

FIRE INSPECTOR III

NATURE AND VARIETY OF WORK

This is senior lead performance level technical fire inspection and fire code enforcement work designed to ensure compliance with County and State fire codes and laws. Enforcement will be in new construction, renovation of existing structures, storage of flammable and combustible materials, including explosives installations and high occupancy load buildings. Incumbents in positions of this class are required to read and interpret approved engineering plans and specifications sheets for construction of buildings, fire extinguishing, systems, fire alarm systems and fire rated assemblies. A significant aspect of the work involves establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with contractors, owners, engineers and the general public. Incumbents must be competent in interpreting and explaining fire codes, issuing violation notices, attempt to obtain voluntary compliance to fire and life safety deficiencies, prepare written correspondence and reports, and gather evidence to prepare case for Administrative Appeal and/or court which are all integral functions of this class. This individual may train/lead/supervise subordinate Fire Inspectors. Work in this class requires the incumbent to work independently and use prudent judgment in the decision making process. Work is performed under the general supervision of a higher-level supervisory fire position.

Incumbents must have a Fire Inspector III rating (NFPA 1031 Standards) or equivalent.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY)

Reads, analyzes and interprets engineering plans and cut sheets for applicable fire code requirements in order to become familiar and knowledgeable about the nature, scope and details regarding construction, renovation and installation phases of projects.

Completes on-site field inspections to determine that buildings are being constructed according to approved design and applicable County and State fire and building codes.

Discusses particular issue(s) prior to/after the issuance of violation notice and/or civil citation with responsible party (contractor, owner) in order to achieve compliance with established fire codes and applicable laws.

Investigates complaints (citizens, property owners) and identify problems relative to a construction project and determine if there is a basis upon which to issue a correction order and/or a civil citation.

Issues correction orders, re-inspection fees, civil citations to responsible party(ies) (e.g., contractors, developers, citizens, property owners) to assist in bringing the particular building into compliance with established fire codes and laws, approved plans and specifications.

Confers/coordinates with contractors, developers, property owners, citizens, and other agencies in order to (1) explain, clarify, and resolve actual/potential problems associated with projects, and (2) to initiate appropriate actions that will attain compliance with approved engineering plans, specifications and established County and State codes.

Maintains accurate, complete, and retrieve records and documentations (e.g., correction orders, notices, civil citations, stop work orders) for inclusion in reports, street file and to provide information for potential use at hearings or in court.

Prepares and submits written correspondence (e.g., biweekly recap sheets, memorandums) to supervisor in order to (1) clarify, explain, and resolve problems related to the inspection and code enforcement activity, and (2) to highlight the status/progress in accomplishing performance measures.

Attends and participates in meetings, seminars training sessions and courses to maintain and enhance proficiency and knowledge in fire code enforcement, inspections and special hazards activities (e.g., ABC establishments, pyrotechnic displays, high occupancy load inspections).

Willingly and cooperatively performs tasks and duties which may not be specifically listed in the class specification or position description, but which are within the general occupational category and responsibility level typically associated with the employee's class of work.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Thorough knowledge of fire behavior, chemistry of fire, fire streams and water supply, fire fighting equipment, forcible entry techniques and devices, smoke ventilation, fire causes, utility control.

Thorough knowledge of legally established responsibilities/empowerment.

Ability to perform thorough inspections and gain compliance with violations/issues.

Thorough knowledge of established appeals procedures and judicial review process.

Thorough knowledge of other agencies that have similar code enforcement duties involving life safety or fire protection.

Thorough knowledge of properties of flammable and combustible liquids and gases; storage of it.

Thorough knowledge of various types and uses of fire protection equipment; e.g.,

portable fire extinguishers, fixed fire extinguishing systems, sprinkler systems, standpipe and hose systems, water supply systems, heat, smoke and flame detection systems, fire alarm systems and devices.

Thorough knowledge of principles of electricity.

Thorough knowledge of applicable County, State and Federal fire codes and laws.

Knowledge of the Prince George's County geographical area in order to complete daily inspections in a timely manner.

Ability to work independently and use prudent judgment in decision making.

Ability to read fire codes and building plans.

Ability to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing, with a wide variety of individuals.

Ability to interact with the public, under conditions of code enforcement or fire prevention duties, with tact, discretion, impartiality, and without loss of authority.

Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships with others.

Ability to detect, diagnose and locate defects and deficiencies in construction, fire alarm and fire protection systems and life safety requirements.

Ability to provide testimony on behalf of the County at hearings and court.

Ability to perform physical tasks such as climbing ladders, removing manhole covers, reading gauges, walking on uneven ground and up multi-story stairways.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduate from high school or equivalent, have a Fire Inspector III certification (NFPA 1031 standards) or equivalent plus at least five (5) years of experience of the type, level of complexity, diversity and responsibility, to be determined at the time of announcement, which has provided the applicant with the necessary knowledges, skills and abilities to effectively perform accurate and compliant fire inspections; or an equivalent combination of education, experience and training.