

City and Borough Sitka, Alaska

Class Specification

Class Title	Fire Chief
Class Code Number	8150
FLSA Designation	Exempt (Executive)
Pay Grade and Range	37
Effective Date	September 2010

General Statement of Duties

Plans, organizes and directs the operations and activities of the Fire Department; performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Features of the Class

The principal function of an employee in this class is to provide Fire and emergency medical services to the City and Borough of Sitka. The work is performed under the direct supervision of the Administrator but extensive leeway is granted for the exercise of independent judgment and initiative. Direct supervision is exercised over the work of all Fire personnel. An employee in this class performs the duties of other employees in the Fire Department or related departments as required or as necessary. The nature of the work performed requires that an employee in this class establish and maintain effective working relationships with other Department and City employees, State and Federal Officials, the Mayor and Assembly and the public. The principal duties of this class are performed in a work environment in which the employee is subject to potential personal danger.

Examples of Essential Work (Illustrative Only)

- Plans, organizes, coordinates and/or oversees all emergency services within the Fire Department;
- Manages and coordinates the activities of volunteers involved in all aspects of emergency operations;
- Ensures Department preparedness for fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical, natural disasters, air emergencies, search and rescue, dive rescue and emergency management programs;
- Coordinates Sitka Fire Department activities with outside agencies, including State Police, U.S. Coast Guard and adjunct organizations;
- Oversees equipment operation, maintenance and procurement;
- Oversees staffing policies to ensure that adequate personnel are on-call or on-duty at all times;
- Performs the duties of all other Fire personnel as necessary;
- Responds to emergency situations through contacting volunteer personnel, delivering all equipment and implementing emergency services techniques to rescue victims and protect private and public property;

- Provides emergency medical services, including responding to emergency calls, assessing patients condition upon the arrival of a scene, implementing emergency patient treatment, transporting patients to a hospital for further examination and ensuring the stability of all individuals at all times as necessary;
- Organizes Departmental training programs and schedules for volunteer and paid staff;
- Maintains detailed and accurate records on Departmental activities;
- Develops and administers the Fire Department Budget according to prescribed guidelines;
- Provides information and gives official reports to the Administrator, Mayor and Assembly as necessary and requested;
- Investigates the cause, origins and circumstances of all fires within the City and Borough of Sitka;
- Serves as an incident commander under the Incident Command System, assuming full responsibility for instructions, techniques and strategies for the implementation of fire suppression, firefighting and other related emergency response situations;
- Studies details of a fire or related emergency upon arrival at the incident scene and uses technical knowledge and firefighting experience to calculate the most appropriate course of action, taking into consideration the possibility of persons within a structure, the spread of a fire to other structures, hazardous materials and the safety of all Fire personnel at the scene;
- Makes determinations at a fire scene as to whether or not additional personnel, (including those from other agencies), need to be called to the scene;
- Ensures the completion of appropriate rescue, fire fighting and salvage operations at a fire scene;
- Uses established procedures to determine if individuals are trapped within a burning facility and takes appropriate actions to secure their rescue;
- Monitors all Firefighters on the scene to ensure safety procedures are being followed and to recognize any situation when a Firefighter may be in need of rescue;
- Directs the implementation of entry, ventilation, fire suppression and salvage work;
- Gives instructions for laying and connecting hoses, putting in place water streams equipment, generators, supply lines, ladders and ladder pipes, and the direction of chemical or water streams;
- Gives instructions on ventilation procedures to remove excess heated gases, heat and smoke from the burning structure;
- Makes verbal and written analysis of activities involved in any fire emergency situation, and gives Fire Engineers constant technical advice and/or on-site and post-fire evaluations on the effectiveness of certain firefighting activities;
- Develops performance appraisals;
- Studies and maintains a current working knowledge of streets and other geographical information within the City and Borough of Sitka;
- Plans, organizes and manages the daily activities of apparatus inspections, clean-up and maintenance, pre-fire plans, station tours, fire drills and public education;
- Meets with and provides instructions and technical advice to Fire Engineers in the completion of their duties;
- Ensures the efficient operation and supervision of all personnel, including the accurate and timely completion of all reports according to prescribed policies and guidelines;
- Provides needed information and demonstrations concerning how to perform certain work tasks to new employees in the same or similar class of positions;
- Keeps immediate supervisor and designated others fully and accurately informed concerning work progress, including present and potential work problems and suggestions for new or improved ways of addressing such problems;
- Attends meetings, conferences, workshops and training sessions and reviews publications and audio-visual materials to become and remain current on the principles, practices and new developments in assigned work areas;
- Responds to citizens' questions and comments in a courteous and timely manner;
- Trains, assigns, prioritizes, supervises, motivates and evaluates the work of assigned employees;
- Communicates and coordinates regularly with appropriate others to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of interdepartmental operations and activities;
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Comprehensive knowledge of the duties and knowledge required of Fire and emergency medical services personnel;
- Comprehensive knowledge of the geography of the City and Borough of Sitka and surrounding areas, (or the ability to quickly learn this information), including hydrant locations, the layout and location of public utilities and potentially hazardous materials and substances;
- Comprehensive knowledge of current fire suppression and firefighting techniques, including all related equipment;
- Comprehensive knowledge of budgetary procedures within a municipality;
- Comprehensive knowledge of fire records systems, communications equipment and use, fire computer applications and fire reporting procedures;
- Comprehensive knowledge of hydraulics as applied to pump operation and fire equipment;
- Comprehensive knowledge of all safety practices involved in fire suppression and firefighting;
- Skill in using firefighting equipment;
- Ability to make determinations as to the best course of action for fighting fires or responding to other related emergency situations;
- Ability to supervise, coordinate and evaluate the work of others;
- Ability to work under extremely stressful situations which result from a building fire, including the responsibility for remaining calm and carrying out all duties with the recognition of the threat to life and property;
- Ability to investigate fires and fire related situations;
- Ability to work within a command structure requiring strict adherence to the following of orders;
- Ability to remain on call at all times unless leave is approved by the Administrator;
- Ability to add, subtract, multiply, divide and derive percentages;
- Ability to communicate well with others, both orally and in writing, using both technical and non-technical language;
- Ability to understand and follow oral and/or written policies, procedures and instructions;
- Ability to prepare and present accurate and reliable reports containing findings and recommendations;
- Ability to operate or quickly learn to operate a personal computer using standard or customized software applications appropriate to assigned tasks;
- Ability to use logical and creative thought processes to develop solutions according to written specifications and/or oral instructions;
- Ability to perform a wide variety of duties and responsibilities with accuracy and speed under the pressure of time-sensitive deadlines;
- Ability and willingness to quickly learn and put to use new skills and knowledge brought about by rapidly changing information and/or technology;
- Integrity, ingenuity and inventiveness in the performance of assigned tasks.

Acceptable Experience and Training

- Graduation from high school or GED, preferably supplemented by a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science, Public Administration or a closely related field; and
- Extensive related firefighting experience with some supervisory role; or
- Any equivalent combination of experience, education and training which provides the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the work.

Required Special Qualifications

- Possession of a driver's license issued by the State of Alaska;

- EMT-I certification in the State of Alaska, advanced certification preferred and ability to maintain certification on an on-going basis.

Essential Physical Abilities

- Sufficient clarity of speech and hearing or other communication capabilities, with or without reasonable accommodation, which permits the employee to communicate effectively, including during emergency situations which may involve a high degree of noise;
- Sufficient vision or other powers of observation, with or without reasonable accommodation, which permits the employee to observe and supervise a fire or related emergency scene;
- Sufficient manual dexterity with or without reasonable accommodation, which permits the employee to operate equipment used in firefighting;
- Sufficient personal mobility and physical reflexes, with or without reasonable accommodation, which permits the employee to perform all duties involved in protecting lives and property.

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