

possess at least an emergency medical technician certification. Paramedic certification is highly desirable for prospective candidates.



## The Testing Process for A RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER

Because most Reserve Firefighters are interested in becoming professional firefighters, many candidates may wonder what is included in a firefighter recruit examination. The classic components in the Alameda County Fire Department examination include:

- Application
- Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT)
- Oral Interview
- Fire Chief's Interview
- Background Investigation
- Medical Evaluation
- 16-week Recruit Academy
- 2-year Probationary Period

Some other departments may also require a written examination and psychological evaluation.

## Mission Statement & Overview

We will provide the highest level of service to our communities by valuing our members; promoting positive leadership; and dedicating ourselves to excellence.



In 1993 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors formed the Alameda County Fire Department to better serve the communities within Alameda County. The communities of Ashland, Cherryland, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, Sunol, Eastern Alameda County, the City of San Leandro, the City of Dublin and the U.C. Berkeley Lawrence National Laboratory are all served by the department. With 18 stations comprised of 18 engines, 4 truck companies, and 1 heavy rescue the department serves 256,475 residents within an area of 464 square miles, and responds to over 21,000 calls annually.

Alameda County Fire Department  
835 East 14th Street, Suite 200  
San Leandro, CA 94577-3767

Phone: (510) 618-3490  
Fax: (510) 618-3445  
[www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm](http://www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm)

## Alameda County Fire Department



## Reserve & Recruit Firefighter Information

*"Dedicated to  
Superior Service"*

The County of Alameda is  
an Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action Employer

## The Alameda County Fire Department Reserve Program

The Alameda County Fire Department Reserve Firefighter Education & Training Program's primary goals are to improve the quantity and quality of training for prospective professional Alameda County firefighters. It has proven itself an innovative and respected leader in developing future firefighters. The Alameda County Fire Department Reserve Firefighter Education & Training Program emphasizes the value of recruiting well-trained and qualified firefighting personnel from all areas of society because firefighters protect the entire community.



Applicants entering the Alameda County Reserve Firefighter Education & Training Program can expect to enter the program as a Reserve candidate. After an evaluation of previous education and training, candidates are placed into a three-tiered training program. Once a candidate completes the third level of training, they are qualified to become an Alameda County Reserve Firefighter.

The focus of Level I is career and educational guidance for candidates interested in the fire service. Level II provides further career and educational guidance for candidates with some education or background in the fire service or emergency medical services. In Level III, the candidate is prepared in an academy environment to become an active Alameda County Reserve Firefighter that is capable of responding to incidents.

Alameda County Fire Department Reserve Firefighters regularly participate in training and education that assists them in becoming a professional firefighter. Reserve Firefighters can expect to participate in firefighter training, meetings, work experience and public education/relations opportunities within the community alongside professional firefighters. Reserve Firefighters are also required to respond to emergencies, when requested, to support the efforts of professional firefighters.

### Interested in Becoming a RESERVE FIREFIGHTER?

Contact the Alameda County Human Resource Services Job Hotline at (510) 272-6433 for current openings. If applications are not currently being accepted, you may also fill out a job interest card online at the Alameda County Human Resources Website: <http://www.acgov.org/hrs/interest.htm>

## The Path to Being A RESERVE FIREFIGHTER

### *What do you need to study?*

A firefighter needs a general knowledge of physics and building construction for fire, rescue and safety issues. Firefighters use mathematics to perform drug and hydraulic calculations, therefore, a strong foundation in arithmetic is necessary. Advanced math such as algebra and geometry could also prove helpful. Knowledge of chemistry and environmental ecology is necessary when responding to hazardous material incidents. Firefighters maintain fire equipment and apparatus and would benefit from classes such as auto or diesel mechanics.

### *Firefighter Training*

Firefighters respond to multiple types of emergencies in addition to fires. The California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I Certification Program is a recognized standard of basic training. It is also desirable that candidates seek to broaden their knowledge and skills beyond the Firefighter I Certification by completing either a certificate or associate degree in fire science through a community college.

### *Emergency Medical Training*

As a first responder to medical emergencies and vehicle accidents, a firefighter relies on extensive medical training. Consequently, most fire departments require firefighters to