

FIRE INVESTIGATOR

Distinguishing Features of the Class: This position exists in the county service and involves responsibility for serving as a member of the Fire Investigation Team to provide fire and police officials with assistance in determination of cause and origins of fire and explosions. The work requires close attention to detail since errors in judgment might result in incorrect liability or arrest. The work is performed under general direction of the County Fire Coordinator with leeway allowed for exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out details of the work. Supervision over the work of other employees is not normally a responsibility of an employee in this class. The incumbent does related work as required.

Typical Work Activities:

- Investigates fire/explosion scenes to determine cause and origin and prepares reports for local fire and/or police agencies;
- Provides officials with assistance to determine cause of fire/explosions;
- Acts as a member of the Fire Investigation Team to assist local fire and police agencies in furthering fire prevention;
- Reviews fire scenes to determine if arson is involved;
- Operates radio-telephone equipment in response to emergency fire/explosion situations;
- Testifies in court regarding origins of fire/explosions;
- Uses a variety of equipment and techniques to investigate if accelerants or explosive devices were used at fire or crime scenes;
- Takes photographs of fire scenes;
- Answers questions and/or complaints concerning suspicious fires/explosions;
- Inspects underground tank installation for fuel oil and gasoline storage areas following fire/explosion;
- Responds to structure fires to aid in investigation of possible arson or other causes;
- Keeps records and prepares reports of activities related to the work;
- May be assigned to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in command functions.

Full Performance Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Personal Characteristics:

- Good knowledge of Local and State fire prevention laws, codes and ordinances;
- Good knowledge of cause and origin of fires/explosions;
- Good knowledge of State and Local building codes;
- Good knowledge of the geography of the County;
- Ability to recognize fire accelerants and explosive devices;
- Ability to investigate arson/explosion sites and determine cause;
- Ability to draw accurate conclusions regarding cause and origin of fire/explosions;
- Arson awareness;
- Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

Minimum Qualifications: EITHER:

- A.) Five (5) years of active membership in a volunteer fire company, three (3) years of which shall involved the investigation of fires/explosions for arson; **OR**
- B.) Three (3) years of experience as a Fire Investigator for a paid or volunteer fire department or company; **OR**
- C.) An equivalent combination of experience and training as outlined by the limits of (A) and (B) above.

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