

Texas Fire Service Information

For
Prospective Firefighters

From
Mansfield Fire Rescue

The following questions are commonly asked from people interested in a fire service career. Please consult the Texas Commission on Fire Protection for authoritative answers to specific questions at www.tcfp.state.tx.us online.

Q What kind of special training do I need to become a firefighter?

A Being a firefighter in the state of Texas means that you are certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Agency as having completed their approved basic firefighter training. The required curriculum is covered in 468 hours over approximately 14 weeks. The basic certification curriculum is offered in several ways. Some cities hire non certified people and then provide the basic training through their fire department training division. Some cities may send their non certified employees to a location that offers the basic training. In Tarrant County, the North West Tarrant County College Campus offers the basic certification training at their Fire Service Training Center. TCC offers the program in both a college credit and non-credit format. Contact the TCC Fire Service Training Center at (817) 515-7440.

Q What kind of medical training do I need to become a firefighter?

Most basic firefighter training schools require that the candidate be certified as a Texas Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT/B), or they may offer the EMT/B within the basic fire training class. The Texas Department of State Health Services certifies emergency medical providers. The state of Texas has adopted the National Registry exam for emergency medical providers. The state required curriculum is offered in both college credit and non-credit formats. The Northeast Tarrant County College Campus offers all levels of EMS certification. Contact the Department of State Health Services at www.dshs.state.tx.us or the National Registry at www.nremt.org and TCC at www.tccd.edu for more information on Emergency Medical Services.

Q Do I have to be a Paramedic to be a Firefighter?

A No, unless the city or organization you plan to work for provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical services on ambulances known as Mobil Intensive Care Units (MICU's). The state required staffing on an MICU is at least one EMT/P and one EMT/B.

Q How many levels of EMT are there and what is the difference between them?

A Four. The state certifies emergency medical providers as Emergency Care Attendants (ECA), Emergency Medical Technician/Basic (EMT/B), Emergency Medical Technician/Intermediate (EMT/I), and Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic (EMT/P). The certification determines the level of care that the EMT is trained to provide. From basic bandaging and splinting to surgical airways performed in the field.

Q What level of fire and EMS certification does the City of Mansfield require for Fire Department employment?

A. A Fire Department candidate must be a certified Texas Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic at the time of application, or by an agreed upon time determined by the Fire Department Administration.

Q What other qualifications are required for entry level firefighter with Mansfield Fire Rescue?

A. High School diploma or GED, and current Texas Class B drivers license.

Q What is the work schedule for a firefighter?

A. There are various firefighter work schedules, but the most common found in this area is the 24 hour on-duty/48 hour off-duty schedule. Workers are divided into 3 platoons or shifts identified as A, B and C shifts. The Mansfield Fire Rescue begins shift at 7:00am and ends at 7:00am the following morning.

Q Is there a physical requirement to be a firefighter?

A Most cities require the Firefighter candidate to pass a Candidate Physical Agility Test (CPAT) consisting of various firefighting related tasks common to fireground operations. The candidate must also pass a medical physical from the department provided physician. The firefighter must maintain a certain department mandated physical level requirement throughout the remainder of his career.

Q Is there required training to maintain the state certifications?

A. Yes, The Texas Department on Fire Protection and the Department of State Health Services require ongoing annual Continuing Education Credits to keep the certifications current. Most departments provide the training necessary for certification maintenance.