

# CAL FIRE PHYSICAL/MENTAL STRESS JOB DESCRIPTION

## FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER



A DESCRIPTION IS GIVEN BELOW OF THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRESSES TO WHICH A FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER IS SUBJECTED TO AT CAL FIRE. YOUR JUDGMENT IS NEEDED AS TO THE EMPLOYEE'S CAPACITY TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED DUTIES. IN YOUR CONCLUSION, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LONG-RANGE OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED PERFORMANCE, AND THE EMPLOYEE'S ABILITY TO SAFELY PERFORM THESE DUTIES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INCREASED RISK OF INJURY TO SELF OR OTHERS BECAUSE OF MEDICAL CONDITION.

The Fire Apparatus Engineer is a key person in any fire crew system, on the fireline, or with a work crew. The individual is primarily concerned with the care and operation of fire apparatus; such as a pumper, water tank, or rescue vehicles in connection with extinguishing wildland, structural, and other fires, and in fire prevention and rescue work, performs maintenance and simple repairs on equipment; prepares reports, uses maps, operates mobile and base station radios as necessary.

The Fire Apparatus Engineer assists the Fire Captain in supervising the crew on job assignments and fire control work. In the Captain's absence, the Fire Apparatus Engineer is responsible to drive fire apparatus under emergency and non-emergency conditions in a manner that ensures safety both to the public and the fire crew being transported.

Especially during the non-fire season, the Fire Apparatus Engineer performs general station maintenance and repair work, assists in building roads, trails, and fences, and when required, does fire law inspections, investigates fire causes, prepares and presents fire prevention programs to the public, keeps records and prepares reports.

When assigned to an emergency incident, the Fire Apparatus Engineer is expected to have the endurance to perform arduous physical task on emergency situations throughout the state. The Fire Apparatus Engineer may be assigned to the night shift and required to sleep during the day to be ready for the following night shift. Day sleeping due to the times of shift change, combined with high temperature (100 degree F), smoke, dust, and noise, makes rest quite difficult to obtain. Normal regularity of meals becomes impossible in these situations; also, the Fire Apparatus Engineer must be capable of responding to the above demanding stressful situations at all times.

The Fire Apparatus Engineer must possess the ability to read and write English at a level required for successful job performance, learn to drive a fire engine safely on mountain roads, narrow streets, highways, and freeways and operate other equipment as required, learn and apply to specific situations, roles, regulations and department procedures, lead a firefighting crew, follow written and oral instructions, analyze situations accurately and take effective action, maintain cooperative relationships with other organizations and agencies, and supervise individuals in a work station, write legibly, and exercise good judgment in hazardous fire suppression activity.

Special personnel characteristics include the willingness to live and work in remote areas during the weekdays, including weekends and holidays, to remain on duty 24 hours a day, as required; visual acuity (Snellen) of not less than 20/100 without correction in each eye, corrected to not less than 20/30 in one eye; normal color vision (sufficient to recognize colors of traffic signals and devices, vehicles, electric cable, pipe color codes and normal from abnormal plant color); hearing adequacy within speech frequencies (uncorrected); normal use of both hands and feet; physical strength and agility; weight in proportion to height; and no more than mildly susceptible to poison oak.

The incumbent may be required to wear respiratory protection equipment (including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The use of such equipment may place a physiological burden on the incumbent that varies with the type of equipment used, the job and workplace conditions in which the equipment is used, and the medical status of the incumbent. As such, Cal/OSHA requires that the incumbent be annually medically cleared to be fit-tested for respiratory protection equipment. This clearance process consists of a comprehensive medical evaluation including a review of the incumbent's medical history, a complete physical examination, and vision, hearing, spirometry, and exercise treadmill tests.

The incumbent typically is required to perform psychologically stressful and/or physically demanding duties consistent with firefighting, disaster response, and emergency medical response, including working in isolated areas, walking or running on uneven rough terrain, and remaining on duty 24 hours or longer without a break while performing these duties.

**CATEGORY I - ARDUOUS PHYSICAL WORK**

Duties involve field work requiring physical performance calling for above-average ability, endurance, and superior condition, including occasional demand for extraordinarily strenuous activities in emergencies, under adverse environmental conditions, and other extended periods of time; requires running, walking, difficult climbing, jumping, twisting, bending and lifting over 25 pounds; and the pace of work is typically set by the emergency situation.

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT HE/SHE HAS READ THE CAL FIRE PHYSICAL/MENTAL STRESS JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE EMPLOYEE NAMED BELOW AND THAT IN HIS/HER JUDGMENT THE EMPLOYEE HAS THE CAPACITY TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED DUTIES, HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE LONG-RANGE OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED PERFORMANCE, AND THE EMPLOYEE IS ABLE TO SAFELY PERFORM THESE DUTIES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INCREASED RISK OF INJURY TO SELF OR OTHERS BECAUSE OF MEDICAL CONDITION.	
EMPLOYEE NAME (PRINT)	WORK UNIT
MEDICAL PROVIDER'S NAME (PRINT)	DATE
MEDICAL PROVIDER'S SIGNATURE	
ADDRESS (PRINT)	
TELEPHONE	