



Pathway to a Fire Service Career

Rocklin Fire Department

4060 Rocklin Rd, Rocklin CA 95677

916-625-5300

How do I prepare for a career in the Fire Service?

Becoming a firefighter takes dedication, personal goals, education, and training. You can do a number of things in order to make yourself a desirable candidate for a firefighter position at a fire department.

Desirable High School Classes

Every class that you can take as a high school student can be applied to firefighting in one way or another.

Math – Needed for pumping the fire engine and determining drug doses to administer medications.

Science – Needed to understand the physical properties of fire and fire behavior.

Chemistry – Needed to deal with hazardous materials.

Language Arts – Needed to complete written reports and read instruction manuals.

Social Studies – Firefighters work with the public. Social Studies is needed to understand different cultures, heritages, and how people react in different psychological and emotional situations.

Public Speaking – Needed to be able to interact with the community as well as convey fire safety messages to the public.

Physical Education – Needed because firefighting is a physically demanding job.

Health – Needed because firefighters not only need to understand anatomy and physiology when they perform emergency medical duties, but they also need to be concerned with their own physical health.

Industrial Arts – Shop type or industrial arts classes will give firefighters a strong background in areas such as building construction, as well as give them a good mechanical knowledge to base their critical thinking upon.

Job Educational Requirements

The education requirements for fire departments vary.

Possible requirements include:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Valid Driver's License
- 21 years of age
- Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic certification



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Ten Must-Do things to increase your odds of getting hired:

- ✓ Become an EMT
- ✓ Take Fire Tech classes
- ✓ Certificate, Degree, Specialized Skills
- ✓ Maintain a clean lifestyle and background
- ✓ Understand all phases of the hiring process
- ✓ Start taking entrance exams
- ✓ Visit with firefighters
- ✓ Get life experience
- ✓ Learn as much as possible about the fire service
- ✓ Get hands-on experience

Build Your Reputation

Strive for excellence each day and commit to being the best you can be in mind, body, and spirit.

Road to Becoming a Firefighter

- ✓ EMT Certification
- ✓ Complete an accredited fire academy
- ✓ Certificate, degree in Fire Technology
- ✓ Get experience
- ✓ (ROP, Intern, Volunteer, Apprentice, Seasonal)
- ✓ Firefighter – I Certification
- ✓ Firefighter – II Certification
- ✓ Specialized training
- ✓ Community service
- ✓ Paramedic certification
- ✓ Develop a great resume

Complete High School

Get involved, ROP, stay fit, stay out of trouble, graduate

Attend College

Complete the required Fire Academy Pre-requisites in conjunction with working toward a certificate and degree in Fire Technology

Meet with a college counselor

Develop an education plan

Complete the required fire academy prerequisites

Attend a Regional Accredited Fire Academy

A list of accredited regional fire academies can be found here:
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/kqnb0pl/artp-list.pdf>

Specialized Skills

- ✓ Paramedic
- ✓ EMT
- ✓ Fire Science

Tips on Making Your Fire Station Visit Successful:

- ✓ Make an appointment
- ✓ Be on time
- ✓ Dress appropriately
- ✓ Speak professionally
- ✓ Always bring something
- ✓ Be humble
- ✓ Be polite
- ✓ Be prepared with questions
- ✓ Take notes
- ✓ Remember names
- ✓ Address station personnel by their rank and last name, example: Captain Doe
- ✓ Remember you are a guest
- ✓ Don't get too comfortable
- ✓ Don't wear out your welcome
- ✓ Don't name drop
- ✓ Say please and thank you
- ✓ Don't joke around
- ✓ Plan ahead – don't wait until the last minute

GOAL

Firefighter!

Continue Your Education

BA or BS Degree

Master's Degree

National Fire Academy
Advanced State Certifications