

Tips For Being Successful

A career as a professional Firefighter/Paramedic or Firefighter/EMT is an excellent and rewarding career. This profession is clearly not for everyone, but can be a great choice for those who like being outside, are not afraid of physical activity, and working in conditions that can be somewhat exciting. To be successful, you must be the best; there can be many applicants for each entry Firefighter/Paramedic or Firefighter/EMT position. To be the best, we recommend...

Get your High School diploma. While in school, consider doing your senior project on a fire related subject. Burney Fire can help you. Contact our business office at 530-335-2212 for more information.

Remain healthy by performing strength, flexibility, and endurance exercises. If you are hired at Burney Fire, you will be encouraged to stay fit by using our exercise equipment and peer fitness trainers at the station.

Get experience as a Firefighter. You can get experience by volunteering, or even by performing a "ride-along." By just sampling the job and its duties, many people realize that this career is not the best choice for their future. You may become a Cadet Firefighter at 16 and be certified at age 18. Burney Fire District currently offers volunteer firefighter positions; if you live outside the Burney area, there is a program for you at Burney also.

Attend a fire academy and become certified as a Firefighter. As a volunteer for a fire agency, you can be certified through the State Fire Marshal's Office. The state accreditation body offers certification for agency personnel in: Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Hazardous Materials Operations, Wildland Interface FF, Fire Apparatus Driver, Mobile Water Supply Operator, Wildland Fire Operator, and others.

Become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic. There are three different EMT certification levels: EMT-Basic, A-EMT, and Paramedic. Burney Fire teaches EMT classes, and the EMT certifications are offered through the Community College system.

Build your resume. If at all possible, get a job in a related field until you can get hired with a fire agency. There are jobs such as Emergency Department Technician at a hospital, and seasonal firefighter for CALFIRE, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Do not be afraid of physical jobs in the construction field. These jobs can teach work ethics and increase your skills and knowledge of building construction which is very useful to a firefighter. Meanwhile, keep taking classes and acquiring fire related certificates.

Earn a College Degree. There are Associate Degrees offered for Fire Science and/or Paramedic Medicine.

Test for firefighter positions. If you see a job posting for a firefighter and you are qualified then you should test. Do not let your first test be at the agency where you really want to work. By the time your "choice agency" does test, you should be experienced in the ways of testing. Contact departments or go on-line, or watch newspapers like The Oregonian for job announcements, even if it is just for a position on a list with no hiring expected...test!