

CLASS TITLE:**FIRE INVESTIGATOR III****Class Code: 02253900****Pay Grade: 27A****EO Code: C****CLASS DEFINITION:**

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To conduct comprehensive investigations of a difficult and complex nature into the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires and fire-related fatalities throughout the state; to conduct advanced and complex exterior and interior surveys, interpret and analyze fire patterns, examine and remove fire debris, and reconstruct the area of origin for the purposes of determining which points have suffered the most severe fire damage; to locate and identify an origin, cause, and classification for the fire; to charge and apprehend violators of the General Laws within the jurisdiction of the Office of the State Fire Marshal; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general supervision of a superior and may receive assignments from a Fire Investigator of a higher grade in outline form with considerable latitude for the exercise of initiative and independent judgment; work is reviewed for conformance to codes, laws, rules regulations, policies, and results obtained.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: To guide and coach Fire Investigators of a lower rank during investigations, and to assist a superior in the training of new staff.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To conduct comprehensive investigations of a difficult and complex nature into the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires and fire related fatalities throughout the state.

To conduct advanced and complex exterior and interior surveys, interpret and analyze fire patterns, examine and remove fire debris, and reconstruct the area of origin for the purposes of determining which points have suffered the most severe fire damage.

To locate and identify an origin, cause, and classification for the fire.

To charge and apprehend violators of the General Laws within the jurisdiction of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

To document a fire scene in accordance with standard methods and procedures.

To conduct a complete criminal investigation to obtain a motive for the fire.

To prosecute violators of the fire safety laws and codes.

To adhere to proper rules and procedures in identifying, documenting, collecting, and preserving evidence while maintaining the chain of custody.

To guide and coach Fire Investigators of a lower rank in the proper methods and manners of conducting fire investigations.

To conduct interviews with witnesses.

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

To prepare and submit detailed and complex written reports containing conclusions reached from investigations.

To cooperate with local, state, federal officials and industry related investigators.

To appear in court or at hearings and to give testimony.

As required, to be available for emergency and non-emergency recall outside of scheduled work hours.

To conduct and participate in training.

To safely operate an emergency response vehicle.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of fire investigation; a thorough knowledge of state and federal codes and regulations pertaining to

fire safety; a thorough knowledge of and skill in the use of firearms; knowledge of the basic rules of legal evidence, criminal law, and criminal procedure; an advanced 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 local, state, and federal officials and the general public; the ability to explain the goals and services of the unit to public groups and organizations; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Graduation from a senior high school; and

Experience: At least two (2) years of employment as a Fire Investigator II. Candidates may substitute related Fire Department or Law Enforcement experience on a year-for-year basis for the required experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. At the time of appointment, must successfully pass a background criminal history examination.
2. At the time of appointment, must have been evaluated and tested by a certified psychologist and receive a satisfactory rating in writing.
3. At the time of appointment, must pass all mandatory medical examinations.
4. Must continually and satisfactorily complete all appropriate courses of training in law enforcement as identified by the State Fire Marshal or their designee as a condition of employment.
5. At the time of appointment, 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.
6. At the time of appointment, must possess and maintain a valid motor vehicle operator's license.
7. Must possess and maintain Certified Fire Investigator certification or higher through the International Association of Arson Investigators, or a comparable level of certification by a nationally recognized organization as deemed comparable by the State Fire Marshal or their designee.

Class Created: May 12, 2019