

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- *Are there contacts in the individual CAL FIRE Units that I can reach out to about working at a specific location and/or learning more about a job at a specific location?*

Depending on the type of position you are interested in, contacts will vary. It is preferable that you utilize the appropriate Hotline. Personnel assigned to Hotlines may be able to assist you with your questions, direct you to other personnel, and advise you of any special events (e.g., meet and greets) being hosted at the local Units.

Please find the following information on CAL FIRE Hotlines:

- ✓ Fire Fighter I Hiring Hotline at 951-901-5060
- ✓ Fire Fighter II Hiring Hotline at 951-901-5051
- ✓ Fire Apparatus Engineer/Fire Captain Hiring Hotline at 707-576-2963
- ✓ Forestry Aide/Defensible Space Inspector Hiring Hotline at 951-901-5066
- ✓ [Returning Veterans: Enlisting Their Skills for CAL FIRE Service \(R.V.E.T.S.\)](#) Hotline at 916-327-3985
- ✓ General Examination Information at 916-894-9580 or email at [CALFIREexams@fire.ca.gov](mailto:CALFIREexams@fire.ca.gov)

- *What is a class specification?*

According to the [California Department of Human Resources CalCareers Glossary](#):  
A class specification is the civil service definition of a type of job classification as approved by the State Personnel Board. A class specification typically includes: a Class Title, Class Code, Description, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities, Minimum Qualifications, and other specifics (2 California Code of Regulations § 75.2). It is also known as "Job Description."

- *What is a duty statement?*

According to the [California Department of Human Resources CalCareers Glossary](#), "A duty statement is a document outlining the specific job duties of a position." CAL FIRE utilizes a Position Essential Functions Duties Statement (PO-199) to document the duties of a position.

- *On the CalCareers website, where is the email notification section for examinations and job notifications?*

The email notification set-up area is in the My Account section under the Emails/Messages section of [CalCareers](#) on the left-hand side of the screen.

- *Does CAL FIRE help military service members with resumes and if so, how would I go about getting assistance?*

CAL FIRE can offer assistance on resume development. For questions related to a civil service classification, the incumbent should review the Hotlines available. For example, if the resume is specific to gaining employment as a Fire Fighter I, the Fire Fighter I Hotline would be a resource.

For questions regarding “general” resume development or employment assistance for military service members, please contact the [Returning Veterans: Enlisting Their Skills for CAL FIRE Service \(R.V.E.T.S.\)](#) Hotline at 916-327-3985.

Additional Information:

- ✓ Fire Fighter I Hiring Hotline at 951-901-5060
- ✓ Fire Fighter II Hiring Hotline at 951-901-5051
- ✓ Fire Apparatus Engineer/Fire Captain Hiring Hotline at 707-576-2963
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- *What is the application process for a dozer operator?*

CAL FIRE uses two types of civil service classifications related to dozer operations: 1) the [Heavy Fire Equipment Operator \(HFEO\)](#), and 2) the [Caltrans Equipment Operator II](#) on its Fuels Crews. The HFEO examination is administered by CAL FIRE and will be advertised through the release of an examination bulletin. The Caltrans Equipment Operator II examination is administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and will be advertised through the release of an examination bulletin.

Hiring advertisements via job posting are released as vacancies occur throughout the year. Individuals who have gained eligibility through the examination process are encouraged to apply by submitting an application packet during the filing period.

To stay apprised of examination bulletin and job posting releases, establish a [CalCareer Account](#) and select preferences. Individuals can also sign-up for notifications from [CAL FIRE's Email Distribution List](#) and by periodically checking out the [CalCareer](#) and [CAL FIRE Careers](#) webpages.

- *Does CAL FIRE offer any technological school trainings (e.g., California Mechanics Academy)?*

CAL FIRE does not offer any technological school trainings at this time.

- *Do I need to re-apply for an examination or hiring process after I have been hired in a Unit?*

It depends on what you are interested in. For some classifications, you may be eligible to transfer and for others you may have to take an examination even if you are employed by the Unit. It is recommended that you continue to re-apply for examinations and hiring processes until you have been appointed and passed probation for a given classification.

## TRAINING

- *Where can I obtain a CAL FIRE Basic Fire Fighter Certificate?*

As the CAL FIRE Basic Fire Fighter Certificate is not an Office of the State Fire Marshal certification, it is not tracked by the Office of the State Fire Marshal's State Fire Training program. However, many Office of the State Fire Marshal [Accredited Regional Training Programs](#) and [Accredited Local Academies](#) provide a Fire Fighter Academy that may offer the CAL FIRE Basic Fire Fighter Certificate as part of its overall program. Interested individuals may want to reach out to these institutions as well as their nearest CAL FIRE Unit to determine if there are local classes available.

- *What type of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) card is required?*

Please refer to [Acceptable Documents Used for Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, and Fire Apparatus Engineer](#).

- *Where can I find a listing of Office of the State Fire Marshal locally and regionally accredited academies?*

Visit the [Office of the State Fire Marshal State Fire Training Program](#) for information on standardized training and education for the California fire service. There is also information on the website specific to [Accredited Regional Training Programs](#) and [Accredited Local Academies](#).

- *Is there a physical examination/medical examination required before being hired?*

It depends on the civil service classification for which you are applying. If applying for a fire suppression or forestry classification (e.g., Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, Forestry Technician), a physical/medical examination is required. For additional information, contact a hiring Hotline for the specific civil service classification you are interested in.

- *Which specific CAL FIRE Units require an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate?*

Each Unit decides whether it is required based on operational needs. Individuals are encouraged to get an EMT certificate in order to be competitive in the hiring process for most fire suppression classifications.

- *Do the needed training certificates have an expiration date when it comes to usability for hiring?*

Some certificates expire. When applying for the fire suppression classifications, always refer to the [Acceptable Documents Used for Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, and Fire Apparatus Engineer](#).

## FIRE FIGHTER I

- *How many Fire Fighter I applications are received annually?*

Roughly, 4,000 Fire Fighter I applications are received annually.

- *I submitted my Fire Fighter I application, when will I get notice of acceptance?*

Typically, acceptance/rejection letters are mailed to candidates around January/February depending on the volume of applications received.

- *When applying for Fire Fighter I, it is my understanding that I am assigned a category and will be notified. Will I have the opportunity to enhance my application with additional training I have completed after submittal of my application?*

If your application is accepted, you will receive directions on how to submit certifications that are received after the job posting (hiring advertisement) filing period.

- *Which Units have a higher probability of hiring for Fire Fighter I?*

Typically, the smaller Units in the Northern Region have a smaller application pool.

- *How many Fire Fighter Is are the Units looking to hire?*

It changes on an annual basis based on the fire fighting needs of each Unit and for the State of California.

## FORESTRY TECHNICIAN

- *How many times per year are Forestry Technician vacancies advertised?*

The Forestry Technician examination is usually administered on an annual basis and is announced via an examination bulletin. Hiring for Forestry Technician vacancies are advertised through job postings. These job postings occur between two-four times a year.

- *If selected as a Forestry Technician will I be sent to an Academy?*

Forestry Technicians are currently required to attend a Fire Fighter Academy (FFA) administered through the Department's Training Program. However, before attending an FFA, incumbents must have successfully completed a CAL FIRE Basic Fire Fighter.

- *What civil service classification are the typical fuels crews for CAL FIRE comprised of?*

Fuels Crews are typically comprised of:

- ✓ [Forestry Technicians](#)
- ✓ [Caltrans Equipment Operator II](#)
- ✓ [Fire Apparatus Engineer](#)
- ✓ [Forestry Assistant II](#)
- ✓ [Fire Captain](#)

- *For Forestry Technician, what tenures are appointments made?*

Forestry Technicians can be hired permanent, limited term, or as a temporary authorization appointment (TAU). TAU hires are temporary in nature and made after employment list eligibility has been exhausted. Because it is a temporary hire, Veterans' Preference is not applicable. However, for examination eligibility leading to limited-term or permanent hires, [Veterans' Preference](#) is applicable.

- *In what Units are the current CAL FIRE Fuels Crews located?*

CAL FIRE Fuels Crews are located at the Butte, Fresno-Kings, Mendocino, Nevada-Yuba-Placer, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Shasta-Trinity, Sonoma-Lake-Napa, and Tuolumne-Calaveras Units.

- *If I am hired on a Fuels Crew is a two-year commitment required before pursuing a transfer or other position within the Department?*

The [Bargaining Unit 8 Memorandum of Understanding](#) regarding Voluntary In-Class Transfer Policy (Inter-Unit) (Section 9.2) will be followed. Transfers may require a two-year commitment.

## VETERANS' PREFERENCE

- *What form do I use for applying for Veterans' Preference?*

A legible copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214) and a [Veterans' Preference for Examinations \(CalHR-1093\)](#) must be submitted to the California Department of Human Resources, Attention: Selection Division 1515 "S" Street, North Building, Suite 500, Sacramento, California 95811, regardless of which Department is administering the examination.

- *Can I only use Veterans' Preference once?*

Veterans who achieve permanent civil service status with the State of California are not eligible to receive Veterans' Preference pursuant to [California Government Code Section 18973.5](#).

Permanent civil service status is the status of an employee who is lawfully retained in his/her position after completion of the applicable probationary period. This includes permanent intermittent, part-time, and full-time appointments. In addition, individuals who at any time achieved permanent civil service status and subsequently resigned or were dismissed from State Civil Service are not eligible to receive Veterans' Preference pursuant to California Government Code Section 18973.5. For more information on Veterans' Preference visit the [Veterans Landing Page](#) at CalCareers.

- *Is there a better time to use Veterans Preference other than entry level positions (e.g., Fire Fighter I)?*

As Fire Fighter I is a non-testing classification, Veterans' Preference is not applicable. [Veterans Preference](#) is established for use on entrance examinations. Once the California Department of Human Resources has approved your application for Veterans' Preference, your information will remain on file for all future qualifying examinations.

#### RETURNING VETERANS: ENLISTING THEIR SKILLS FOR CAL FIRE SERVICE (R.V.E.T.S.)

- *Does the CAL FIRE Building Bridges project award the CAL FIRE Basic Certificate as a part of the program?*

The Building Bridges project with the California National Guard does not currently award the CAL FIRE Basic Fire Fighter Certificate as a part of the program.

- *Where are the contacts/resources for R.V.E.T.S. located at?*

You can call the R.V.E.T.S. Hotline at 916-327-3985 or visit the website at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/rvets/>.