

Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic (30198D) and Fire Fighter Trainee Exam Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: The Department has not conducted this type of specialty exam before... why is the Department conducting two different exams?

A: *Due to the number of current Firefighter Paramedic vacancies, offering two exams (one with a Paramedic specialty) allows the Department to fill critically needed positions. As a Department, it is a priority for us to implement new and efficient hiring processes and meet the increased emergency medical services needs of our communities.*

The Fire Department is aware that there is a misconception that the Paramedic job posting is a lateral transfer for those working in other agencies outside of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. However, we would like to confirm that the job posting is not a lateral transfer. Interested individuals must apply for the position, meet the requirements listed on the bulletin, and pass the exam in order to be placed on the eligible list. Please refer to question 27 for further information on the next steps after being placed on the eligible list.

Q2: What is the difference between the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam that is currently posted and the Fire Fighter Trainee exam scheduled to post in Spring 2019?

A: *The difference is that the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam will require that you have a current valid, non-probationary California Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic License issued by the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority that must remain effective for six months beyond the date of appointment, and twelve (12) months of full-time experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses. The Fire Fighter Trainee exam scheduled to post in Spring 2019 will not have the Paramedic license or experience requirement.*

Q3: Does the 12 months of experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses have to be consecutive or with one employer?

A: *No. The 12 months of experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses does not have to be consecutive or with one employer.*

Q4: The bulletin indicates that the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam contains test parts that may be used in future exams. What does this mean?

A: *This means that if you apply for a new exam that uses the same test part(s), your scores from those test part(s) will be automatically transferred to the new exam for 12 months. You will not be allowed to re-take any such test part(s) for at least 12 months.*

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Q5: Will candidates who do not receive a passing score for the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam be allowed to take the Fire Fighter Trainee exam in Spring 2019?

A: *Although applicants will be allowed to apply for both exams, all scores received on the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam will be transferred to the Fire Fighter Trainee exam that will be posted in Spring 2019. Unfortunately, candidates who do not pass the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam will not be allowed to re-take the Fire Fighter Trainee written exam in Spring 2019.*

Those who successfully pass the written exam for the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic and apply for the Fire Fighter Trainee in Spring 2019 will have their scores transferred. These candidates will not need to re-take the written exam in Spring 2019.

Q6: Will the requirements be the same for the upcoming Fire Fighter Trainee exam in Spring 2019 as the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam that is currently posted?

A: *No, the requirements are not the same, but are as follows:*

Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic Exam	Fire Fighter Trainee Exam in Spring 2019
<i>A current and valid Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) certificate or proof of appointment to take the CPAT exam, by submitting a copy of the email from the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) showing that payment was received, your scheduled date, time and location of your appointment. Applicants who do not have a current and valid CPAT certificate, but have an appointment to be tested for a CPAT certificate, may apply to this exam, but will be withheld from the eligibility list until an official copy of a valid CPAT certificate is submitted. Either the CPAT certificate or proof of an appointment must be provided with the application at the time of filing or within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting your online application.</i>	<i>A current and valid CPAT certification must be provided with the application at the time of filing or within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting your online application.</i>
<i>A valid, non-probationary California Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic</i>	<i>A valid Emergency Medical Technician Certification issued by an approved</i>

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<i>(EMT-P) License issued by the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority that must remain effective for six months beyond the date of appointment, and twelve (12) months of full-time experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses.</i>	<i>California certifying agency or an Emergency Medical Technician Certification issued by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians may be provided with the application at the time of filing or within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting your online application, or at the time a conditional job offer is made. Details pertaining to the Emergency Medical Technician Certification requirement will be included on the job bulletin.</i>
<i>Twelve (12) months of full-time experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses.</i>	<i>No experience is required.</i>
<i>A California driver license before being appointed. Successful candidates for this position will be required to obtain and present a copy of their driving record from the California Department of Motor Vehicles before being appointed. License must not be suspended, restricted or revoked. ANY CANDIDATE WHOSE DRIVING RECORD SHOWS FOUR OR MORE MOVING VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS WILL NOT BE APPOINTED.</i>	<i>A California driver license before being appointed. Successful candidates for this position will be required to obtain and present a copy of their driving record from the California Department of Motor Vehicles before being appointed. License must not be suspended, restricted or revoked. ANY CANDIDATE WHOSE DRIVING RECORD SHOWS FOUR OR MORE MOVING VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS WILL NOT BE APPOINTED.</i>
<i>A copy of a high school diploma, its equivalent, or a higher degree from an accredited college or university institution. This must be provided with your application at the time of filing or within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting your online application.</i>	<i>A copy of a high school diploma, its equivalent, or a higher degree from an accredited college or university institution. This must be provided with your application at the time of filing or within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting your online application.</i>

Q7: What if I have a valid California Paramedic license but not a current EMT?

A: *During the Fire Fighter Trainee (FFT) Recruit Academy, an EMT certification will be issued.*

Q8: When must candidates submit all required documents for the FFT Paramedic exam?

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A: *As indicated on the bulletin, all required documents must be provided with the application at the time of filing or within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting an online application.*

Q9: What is the CPAT?

A: *The CPAT is a timed test that measures performance on physical tasks simulating actual physical job duties of Fire Fighters.*

Q10: Where can an individual obtain information about taking the CPAT?

A: *All relevant information regarding the CPAT can be located on the following website: <https://www.fctonline.org/cpat/>.*

Q11: Do applicants have to take the CPAT within 15 days of application in order to qualify for the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam?

A: *No. As stated on the bulletin, either a current and valid CPAT certificate OR proof of appointment to take the CPAT exam is required and must be provided with the application at the time of filing or within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting your online application. Applicants who do not have a current and valid CPAT certificate, but have an appointment to be tested for a CPAT certificate, may submit a copy of the email from FCTC **or approved IAFF jurisdiction listed in Q12**, showing that payment was received, the scheduled date, time, and location of the appointment. Such applicants, who also meet all other requirements, may apply and take the written exam, but will be withheld from the eligibility list until an official copy of a current and valid CPAT certificate is submitted.*

Q12: I do not live in California and have taken the CPAT. How do I know if it will be accepted for the County of Los Angeles?

A: *To verify out of state certificates, visit <http://www.iaff.org/HS/Well/statelist.htm>.*

Q13: How do applicants for the FFT/Paramedic exam submit the required documents?

A: *As indicated on the bulletin, applicants must provide the required documents at the time of filing by either emailing the documents to FFTParamedic@fire.lacounty.gov or by faxing the documents to (323) 264-7159.*

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Q14: Is a valid California Driver License required at the time of submitting my application?

A: *No. A valid California Driver License is not required at the time that you submit your application. However, as stated on the bulletin, a California Driver License is required before being appointed.*

Q15: What will the exam for the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic consist of?

A: *As stated in the bulletin, the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam will consist of two parts as indicated below (Please refer to the bulletin for additional information):*

- **Part I:** *Candidates will be required to take an in-person, proctored multiple-choice test measuring conscientiousness, managing work pressure, getting along with others and trustworthiness. Part I is weighted at 70%.*
- **Part II:** *Candidates will be required to take an in-person, multiple-choice test measuring mechanical comprehension, reading comprehension, report interpretation and written expression. Part II is weighted at 30%.*

NOTE: *Only those candidates with a score of 70% or higher on each part of the written test will be placed on the eligible list.*

Q16: How can I prepare for the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam?

A: *As stated on the bulletin, the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic Study Guide and Frequently Asked Questions are available by visiting the County of Los Angeles Fire Department website, or by clicking the following link:*
<http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/be-a-firefighter/recruitment-exam>.

Q17: Will there be a background check and medical exam in order to be appointed to this position?

A: *As stated on the bulletin, successful candidates who are given a conditional offer of employment will be required to complete a criminal background check, including a fingerprint search, followed by a medical exam. A candidate with a conviction history that has a direct and adverse relationship with the duties of the **FFT – Paramedic** position may have his or her conditional offer of employment rescinded and be removed from the certification list pursuant to Civil Service Rule 6.04.*

*In addition, candidates must successfully complete a medical exam and be able to perform all of the essential functions of the **FFT** classification. A candidate who does not*

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*successfully complete a medical exam or is unable to perform all of the essential functions of the **FFT – Paramedic** may have his or her conditional offer of employment rescinded and be removed from the certification list pursuant to Civil Service Rule 6.04.*

Q18: Will the County of Los Angeles Fire Department FFT Recruit Academy for FFT/Paramedic be the same as the FFT Recruit Academies in the past?

A: *No. Because you are being hired as a FFT/Paramedic, there will be an additional Paramedic Skills/Internship component during the FFT Recruit Academy that you will need to successfully complete in order to pass the Academy.*

Q19: The bulletin states that my EMT-P license must remain valid six months after appointment. My EMT-P license expires next month. Will I be disqualified from this exam?

A: *No, you will not be disqualified. Applicants who submit a current valid, non-probationary EMT-P license at the time of filing will not be disqualified from competing for the exam. However, they must have a valid license for at least six months beyond the date of appointment in order to be placed in the FFT Recruit Academy. Therefore, if you are given a conditional offer of employment, it is important that you renew your license in time for you to enroll in the FFT Recruit Academy.*

Q20: Once I successfully complete the FFT Recruit Academy, will I be assigned as a Fire Fighter in a Paramedic post position with a Paramedic bonus?

A: *Yes. Candidates who successfully complete the Department's FFT Recruit Academy will be appointed to the position of Probationary Fire Fighter for a 12-month period, during which time their performance will be evaluated at a level consistent with expected Department standards and licensure/certification expectations.*

After successfully completing the FFT Recruit Academy, you must apply for the promotional Fire Fighter examination, which will only be open to those who successfully complete the FFT Recruit Academy.

Q21: What is the Paramedic bonus?

A: *The Paramedic Bonus is granted to employees in the classification of Fire Fighter who are regularly assigned to a post paramedic position. A post position is a position requiring constant staffing on a 24-hour basis. An individual post has three shifts to maintain constant staffing. Those employees assigned to a post position receive a*

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17.9% bonus on top of their monthly base salary. They must obtain and maintain a valid California paramedic license by the State of California and Los Angeles County local accreditation and complete Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency mandated courses, including EMS Update. You will be eligible for all bonuses applicable to the job duties you are performing (i.e., EMT and Paramedic).

Q22: What will disqualify me from being a fire fighter?

A: *You may be disqualified for various reasons, including, but not limited to: not meeting all of the Selection Requirements listed on the bulletin; having certain felony conviction(s); receiving a dishonorable military discharge; being on probation as directed by a court; and having any Driving Under the Influence (DUI) conviction(s) within two years of your application date.*

Q23: How long is my CPAT certification valid for the Los Angeles County Fire Department?

A: *The CPAT certification will remain valid for 12 months from the date of certification.*

Q24: How do I apply for Veteran's credit?

A: *Although you can submit your DD214 form at any time during the exam process, the Fire Department highly recommends that you submit a copy of your DD214 form with your application or within 15 calendar days of submitting your application for review and consideration for Veteran's credit.*

Q25: What does the medical exam consist of?

A: *The pre-placement medical evaluation is administered after a conditional offer of employment is made, and is designed to determine an applicant's ability to safely perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation. The department complies with its obligations with all local, state and federal laws when making hiring decisions.*

Q26: What happens next if I am successful in the exam and my name is placed on the eligible list?

A: *Successful candidates will be placed on the eligible list in score bands based on their performance on the exam. Candidates are then selected starting with the highest score*

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band, and will begin the background check and medical exam. Candidates will remain on the eligible list for 12 months from the date their names were placed on the list.

Q27: What if I do not have a computer at home to apply for the exam?

A: *For applicants who may not have regular access to a computer or the internet, applications can be completed on computers at public libraries throughout the County of Los Angeles by visiting <http://www.colapublib.org/libs>. Applicants may also call 2-1-1 LA County and request the nearest library to their zip code by dialing 2-1-1 or (800) 339-6993.*

Q28: What do I do if I am having problems applying online or uploading attachments?

A: *If you are having problems applying online or uploading documents, please visit the on-line application system's FAQs by clicking the link at <http://hr.lacounty.gov/faqs-2/>. You may also email the required documents to FFTParamedic@fire.lacounty.gov or fax the documents to (323) 264-7159.*

Q29: What if I move after I submit my application?

A: *You must provide your updated contact information by email to FFTParamedic@fire.lacounty.gov. Please type "CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE" in the subject line or by fax at (323) 264-7159.*

Q30: Where can I get answers to any additional questions?

A: *For additional questions pertaining to the Fire Fighter Trainee/Paramedic exam, please contact the Exams Section at (323) 838-2239.*

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