

## Want To Be A Firefighter?

**Before you consider this career - BE WARNED:** If there are problems in any of the areas below, you have little chance of being hired:

- Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate.
- Must be in good physical condition.
- No serious medical problems that are not correctable, e.g, back, hearing, sight.
- No severely limiting handicaps or psychological problems.
- No police record, e.g, no felonies, no drug problems.
- Good work history.

### Steps to Getting Hired

- **Complete the Recruit Candidate Academy, (Firefighter I , Firefighter II and Hazmat Awareness & Operations) EMT at UVSC and become certified.**
  - Begin preparing for Written Exams**
    - a. Take ENGL 1010 or higher and MATH 1010 or higher. This will increase your skills and your chances to pass the Civil Service test, which most departments use.
    - b. Learn how to take tests - **PRACTICE!**
    - c. Use study guides and books to help prepare.
  - **Apply to take the written tests** (so you will be notified of the next test)
    - a. Apply at all paid departments in Utah - city, county, state, federal.
    - b. Apply out of state.
  - **Start physical fitness program**
    - a. Aerobic.
    - b. Strength - weight lifting (upper body strength, arms shoulders and back are a must!)
    - c. Flexibility.
    - d. Begin preparing for physical fitness test.
  - **Get experience and continue your education**
    - a. Work on with a Volunteer Fire Department.
    - b. Work as a seasonal wildland firefighter.
      - (1) Forest Service
      - (2) Bureau of Land Management
    - c. Continue AAS/AS/ BS Emergency Services Degrees at UVSC.
    - d. Attend fire schools and seminars.

### The Hiring Process - 7 steps (May vary by department)

- **Pass written test**
  - a. Must come out in top 1-5%. If not high enough you will not earn the right to the oral interview.
    - (1) Hundreds take the tests - tremendously competitive.
    - (2) 300-1000 applicants per test common.
  - b. Mechanical aptitude important.

- **Pass Physical Agility Test**
  - a. Pass/Fail grade - if you fail you are out of the process.
  - b. Job related skills that measure:
    - Strength (upper body)
    - Aerobic conditioning
    - Flexibility
  - c. Test events vary from department to department, but may include using or carrying equipment: climbing, carrying, pulling, hoisting, crawling, running and lifting.
  - d. Events are timed.
- **Pass oral interview**
  - a. Must come out in top 1-5%
  - b. Combined written and oral score in top 1-2%
  - c. Your preparation for an Emergency Services career is critical. Things they will look for:
    - (1) FF-I
    - (2) FF-2
    - (3) EMT
    - (4) Experience
    - (5) Education (One-Year Certificate and/or AAS Degree)
    - (6) Attitude
    - (7) Common Sense
    - (8) Good Judgement
- **Pass background check**
  - a. Do Not omit or misrepresent items on your application.
  - b. Automatic failure:
    - Felony
    - Repeated misdemeanor arrests
    - Drug abuse
    - D.U.I.'s
- **Pass Medical Examination**
  - a. Heavy duty classification of firefighters requires extensive medical examination.
  - b. Rejection may occur from non-correctable problem relating to:
    - Heart
    - Lungs
    - Hearing
    - Sight
    - Back
  - c. Physical or mental disability handicaps.
  - d. Pass/Fail.
- **Probation**
  - a. One year.
  - b. Pass department evaluations.
  - c. Performance, attitude, work habits, training evaluated.
  - d. If successful, you will be placed on permanent status.