



# THE ST. MARYS FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT ORIENTATION GUIDE

## **FOREWORD**

This guide has been developed as a resource for those men and women who have indicated an interest in becoming a member of The St. Marys Fire Department. Participation as a member of the fire service will bring personal rewards, satisfaction, raise self-esteem and give you a tremendous sense of accomplishment for a job well done. Your involvement will also provide your community with a valuable service that has the potential to touch us all.

However, service as a member in our department requires a serious commitment. Your decision to join should not be made quickly. The information in this guide has been developed to help you make that decision.

Making a commitment to serve as a firefighter is a serious decision. We ask that you take the time to read this booklet and get the understanding and facts of what is involved in being a member of the Fire Department.

This guide contains information regarding the Fire Department, training, attendance requirements, the nature of our business, and answers to typical questions raised by prospective members. While it is difficult to anticipate and answer all possible questions about membership, it will provide you with information on the most important areas.

Once you understand what is involved in being a member of the Fire Department, we hope you will find you are able to make the commitment that our community requires. The service provided by paid, on-call Volunteer Firefighters is truly valuable to the citizens of the Town of St. Marys and we hope that you can contribute to our public safety.

## **THE NATURE OF OUR BUSINESS**

Firefighting is one of the most diverse and challenging professions. It is this diversity that inspires most men and women to enter the fire service. Imagine having to train to prepare yourself to cope with situations, which include fires ranging from trash bins to structures, hazardous chemical spills, remote area rescues, and almost any imaginable emergency situation in between. This diversity coupled with the fact that your skills may be needed at any time of day, seven days a week, in any kind of weather, and very often under potentially stressful and emotional circumstances makes our contribution to the profession very personally rewarding.

Two basic purposes of the public fire service are first to prevent fire or emergencies from occurring. This is done through fire prevention inspections, fire safety education, and fire code enforcement programs. Secondly, we are here to prepare ourselves to control fire or emergencies should prevention not prevail. This is done through education, training, pre-incident planning, state of the art equipment and more training.

This type of work is not for everyone. You need more than just a desire to help people. You also need courage, dedication, assertiveness, and a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges. The Fire Department is not for the meek, timid or for those who lose control of their emotions during times of crisis. Our service is one which calls on its member to perform strenuous work in uncertain and hazardous environments as a highly efficient team.

Your family must support your decision. They must understand and accept your commitment to training and responding to emergencies which will often interrupt family functions. Your employer will also be required to accept your commitment as a volunteer firefighter. Factors which your employer should be aware of may include but are not limited to:

- Fatigue from emergency responses outside of work hours.
- Responses during work hours.

- Training that will occur from time to time during your regular work hours.

The personal rewards and satisfaction received from being involved in a Fire Department are often beyond description. There is a sense of accomplishment after controlling a building fire, compassion for accident victims, and fulfillment in teaching fire safety. The list could go on and on.

The bottom line in our business is measured by the prevention and reduction of loss of life, pain and suffering and property damage in our service area. We strive to maintain a professional image while providing a safe, reliable and cost-effective service to the residents of our community.

If you feel you have what it takes to meet the challenges of our business, we welcome you to apply to join us.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS**

The Town of St. Marys (The Town) is located at the junction of the Thames River and Trout Creek, southwest of Stratford in southwestern Ontario. The first settlers arrived in the early 1840's, attracted by the area's natural resources. The Town is known by its nickname, "The Stonetown", due to the abundance of limestone in the surrounding area, giving rise to a large number of limestone buildings and homes throughout the town. In the riverbed and along the banks, limestone was close to the surface and could be quarried for building materials. Many 19<sup>th</sup> century limestone structures have survived including churches, a beautiful museum, stunning opera house, commercial blocks, and private homes. St. Marys was incorporated into the province of Ontario, officially, in 1863.

The arrival of the Grand Trunk Railway in the late 1850's spurred growth and soon St. Marys became a centre for milling, grain-trading, and the manufacture of agriculture-related products. The railway connected the Town to the rest of the world and framed the local landscape with its two large trestle bridges on limestone pillars across the waterways.

A walk through the historic streets of St. Marys offers a first-hand look at the unique, stunning limestone architecture and vibrant downtown core. The community's rich history is preserved and promoted by the St. Marys Museum & Archives who continue to tell the stories of the Town through its exhibitions, special events and programs.

St. Marys is home to not only 7,200 residents, but the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and is the burial place of Arthur Meighen, Canada's 9th Prime Minister, and Timothy Eaton who went on to become one of Canada's greatest retailers, who opened his first Canadian businesses in St. Marys and nearby Kirkton, Ontario.

The Town's present identity is very much shaped by its relationship to the natural wonder of the land, the spirit of its residents, and unique limestone architecture.

## **THE ST. MARYS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The St. Marys Fire Department includes a full time Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Services, a part time Chief Fire Prevention Officer, A Deputy Fire Chief, 3 Captains, 5 Lieutenants and 16 Firefighters. This complement oversees both the Town of St. Marys and a large portion of the neighbouring municipality of Perth South.

The Fire Department responds to approximately 130 calls per year, which include structural fires, wild land firefighting, motor vehicle collisions, water & ice rescue, lift assists and some medical emergencies. Apparatus includes 1 Pumper, 1 Tanker, 1 Aerial, and 1 Rescue apparatus.

## **VISION OF THE ST. MARYS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

To provide the citizens of the Town with pro-active, effective, and efficient delivery of fire rescue, public education and fire prevention services; through a unified, forward thinking organization with good morale and the highest standards of personnel safety, fairness and professionalism.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

A typical Fire Department is composed of a variety of functions. Firefighters are often required to fulfill responsibilities from multiple functional areas.

### **Administration:**

- Prepare, deliver, and implement budgets, reports, planning and policy development.

### **Apparatus, Equipment and Communications:**

- Purchase and maintain apparatus, equipment, and communication services.

### **Fire Suppression or Operations:**

- Prevent, control, and extinguish fires.
- Investigate fires.
- Perform rescue and salvage operations.
- Respond to and assist at emergencies.

### **Fire Prevention:**

- Conduct inspections.
- Enforce the Ontario Fire Code.
- Participate in public education functions.

### **Training:**

- Administer training program. i.e., National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards, specialty training subjects etc.
- Prepare and conduct examinations of members.

## **PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

In order to achieve the goals of the fire department the following objectives have been established:

1. Identify and review the fire services requirements of the Town.
2. Provide an administrative process consistent with the needs of the department.
3. Ensure the firefighting equipment and operating personnel are available to provide adequate response to a citizen's call within a reasonable length of time.
4. Provide department training to an accepted standard which will ensure the continuous up-grading of all personnel in fire prevention, firefighting, and control of emergency situations and to cooperate with other municipal departments with respect to management training and other programs.
5. Provide a maintenance program to ensure that all fire protection apparatus and equipment is ready to respond to emergency calls.

6. Provide an effective fire prevention program to:
  - (a) Ensure compliance with applicable municipal, provincial, and federal fire prevention statutes, codes, and regulations.
  - (b) Reduce and/or eliminate fire hazards.
7. Develop and maintain effective public information systems and educational programs, with particular emphasis on school fire safety programs.
8. In the event of a major catastrophe in the Town, ensure assistance is available from outside departments and other agencies.
9. Develop and maintain a good working relationship with all federal, provincial, and municipal departments, utilities and agencies related to the protection of life and property.
10. Interact and co-operate with other Fire Departments in Perth County while working towards mutual fire safety and protection goals and programs.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PARTICIPATION**

A minimum of 50% attendance (calculated on a quarterly basis) rate is required for emergency responses by all paid On-Call volunteer firefighters.

## **TRAINING AND PARTICIPATION**

Over the years, the fire service has evolved into a public safety agency providing highly technical and diverse services. The general public has come to rely on the Fire Department as the “first responder” not only when life and property are threatened by man-made and natural disasters, but for seemingly smaller problems as well.

To ensure that all members of the Fire Department are prepared to deliver the best level of services required, training standards have been developed to provide each member with the needed skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to deliver fire and emergency services to the citizens of the Town.

The St. Marys Fire Department trains to the NFPA Standards as directed by the Ontario Fire Marshals’ Office. The format of training involves a great deal of reading and self-directed learning on the part of the firefighter. Firefighters that are not NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level I & II and NFPA 472 Hazmat Awareness & Operations trained must complete their training within an 18-month time period.

Firefighters train every Wednesday night with the exception of the first Wednesday of the month which is considered a meeting night and the month of December. Training occurs at the Fire department located at 172 James Street South, St. Marys from 1900 to 2100 hours. A minimum of 50% attendance rate (calculated on a quarterly basis) is required at regular training nights by all volunteer firefighters. Additional training is also conducted throughout the year which includes but is not limited to first aid, pump operations and specialized rescue operations. Firefighters are also encouraged to participate in off-site courses such as those offered at the Rural Fire Services of Oxford County, Southwest Fire Academy in Delhi.

On average, a firefighter could expect to commit 6 - 10 hours of training per month to the fire department. This would not include the first 1 - 2 years where a great deal more time in self-directed learning will be expected.

## TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

### Probation

A portion of training could include self-directed learning involving extensive reading and some practical training outside of normal training hours.

### Ongoing training

All firefighters will be required to remain current in their level of training through annual recertification, knowledge based and performance-based testing. Specialized training both in house and off site will be offered to all personnel.

## REMUNERATION

All firefighters are compensated for alarm calls, standby, practice and training. Additional details will be provided during the recruitment process.

## RECRUIT SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will consist of the following components:

**Stage 1** Application Review

**Stage 2** Job Specific Interview

**Stage 3** Job Specific Physical Appraisal

**Stage 4:** Conditional Offer

**Stage 5:** Firm Offers and Acceptance

### Stage 1: Application Review

All applicants are required to submit a resume and cover letter as an application to Human Resources and/or the Fire Chief. Applications will be accepted throughout the designated time as indicated on the job posting. An application form is included in this package.

Applications will be reviewed with preference being given to those applicants who demonstrate the following:

- Ability to respond to the Fire Department within 10 minutes.
- Current First Aid and CPR Certificates
- Valid Class DZ Driver's License with a clean abstract
- Permission to leave place of employment to respond to alarms

After a review of applications, selected applicants will be notified by telephone and/or by email at which time they will have the opportunity to advance to Stage 2 of the selection process.

### Stage 2: Job Specific Interview

Interviews for the position of firefighter shall be conducted by a selection committee of three which will include the Fire Chief, Director of Human Resources (or designate) and any Fire Officer (Deputy Fire Chief and/or Captain(s)). Original copies of any credentials will be requested at this time.

### Stage 3: Job Specific Physical Appraisal

Selected applicants will have the opportunity to complete the job specific physical appraisal component of the selection process. The tasks are designed to reflect job related tasks required in the performance of firefighting duties. The purpose of this selection component is to:

- Provide you with a realistic preview of some incident tasks you will be expected to perform on an incident scene.
- Assess your physical abilities to perform such tasks within the appropriate allotted times.
- Determine a skills baseline for each candidate to inform future training plans for the successful applicants selected to join the Fire Service.

Applicants will be required to submit a completed Consent Waiver and Release Form for participation in the job specific physical appraisal.

If an applicant is unable to complete a task in the allocated time, they may, with the permission of the instructor, continue on with the whole challenge test. The applicant will be notified during testing of this outcome. This will allow the applicant to experience the whole challenge test should they apply again.

A review of results of the job specific physical appraisal will be conducted and selected applicants will have the opportunity to advance to Stage 4 of the selection process.

See Appendix A for more information.

#### **Stage 4: Conditional Offer**

The selection of applicants is based on qualifications, and the ability to do the job as determined by the results of the recruitment process. The successful applicants will be contacted with a conditional offer. Upon verbal acceptance, written confirmation will be forwarded providing a start date and the conditions to be met along with the associated timelines. The applicant will be required to sign and return the conditional offer letter.

The following conditions must be satisfied after the conditional offer is made:

##### Police Vulnerable Sector Check

In order for an application to be considered, applicants must not have a criminal conviction for which a pardon has not been granted at the time of application and the police check must be satisfactory to the Town.

##### Medical Examination Report

The cost of the medical assessment is covered by the Town. Medical assessments must be successfully completed for you to be considered. Your vision will be tested at the medical assessment. The acceptable vision required for this position is 20/30 in each eye without corrective lenses and the ability to satisfactorily complete a colour vision test.

The examination is to determine, if in the opinion of the physician, the applicant is medically fit to be an active firefighter. A **Medical Examination Report** form is included in this package.

##### License and Driver's Abstract Check

You must have a minimum DZ driver's License with 0 demerit points and provide a Drivers Abstract that is satisfactory to the Town.

##### Reference Checks

The references you submitted at the time of your interview will be contacted by the Town.

### **Stage 5: Firm Offers and Acceptance**

Each new recruit will serve a probation period that is six (6) months with a probation appraisal at the end. Additional documentation will be requested (below) and training and orientation will commence.

1. Proof of Hepatitis vaccinations within first (1st) year of start date
2. Proof of Hepatitis B immune status (Effective/Ineffective) through a blood test at least 6 months after completing the vaccination series (covered by OHIP) within the (2nd) year of your start date.
3. Signed Code of Ethics

***We want to acknowledge the effort every applicant puts into the pursuit of being a firefighter and the desire each possesses to assist in the protection of the Community.***

**Thank you for your consideration.**



## The Town of St. Marys Contact Information

Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Services

Richard “Andy” Anderson

172 James Street South,

St. Marys, ON

N4X 1B6

519-284-2340 Ext. 201

[randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca)

Lisa Lawrence

Director of Human Resources

175 Queen Street East,

St. Marys, ON

N4X 1B6

519-284-2340 x 335

[llawrence@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:llawrence@town.stmarys.on.ca)

Municipal website: [www.townofstmarys.com](http://www.townofstmarys.com)

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

### Applicant Information

Name: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Physician Information

Name : (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

### To be completed by Physician

Is the applicant prescribed any medications that may affect his/her performance of duties as a Firefighter? Yes  No

The applicant has provided the physician with a Firefighter Job Description and the Firefighter Recruit Orientation Guide to assist in completing this report. Yes  No

Is the applicant medically fit to perform the duties of a Firefighter? Yes  No

Does the applicant meet the acceptable vision required for this position? (20/30 in each eye without corrective lenses and the ability to satisfactorily complete a colour vision test) Yes  No

Physician's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## CONSENT WAIVER AND RELEASE FORM

### Physical and Agility Testing

**TO: THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS and the FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

**WHEREAS** the Corporation and the Fire Department require that applicants for the position of Firefighter be examined.

**AND WHEREAS** I, \_\_\_\_\_ have submitted to the Corporation and the Fire Department, my signed application for the position of Firefighter, and have been informed that I am required to be examined for this position, and required to participate in a series of tests to demonstrate my strength, endurance and physical agility.

**AND WHEREAS**, the procedures to be followed during the said examination and said series of tests to demonstrate my strength, endurance and physical agility and have been fully explained to me;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, hereby consent to and agree to be examined for the position of Firefighter, and consent to and agree to participate in a series of tests to demonstrate my strength, endurance and physical agility and I for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, hereby waive any and all claims against the Corporation and the Fire Department that I, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, or any of them now or hereafter can, shall, or may have, for, on account of, or because of any injury or damage that I may sustain because of, in connection with, or on account of said examination and said series of tests to demonstrate my strength, endurance and physical agility, and I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, do hereby remise, release and forever discharge the Corporation and the Fire Department from any and all liability claims for damages, actions, suits and demands whatsoever, which I, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns or any of them now or hereafter and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, for or by reason of any cause, matter or thing arising out of or resulting from my participation in said examination and said series of tests to demonstrate my strength, endurance and physical agility.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.

### **SIGNED AND DELIVERED IN THE PRESENCE OF**

Firefighter Applicant Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Firefighter Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The St. Marys Fire Department, \_\_\_\_\_ (firefighter applicant's current employer), and \_\_\_\_\_ (firefighter applicant), agree to the following expectations and conditions for Employer Supported Volunteerism.

### Time Commitment:

The Employer agrees to discharge \_\_\_\_\_ (firefighter applicant) from employment duties to respond to emergency calls received by St. Marys Fire Department. This may also include training and other activities relating to fire department activities, from time to time.

### Documentation of Volunteer Time:

The Fire Chief will provide written documentation to verify an absence for fire service duties. It will be the responsibility of the firefighter to provide any requested supporting documentation to substantiate any claim.

Modifications to this agreement will be made by mutual agreement in writing.

Either party, upon giving 14 days written notice to the other parties, may terminate this agreement.

By signing this community partnership agreement, all parties agree to be active community partners and abide by its terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firefighter Applicant (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employer (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firefighter Applicant (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employer (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Appendix A**

### **Stage 3: Job Specific Physical Appraisal**

Applicants will be required to submit a completed Consent Waiver and Release Form for participation in the job specific physical appraisal.

If an applicant is unable to complete a task in the allocated time, they may, with the permission of the instructor, continue on with the whole challenge test. The applicant will be notified during testing of this outcome and will be confirmed in notification by mail. This will allow the applicant to experience the whole challenge test should they apply again.

Applicants should consider their preparation before the physical assessment such as:

- Hydration
- Food intake
- Suitable foot wear and clothing for humid conditions (a change of clothing is recommended).

A review of results of the job specific physical appraisal will be conducted and selected applicants will have the opportunity to advance to Stage 4 of the selection process.

### **Ability Test**

Individual times will be recorded at the first five Task Stations. Task 6 is not timed. The Ability Test is administered to all firefighters by the same trained instructors. The test includes the ladder climb, rolled hose lift & move, rope pull, unroll hoses and connect them together, charged hose advance and reduced visibility search with a Self-contained Breathing Apparatus and a darkened mask.

### **Equipment List**

List of equipment is divided into General equipment and Task specific. List as follows:

#### **a. General Equipment and Supplies**

- Measuring tape (preferably about 45 m (150'));
- Clipboards;
- Duct tape;
- Stop-watches (3);
- Traffic pylons (10);
- Non-slip rubber mats (5 – 6);
- Table and chairs; and

### **Issue Turnout Gear**

The combination of protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is generally referred to as Personal Protective Ensemble (PPE). It is expected that applicants will be issued gear from the local fire department rather than having them provide their own. This gear must be consistent with current safety standards and representative of the type of protective gear used by the fire department.

The gear must be checked to ensure that it fits properly and that all components are present. For example, the suspenders and waist adjustments on the firefighting pants must be complete and functional. Each applicant must be wearing the following ensemble:

- Flash-hood;
- Jacket (including liner);
- Firefighters Helmet;
- Rubber boots;
- SCBA; and
- Leather work gloves (not firefighting gloves).

Helmets and SCBA will be issued to the applicant at the evaluation sites.

Some applicants will have little or no experience with turnout gear and SCBA; all evaluators must be familiar with PPE to ensure proper fit and correct use.

Evaluators must always be able to check “at a glance” to make sure that the gear is worn correctly and is in good operating condition.

The applicant can wear shorts and t-shirt under the PPE.

The Ability Tests are described as follows:

## **Task 1 - Ladder Climb**

The task simulates ascending and descending an extension ladder and evaluates leg strength and endurance required for climbing under load.



### **Equipment:**

- Heavy-duty extension ladder 7.3 m (24'). A single fly ladder could be used, bearing in mind that the applicant climbs to the 10th rung, so the actual length of the ladder must extend at least 2 m past the 10th rung.
- The ladder is set up against a secure wall.
- It is recommended that the base of the ladder be placed on a non-slip rubber mat.
- The top of the ladder should be tied off.

Instructions like “Each repetition begins and ends with two feet on the black mat” are simple, easily understood and easily remembered.

### **Assessment procedures:**

- Starting from an erect position facing the ladder, the applicant climbs 10 rungs (3.45 m) up and down a 7.2 m (24') ladder. This is repeated 5 times as quickly as possible.
- A repetition begins with both feet on the floor at the base of the ladder. The applicant climbs and places two feet on the 10th rung, reverses direction and climbs down until both feet are again on the floor.

### **Time:**

The task must be completed safely in less than 90 seconds.

### **Specific Instructions:**

- Assume correct starting position, standing tall and facing the ladder.

- The evaluator indicates when the task is meant to begin and shortly thereafter, (up to 5 seconds delay is permitted) the applicant must start.
- The clock begins as soon as the applicant moves to start climbing the ladder.
- The applicant must maintain three-point contact (two feet and one hand, or one foot and two hands) at all times on the ladder.
- A flight phase (both feet off the ladder at once, or a jump from one rung to the next) should be treated the same as running. The first time results in a warning, and the applicant must return to where he/she was prior to the offence and then continue the evaluation. Continued non-compliance will result in failure or disqualification.
- The evaluator will call out each step in this fashion, “one-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-nine-ten-UP (second foot on the 10th rung)” followed by, “ten- nine- eight-seven-six-five-four-three-two-one-DOWN (second foot on the floor)”.
- The second step at the top (10th rung) and bottom (floor) must be weight bearing. If the applicant fails to complete this requirement, instruct them to return to the top or bottom, and properly complete the step.
- The applicant should be encouraged to pace him/herself for the first two repetitions and then increase the pace if possible. This is a very challenging task for most people.
- The applicant must remain under control at all times. If the applicant misses a rung or slips, he/she must stop, go back to the point of error and start again.
- The evaluation is over when both feet are solidly on the floor after the 5th repetition has been completed.
- Record the elapsed time and start the 3-minute recovery period.

## **Task 2 - Rolled Hose Lift and Move**

The task simulates lifting equipment and placing it on a vehicle and ensures the firefighter is capable of typical set up and clean up at an incident.



### **Equipment:**

- Chief's pickup truck
- Six 15.24 m (50') length of 65 mm Red Chief hose

### **Assessment procedures:**

- Applicant stands behind 6 rolls of hose (3 stacks of 2 hoses).
- Applicant lifts one hose at a time, from the ground and carries it a distance of 4.5 m (15') and sets it in the back of the Fire Chief's pickup.
- When all 6 rolls are placed in 3 stacks of 2 hoses, the applicant will take one step back.
- The applicant will then move the 6 rolls, 1 at a time, and return them back to the starting position on the ground and place them in stacks of 2 rolls, as they found them.

The applicant is required to stack the rolls evenly and neatly. Each roll has to be set down. No dropping or throwing of the rolled hoses is allowed.

### **Time:**

The task must be completed safely in less than 120 seconds.

## **Task 3 - Rope Pull**

This task simulates pulling equipment on the fire ground during a structural response and assesses upper body strength, power, and endurance for pulling and hoisting.

### **Equipment:**

- 30.48 m (100') length of 100 mm Red Chief hose
- 15.24 m (50') length of 65 mm Red Chief hose
- Straps and/or cable to secure the bundle
- 2 lengths (approximately 60' each) of 16 mm static rope
- Carabineers (2.)



#### Assessment procedures:

- Applicant stands behind a line.
- Starting from an erect position facing forward, straddling the rope on the floor, the applicant bends and picks up a length of static 16 mm (5/8") nylon rope attached to a bundle of hose (typically, one 30.48 m (100') length of 100 mm hose and one 15.24 m (50') length of 65 mm; Red Chief, total weight is 56 kg (123 lb.)).
- The time begins when the applicant reaches for the rope.
- Keeping the feet securely in place, the applicant uses the rope to pull the bundle over the floor a distance of 15.24 m (50').
- The applicant then walks 15.24 m (50') and repeats the pull, walks back 15.24 m (50') and repeats the pull for the third and final time.



A second evaluator is required for this task evaluation. One evaluator should be at each end of the course to ensure that the hose bundle fully crosses the line and that evaluation procedures are followed. Once the hose bundle is pulled the required distance, it should be reset to the starting position, and the rope should be pulled tight. No slack or knots should be present in the rope during the task.

The force required to move the hose bundle must be approximately 200 N, and depending on the friction of the floor surface, the weight of the hose bundle can be adjusted.

**Time:**

The task must be completed safely in less than 60 seconds.

**Task 4 - Unroll hoses, connect hoses and nozzle**

This task simulates activities on the fire ground during a structural response and assesses fine motor skills, accuracy, upper body strength and power for pushing and throwing.

**Equipment:**

- One 65mm – 38mm gated wye
- Two 15.24 m (50') length of 38 mm Red Chief hose
- One 38 mm nozzle

**Assessment procedures:**

- Applicant unrolls a 15-meter 38 mm hose and connects it to a 38 gated wye (hand tight).
- Applicant walks to the end of the hose and unrolls a second 15-meter 38 mm hose.
- Applicant connects the two hoses together (hand tight) and walks to the end of the hose.
- Applicant connects a 38 mm nozzle to the hose (hand tight).
- Applicant walks back to the starting point.



**Time:**

The task must be completed safely in less than 90 seconds.

## **Task 5 - Charged Hose Advance**

The task simulates advancing a pressurized hose during a bushfire response and assesses lower body strength and power for pulling and dragging.

### **Equipment:**

- Two 15.24 m (50') length of 38 mm (1½") Red Chief fire hose
- Nozzle: Note that the bail of the nozzle has to be secured in the off position with duct tape, this is essential to avoid accidental discharge of water
- Water Truck or fire hydrant

Set up charged hose line and nozzle at starting point.



Set up finish line with traffic pylons –this denotes the actual finish line 30.48 m (100') from start line. The traffic pylons provide a “target” and a safe stopping area for the applicant.

Instructions like “the evaluation is over when both feet cross the line” are simple and clear.

### **Assessment Procedures:**

- Applicant will grip handle attached to a 38 mm hose and place the hose over their shoulder.
- Applicant will advance the hose forward, ensuring they remain in a forward upright position for the full 30.48 metres.
- When the nozzle of the charged line crossed the finish line, timing for the event is stopped and the total test time will be recorded by the instructors.



### **Time:**

The task must be completed safely in less than 20 seconds.

### **Task 6 - Reduced Visibility Search**

The task is designed to test the Applicant's ability to operate in a darkened environment with reduced visibility and simulate a rescue scenario.

#### **Equipment:**

- One MSA Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- One Rescue Randy
- One firefighter helmet

#### **Assessment Procedures:**

- Applicant will be properly dressed with a SCBA and the face piece will be blacked out.
- Applicant will conduct a search, for a Rescue Randy, in the Fire Hall.
- Once the applicant discovers the Rescue Randy, they will drag the Rescue Randy to the top of the stairs.

#### **Time:**

The task will not be timed but must be completed safe manner.