

CLASS TITLE: CHIEF OF FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Class Code: 02258600
Pay Grade: 27A
EO Code: A

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To be responsible for and to coordinate all phases of a program of fire investigation designed to ascertain the cause, origin and circumstances of suspicious, accidental and incendiary fires and/or explosions; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the direction of a superior with wide latitude for the exercise of initiative and independent judgement; work is reviewed for results obtained and for conformance to codes, laws, regulations and policies.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Plans, organizes, coordinates, supervises and reviews the work of a staff engaged in a comprehensive program of fire investigations.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To be responsible for and to coordinate all phases of a program of fire investigations designed to ascertain the cause, origin and circumstances of suspicious, accidental and incendiary fires and/or explosions.

To be responsible for assigning subordinates to conduct fire investigations and to insure that these investigations are properly conducted and reported.

To assist in establishing, reviewing and participating in training programs designed to increase the expertise of subordinates and of local fire personnel.

To coordinate a program of fire investigations with the efforts of federal, state and local officials.

To carry firearms and other weapons in the course of and in the performance of required duties.

As required, to conduct fire investigations of a most complex nature and to prepare written reports.

To charge and apprehend suspected arsonists, if necessary.

As required, to appear in court and give expert testimony relative to an investigation.

To address private and public local agencies and organizations on the subject of arson and fire safety.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of fire investigation; a working knowledge of state and federal codes and regulations pertaining to fire safety; a working knowledge of and skill in the use of firearms; a working knowledge of the basic rules of legal evidence; the ability to plan and coordinate the work of a staff engaged in a comprehensive program of fire investigations; the ability to assist in formulating training programs pertaining to fire investigations; the ability to ascertain the cause, origin and circumstances of fires by means of personal contact, observation and the examination of records; the ability to prepare written reports; the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with federal, state and local fire and police officials and the general public; the ability to effectively explain the goals and services of the unit to public groups and organizations; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through: graduation from a senior high school; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: considerable employment in a responsible position involving planning and coordinating a program of comprehensive fire investigations.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Within six months of appointment:

1. Must satisfactorily complete at the Rhode Island State Police Training Academy or other certified police training school an appropriate course of training in Law Enforcement or must have previously completed a comparable course.
2. Must meet the State of Rhode Island qualification requirements to carry weapons used in the performance of duty and must maintain such qualification requirements as a condition of employment.

Class Revised: December 22, 1985

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