors are certified ACE trainers. The Peer Fitness and Practical Skill methodology has shown it is effective in increasing the work capacity of military personnel, police officers, and firefighters.

Candidates must be able to climb ladders and stairs and work at considerable heights; lift, carry, drag, pull and push very heavy weights; perform work in physically demanding and adverse conditions including heat, smoke, fire, high temperatures, humidity and cramped spaces. Must be able to sit or stand for extended periods and lift or move more than 50 pounds.

Before applying, please read this guide in its entirety.

Only online applications will be accepted

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- 18 years of age or older at time of application
- Minimum education of a high school diploma or equivalent
- A valid state issued driver's license

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- A copy of your high school diploma or equivalent
OR transcript showing your highest degree earned
- A valid copy of state issued driver's license
- If prior military, a copy of your DD214 (copy 4)

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED YOUR NREMT EMT/PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION, PLEASE ATTACH IT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Applications without ***required documents*** will not be accepted.

HIRING PROCESS:

Applicants meeting the minimum requirements and who submit a completed application may be selected to proceed in the following:

- **Essay Submission** - Essay responses will determine the applicant's eligibility to move on to the Physical Ability Test (PAT).
- **TEAS** - Selected candidates must successfully pass a Test of Essential Academic Skill (TEAS).
- **Physical Ability Test (PAT)** – Applicant must pass the CFD administered Physical Ability Test (PAT) unless you have a passing Candidate Physical Agility Test (CPAT) within the past 12 months.
- **Oral Board Interview** - Candidates who successfully pass the PAT will move onto the oral board interviews.

VETERANS - *We are thankful for your service!*

We are proud to offer the following additional resources to Veterans:

- Certified VA approved school
- Veteran on-the-job training
- Preference Points : A five-point preference will be awarded on the written exam for honorably discharged veterans or service members currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the veteran's preference points, applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - Have separated under honorable conditions from any of the branches of the armed forces of the United States after having:
 - Served on active duty for 181 consecutive days or more.

For points to be awarded, above documentation must be received prior to written examination.

2021 - PAY PLAN

During the academy, the firefighter will be compensated at a rate commensurate with their current level of education as outlined in the chart below.

<i>Firefighter Trainee During Academy</i>		
<i>Firefighter</i>	Hourly	Paramedic Hourly
<i>High School Diploma</i>	\$16.55	\$17.71
<i>Associate's Degree</i>	\$17.71	\$18.95
<i>Bachelor's Degree</i>	\$18.95	\$20.82
<i>Master's Degree</i>	\$20.28	\$21.70

The CFD's pay plan includes a comprehensive scale based on career development accomplishments and degree pay incentives. ***The rates listed are estimated annual compensation. For a review of the CFD's complete pay scale please click [here](#).***

	Step 1 (upon graduation)		Step 2 (end of 6 month probation)		Step (6 months from Step 2)	
	EMT Annual	Paramedic Annual	EMT Annual	Paramedic Annual	EMT Annual	Paramedic Annual
<i>Firefighter</i>						
<i>High School Diploma</i>	\$37,259.44	\$39,867.60	\$41,078.55	\$43,954.03	\$43,132.47	\$46,151.72
<i>Associate's Degree</i>	\$39,867.60	\$42,658.34	\$43,954.03	\$47,030.81	\$46,151.72	\$49,382.34
<i>Bachelor's Degree</i>	\$42,658.34	\$45,644.43	\$47,030.81	\$50,322.97	\$49,382.34	\$52,839.14
<i>Master's Degree</i>	\$45,644.43	\$48,839.53	\$50,322.97	\$53,845.59	\$52,839.14	\$56,537.87
<i>PhD</i>	\$48,839.53	\$52,258.30	\$53,845.59	\$57,614.78	\$56,537.87	\$60,495.52

*The above rates are estimated annual compensation.

BENEFITS

The City of Charleston offers a competitive compensation package to supplement pay rates.

- Group health, dental, vision insurance
- Flexible spending accounts
- Police Officers Retirement System (PORS)
- Optional deferred compensation plans
- Vacation leave
- Paid Holidays
- Paid sick leave
- Optional life insurance and disability
- Veteran on-the-job training
- Tuition reimbursement
- Wellness program to include discounted corporate gym membership and gym reimbursement

Benefit information provided is a summary only and is subject to change. Full details will be provided at time of employment and take precedence to any information provided here.

IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFIERS

It is not possible to list every act or omission that may disqualify an individual from performing the safety sensitive duties of this position. The following are some of the more obvious:

Criminal History

- Conviction of any felony or any crime involving moral turpitude
- Conviction of any crime which carries a 6-month jail sentence or more
- Any conviction of domestic violence, including simple assault against a domestic partner, spouse, child or parent
- Adult commission of undetected crimes of a serious or repetitive in nature

Drugs

- Any involvement in the sale or distribution of illegal drugs as an adult
- Juvenile involvement in the sale or distribution of illegal drugs is an area of concern which will be given careful scrutiny in the context of the full review
- Any illegal possession of heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens or any other schedule 1 or 2 drug, or any derivative thereof, within the last 7 years
- Illegal possession of anabolic steroids within the last 3 years
- Illegal possession of marijuana or a derivative thereof within the last 24 months

Traffic Violations

- Must have a driving record that reflects no more than three moving violations or at fault/contributable accidents, or any combination thereof, in the past 36 months. Moving violations and preventable accidents that are indicated on the applicant's driving record but are more than 36 months old will be considered on a case by case basis
- No driver's license suspension in the past three years
- Points may be negated by attending defensive driving school offered by the Division of Motor Vehicles prior to application being submitted
- Any conviction of the following within the last 5 years:
 - Driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol
 - Refusal to take blood or breath test
 - Eluding police, racing, or leaving the scene of an accident

Others

- Less than honorable discharge from any military service. Untruthfulness and/or intentionally withholding of information on any application, interview or paperwork associated with this application. Examples of intentional withholding of information would include the following:
- Deliberate inaccuracies or incomplete statements
- Cheating on any exam or testing associated with the application

Note:

- This is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of background disqualifiers. Applicants who are successful in the initial testing will undergo a thorough background investigation. **Areas of concern will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis within the context of the full review.** Examples of the areas of concern may include but are not limited to the following:
 - Reduction of charges as a result of a plea agreement or other form of sentencing disposition prior to a conviction in any of the aforementioned criminal and driving history categories
 - Crimes committed against a juvenile, including undetected crimes
 - Patterns of reckless and/or irresponsible driving
 - Multiple convictions of driving under the influence
 - Illegal drug possession that does not fall within the parameters of the above
 - Less than honorable discharge, erratic work record, or unfavorable work employment references
 - Pending litigation or prosecution for criminal offenses must be resolved prior to consideration for employment

If you have additional questions, contact us at fire-recruitment@charleston-sc.gov

Apply online at <https://www.charleston-sc.gov/cfdjobs>

OUR DEPARTMENT, OUR LEGACY, YOUR FUTURE.