

FIRE SAFETY SPECIALIST IIIDEFINITION

Under supervision, provides a safer community through fire inspection, code enforcement and fire prevention education.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

Inspects commercial and industrial buildings, facilities and places of public assembly to determine compliance with State and local fire and life safety codes; inspects various operations, devices and equipment requiring the inspection or approval of the fire department; enforces fire safety code provisions of a varied technical and complex nature; issues notices, warning and citations; keeps up-to-date records of inspections and writes detailed inspection reports; participates in the public information/education activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau including giving talks and demonstrations to school children and other groups; collects, analyzes and evaluates data and prepares comprehensive reports; performs difficult technical inspections requiring the application of a working knowledge of chemistry and physics to identify and abate fire and life safety hazards; assists in the training and supervision of subordinate personnel; writes correspondence and performs other functions as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This is the third level in a series of specialized civilian (non-firefighting) fire safety classes which require prior training and experience in the occupational field, and is considered to be the journey or full-performance level. This classification is distinguished from the next lower-level classification of Fire Safety Specialist II in that incumbents in the latter, while expected to perform difficult inspections, are not at the journey-level of occupational proficiency.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Two years of recent experience in fire safety inspection and education work, supplemented by education equivalent to two years of college level training in fire science or closely related field; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge and abilities.

### DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Thorough knowledge of: principles and practices of fire safety education, inspection and enforcement work; State and local fire and life safety laws; fire safety hazards; fire detection and extinguishing systems and equipment; organization and functions of a municipal fire department; public relations techniques. Working knowledge of chemistry and physics as applied to fire prevention and life safety hazards.

Ability to: understand and interpret fire safety code provisions; detect fire hazards and code violations and determine appropriate safety measures; test fire alarm devices; perform technically moderate plan review; write detailed inspection reports; communicate ideas clearly and concisely orally and in writing; make fire safety presentations to school children and speak in front of general audiences; use tact and good judgment in contacts with the public in a culturally diverse community; establish effective working relationships with building owners, contractors and fellow employees.

### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession and retention of a valid California Class C Driver's License is a condition of employment. Ability to hear, understand and discriminate sounds to test alarm systems under quiet and noisy conditions; engage in strenuous physical activities requiring agility, strength, endurance and dexterity, including but not limited to climbing ladders and crawling under buildings. Must be willing and able to work irregular hours and weekends, under varying climatic conditions, as needed.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMERS

Successful performers utilize good judgment, tact and diplomacy when enforcing the Fire Code, State and local fire and life safety codes. They work well with others and effectively communicate with individuals and groups in a culturally diverse community. They are versatile and draw upon a variety of disciplines, including physics, chemistry and mechanical drawing to effectively solve problems.

Class title established per Council Resolution No. 81-58,  
effective 4-6-81

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