



NEWS RELEASE

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Firefighter Apprentice Program Expands

San Bernardino County Fire Department has expanded its Limited-Term (LT) Firefighter Program. The LT Program was created in September of 1998 as an opportunity for those wishing to become a career firefighter to gain on the job experience. This apprentice program has met with very positive feedback and many participants of the program have gone on to become full-time professional firefighters. In 2011 alone, ten LT Firefighters accepted job offers and moved on to continue their career in the fire service.

Currently there are 31 filled LT firefighter positions in County Fire, eight of which are paramedics. With the expansion of the LT Program, by mid 2012 County Fire will have 76 LT firefighter positions that reach out to all corners of the County.

The typical term of the LT is three years with a possible extension to a fourth year if one becomes a paramedic within that three year period. LT's are assigned to a shift and station where they work under the supervision of the Fire Captain and learn by firsthand experience what it takes to become a full-time professional firefighter.

An LT Firefighter responds to medical aids, rescues and other emergency and non-emergency incidents. They participate in daily fire station activities and attend regular and special training sessions. As part of the program and to ensure the LT firefighter is getting the most from the program, they take a test every year. If they do not pass, they have to reapply.

Once hired, the LT firefighter goes through a four week orientation where they review protocols and procedures, the functions of specific equipment, driving instructions, medical skills for basic and advanced life support and much more. On May 5th, 20 LT firefighters will have completed their orientation and ready for their first assignment.

"The LT Firefighter Program is a great opportunity for a potential firefighter to learn and experience firefighting duties first hand." stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. "Past recruitments have garnered approximately 300 applicants, showing the need and value of the program. Helping to develop their firefighting and medical aid skills is what this program is all about. We are proud to offer this opportunity. "

To apply for this program, the applicant must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license, and a CDL ambulance driver's certificate. They must also possess a California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I certificate or an accredited Level I Firefighter Academy or have been employed as a Paid-Call Firefighter with the San Bernardino County Fire Department and have completed specific taskbooks. For a complete list of requirements, visit our website at www.sbcfire.org.

Courtesy photos are located on our website at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.