

Other Careers in the Fire Service

It takes employees in many different occupations to complete the fire service team. The San Bernardino County Fire Department not only employs fire suppression and emergency medical personnel; this is just part of a much larger team. Challenging opportunities in human resources, budget/fiscal computer programming, dispatching, vehicle services, inspection, education, hazardous materials, fire prevention, training and emergency services are a few of the skills that support the emergency operations of the fire service.

Education and Training:

Some Community Colleges offer Fire Science degrees and/or certificates listed under minimum requirement. This listing is only a sample and does not serve as an endorsement for any one program. Classes and availability differ from college to college.

- Crafton Hills College (Yucaipa, Ca)
- College of the Desert (Palm Desert, Ca)
- Mount San Antonio College (Walnut, Ca)
- Rancho Santiago College (Santa Ana, Ca)
- Rio Hondo College (Whittier, Ca)
- Riverside Community College (Riverside, Ca)
- Victor Valley Community College (Victorville, Ca)



The Fire Department:

San Bernardino County is the largest County within the continental United States, encompassing 20,604 square miles and over 1.7 million people. The San Bernardino County Fire Department has an operating budget of approximately 70 million dollars and provides 24-hour emergency services to most unincorporated areas and several cities within San Bernardino County. The department includes a staff of over 1,000 safety, non-safety and paid call employees and is responsible for all phases of fire operations including the following: Fire Warden functions, fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical services, disaster preparedness, County emergency communications, vehicle maintenance, hazardous materials management, human resources, budget, training and program development.

The Department is organized into four main Divisions: Administration, Emergency Operations, Training, and Fire Prevention. The Administrative Division provides for the overall management of the Department by the development of new programs, the promotion of life safety, environmental protection, and the provision of administrative support for Department personnel. The Operations Division is the most visible in the department. The personnel of this division include Battalion Chiefs who oversee Captains, Engineers, Firefighters, and Paramedics. As a team they are the initial response to calls for service. The Training Division is responsible for the planning and development of training programs for all fire service personnel. The Training Division delivers over 100,000 hours of training per year. The Fire Prevention Division, under the direction of the Fire Marshal, conducts building inspections; fire investigations and building plan checks. The division also manages life safety code enforcement, code revision, target hazard planning assessment, development review and water supply considerations.



What is a Firefighter?

What the department looks for in today's fire professional.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is looking for candidates who are willing to think, speak and act like modern fire service professionals. Necessary in fire service today are those who have healthy, positive lifestyles that are honest in their daily lives. Ideal candidates are those persons who are able and willing to conform to, and keep pace with, the changes in service and technology. And lastly, those persons who realize that our product is service, and we provide that service to customers that depend on us because we can serve their needs when they are unable to.

Limited Term Firefighter-Ambulance Driver/ Paramedic:

Under general supervision of a Fire Officer, responds to medical aids, rescues, and other emergency and non-emergency incidents as required. LT's are required to participate in daily fire station activities and attend regular and special training sessions. *Employment in these positions will be for a period of up to 351 days in duration, with yearly testing for up to three years.*

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age and have graduated from High School or equivalent
- Must possess and maintain a valid class "C" California Drivers License
- Must possess and maintain an EMT I Certification or greater
- Must have a California State Fire Marshals Firefighter I Certificate –OR- California State Fire Marshal accredited Level I Firefighter Academy – OR- Have been employed at least two years as a San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District Paid Call Firefighter and have achieved Level I Apparatus Certification as outlined in Ops Directive 5820.
- Must submit a current DMV Abstract
- Must have passed a timed physical agility, ability, CPAT or Biddle within one year
- Must possess and maintain a valid "CDL" Ambulance Drivers Certificate
- Must possess and maintain a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate for a "CDL" Ambulance Drivers Certificate

Additional Requirements for Paramedic applicants:

- Must possess and maintain a valid "CDL" Ambulance Drivers Certificate
- Must possess and maintain a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate for a "CDL" Ambulance Drivers Certificate
- Must possess and maintain a California State Paramedic License and be certified in the San Bernardino County (ICEMA) prior to employment

Additional Requirements for ALL applicants:

- Must pass a written examination
- Must pass an oral interview
- Must pass a background investigation
- Must pass a medical examination/treadmill and drug/alcohol screen

Salary and Benefits:

- Ambulance Driver - \$9.74 per hour approx.
- Paramedic - \$10.86 per hour approx.

*These are extra-help positions and as such have no benefits other than the San Bernardino County PST Deferred Compensation Plan.

Firefighter/Paramedic:

Under general supervision of a Fire Officer, responds to fire and other emergencies, including the protection of life and property during emergency situations. Assist in the maintenance of fire apparatus, the fire station and surrounding grounds and various equipment. Participates in training, public education, and fire prevention inspections.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age and have graduated from High School or equivalent
- Must possess and maintain a valid class "C" California Drivers License
- Must have a California State Fire Marshals Firefighter I Certificate –OR- California State Fire Marshal accredited Level I Firefighter Academy
- Must possess and maintain a California State Paramedic License
- Current DMV Printout
- Current CPR Certification
- Must have passed a timed physical agility, ability, CPAT or Biddle within one year

Additional Requirements:

- Must pass a written examination
- Must pass an oral interview
- Must pass a background investigation
- Must pass a medical examination/treadmill and drug/alcohol screen

Successful candidate must acquire within 12 months of the date of hire:

- Firefighter II Certification through the California State Fire Service Training and Education System
- Obtain and maintain a class "B" Firefighter restricted California Drivers License
- Certification in San Bernardino County (ICEMA) within 90 days of hire if not certified at time of employment

Salary and Benefits:

- \$4,110.00-\$5,261.00 approx. monthly
- Benefit Plan to help offset health and dental costs
 - Paid vacation, holiday and sick leave

- Uniform allowance
- Retirement Programs.

Paid Call Firefighter (PCF):

This position is expected to be on-call to respond to fire(s) and other emergencies. This position is also responsible for participating in the regular activities of the fire station, attending regular and special training sessions and additional duties as assigned.

- Minimum Requirements:
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must possess a High School Diploma or equivalent
- Must possess a valid class "C" California Drivers License
- Must be able to meet 10-15 minute response time to the station assigned.
- Previous experience desirable but not required

Additional Requirements:

- Must pass a physical ability test
- Must pass an oral interview
- Must pass a background investigation
- Must pass a medical examination/treadmill and drug/alcohol screen

Successful candidate must acquire within 12 months of the date of hire:

- EMS First Responder -OR- EMT including CPR Certification and AED Certification
- Hazmat Operations
- Confined Space Awareness
- S-190 Basic Wildland Behavior
- S-130 Wildland Tools and Techniques
- CS-200 Basic Incident Command

Successful candidate must acquire within 2 years of the date of hire:

- State Fire Marshal Certified Volunteer Firefighter
- Exposure to a structure fire environment
- Exposure to a wildland fire environment
- Bee Swarm response training
- Swift Water Rescue Awareness training

Salary and Benefits:

- \$8.00 per hour approx.

*These are extra-help positions and as such have no benefits other than the San Bernardino County PST Deferred Compensation Plan. Applications for Paid Call Firefighter can be obtained from and submitted to individual fire stations in your area.