

**County of Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Fighter Trainee (Paramedic) (30198G)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Q1: Why is the County of Los Angeles Fire Department (Fire Department) opening a recruitment for Fire Fighter Trainee with a Paramedic specialty?

A: *It is a priority for the Fire Department to implement new and efficient hiring processes and meet the increased emergency medical services needs of our communities. Opening the Fire Fighter Trainee (Paramedic) (FFT/PM) specialty job posting will allow the Fire Department to fill critically needed positions with individuals who have experience related to the roles they would be assuming.*

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

Q2: If I am a firefighter in another agency, am I eligible for a lateral transfer?

A: *The FFT/PM job posting is not a lateral transfer. Interested individuals must apply for the position, meet the requirements listed on the job posting, and pass the exam in order to be placed on the eligible list.*

Q3: Should I apply to the FFT/PM job posting to be considered for a future Fire Fighter Trainee (FFT) position within the Fire Department?

A: *The FFT position requires an EMT certification/license. The current FFT/PM job posting requires a Paramedic license; a current, valid, non-probationary California Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic License issued by the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority that must remain effective for at least six (6) months beyond the date of appointment; and twelve (12) months of full-time experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses. Therefore, the FFT/PM list will only be used to fill Fire Fighter Paramedic positions.*

Please note, that while the current job posting is only limited to FFT/PM, the Fire Department plans to open the general FFT job posting in the coming months. We encourage you click on the following link and subscribe to the position: [Fire Fighter Trainee: Class Specification](#). In doing so, you will be alerted when the job posting opens.

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT):

Q4: What is the CPAT?

A: *The CPAT is a timed test that measures performance on physical tasks simulating actual job duties on the fire ground.*

Q5: Where can an individual obtain information about taking the CPAT?

A: *All relevant information regarding the CPAT can be located on the following website: <https://www.fctonline.org/cpat>.*

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Q6: Do applicants have to possess the CPAT certificate by April 8, 2023, in order to take the FFT/PM exam?

A: *No. Applicants who do not have a current and valid CPAT certificate, but who also meet all other requirements, may apply and take the written exam, but will be withheld from the eligible list until an official copy of a current and valid CPAT certificate is submitted. Such applicants may obtain information by going to [FCTOnline.org](https://www.fctonline.org). Successful candidates must submit a current and valid CPAT no later than May 30, 2024.*

Q7: I do not live in California and have taken the CPAT. How do I know if it will be accepted for the County of Los Angeles?

A: *To verify out of state certificates, visit <https://www.iaff.org/cpat/#licensing>.*

Q8: How long is my CPAT certification valid for the Fire Department?

A: *The CPAT certification will remain valid for twelve (12) months from the date of certification.*

PARAMEDIC LICENSE:

Q9: The job posting states that my EMT-P license must be effective for at least six (6) months beyond the date of appointment. My EMT-P license will expire one month after I submit my application. Will I be disqualified from this exam?

A: *No, you will not be disqualified. Applicants who submit a current, valid, non-probationary California Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) License issued by the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority at the time of filing or by April 8, 2023, will not be disqualified from competing for the exam. However, applicants must submit a current, valid, non-probationary California EMT-P license, no later than May 30, 2024. In addition, the EMT-P license must be valid for at least six (6) months beyond the date of appointment in order to be placed in the FFT/PM Recruit Academy. Therefore, if you are given a conditional offer of employment, it is important that you renew your California EMT-P license.*

Q10: What is the Paramedic Bonus?

A: *The Paramedic Bonus is granted to employees in the classification of Fire Fighter who are regularly assigned to a post paramedic position. A post position is a position requiring constant staffing on a 24-hour basis. An individual post has three shifts to maintain constant staffing. Those employees assigned to a post paramedic position receive a 17.9% bonus on top of their monthly base salary. They must obtain and maintain a valid California paramedic license by the State of California and Los Angeles County local accreditation and complete Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency mandated courses, including the EMS Update. Employees are eligible for all bonuses applicable to the job duties they are performing (i.e., EMT and Paramedic).*

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EXPERIENCE:

Q11: Does the 12 months of experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses have to be consecutive or with one employer?

A: *No. The 12 months of experience as a primary care paramedic running 9-1-1 responses does not have to be consecutive or with one employer.*

APPLICATION:

Q12: What if I do not have a computer at home to apply for the exam?

A: *For applicants who may not have regular access to a computer or the internet, applications can be completed on computers at public libraries throughout the County of Los Angeles, which can be found by visiting <https://lacountylibrary.org/library-locator>. Applicants may also call 2-1-1 LA County and request the nearest library to their zip code by dialing 2-1-1 LA County or (800) 339-6993. Applicants who do not reside in LA County can call 2-1-1 and ask to be transferred to LA County.*

Q13: What if I am having problems applying online or uploading attachments?

A: *If you are having problems applying online or uploading documents, please visit the on-line application system's Technical Support page by clicking the link at <https://hr.lacounty.gov/neogov-help>. You may also email the required documents to Fire-FFTParamedic@fire.lacounty.gov.*

Q14: What if I move after I submit my application?

A: *You must provide your updated contact information by email to Fire-FFTParamedic@fire.lacounty.gov. Please type "CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE" in the subject line. Please also be sure to update your governmentjobs.com profile accordingly.*

Q15: How do I apply for Veteran's credit?

A: *Although you can submit your DD214 form at any time during the exam process, the Fire Department highly recommends that you submit a copy of your DD214 form with your application or by April 8, 2023, for review and consideration for Veteran's credit. For information about the specific conditions to qualify for Veteran's Credit, see the FFT/PM job posting.*

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REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES:

Q16: How do applicants for the FFT/PM exam submit the required documents?

A: As indicated on the job posting, applicants must provide the required documents at the time of filing or by emailing the documents to Fire-FFTParamedic@fire.lacounty.gov by April 8, 2023. In addition, after the filing closes, you may receive a reminder notice to upload the required documents with a pre-determined deadline date. If you receive the reminder notice, you may also upload the required documents by using the following steps.

1. Going to governmentjobs.com and logging into your applicant profile.
2. Selecting Applications from the options that appear when you click on your name.
3. Clicking the Add Attachment link next to the application.
4. Uploading the required document(s).
5. Clicking Submit.

Q17: When must candidates submit all required documents for the FFT/PM exam?

A: As indicated on the job posting, all required documents must be provided with the application at the time of filing or by April 8, 2023.

Notwithstanding the above, applicants should note the following:

1. FFT/PM applicants who do not possess the California EMT-P license listed on the job posting will be withheld from the eligible list until an official copy of a valid California EMT-P license is submitted, no later than May 30, 2024.
2. FFT/PM Applicants who do not have a CPAT certificate will be withheld from the eligible list until a valid and current CPAT certificate is submitted. Applicants who do not have a CPAT certificate may obtain information by going to FCTOnline.org. A valid CPAT must be submitted no later than May 30, 2024.

Q18: Is a valid California driver's license required at the time of submitting my application?

A: No. A valid California driver's license is not required at the time that you submit your application. However, as stated on the job posting, a California driver's license is required before being appointed.

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EXAM PREPARATION:

Q19: What will the exam for the FFT/PM consist of?

A: *As stated on the job posting, the FFT/PM exam will consist of two parts as indicated below (please refer to the job posting for additional information):*

- **Part I:** *Candidates will be required to take an in-person, proctored multiple-choice test measuring conscientiousness, managing work pressure, getting along with others and trustworthiness. Part I is weighted at 70%.*
- **Part II:** *Candidates will be required to take an in-person, multiple-choice test measuring mechanical comprehension, reading comprehension, report interpretation and written expression. Part II is weighted at 30%.*

NOTE: *Candidates must meet the Specialty Requirements and achieve a passing score of 70% or higher on the combined score of Part I and Part II in order to be placed on the eligible list.*

Q20: How can I prepare for the FFT/PM exam?

A: *As stated on the job posting, the FFT/PM Study Guide and FAQs are available by visiting the Fire Department's website, or by clicking the following link:*
<https://fire.lacounty.gov/firefighter-trainee-recruitment>.

CERTIFICATION LIST/BACKGROUND/MEDICAL:

Q21: What happens next if I am successful in the exam and my name is placed on the eligible list?

A: *Successful candidates will be placed on the eligible list in ranking group based on their performance on the exam. Candidates are then selected starting with the highest ranking group, and will begin the background check and medical exam. The eligible list is valid for twelve (12) months from the promulgation date.*

Q22: Will there be a background check and medical exam in order to be appointed to this position?

A: *As stated on the job posting, successful candidates who are given a conditional offer of employment will be required to complete a criminal background check, including a fingerprint search, followed by a medical exam. A candidate with a conviction history that has a direct and adverse relationship with the duties of the **FFT/PM** position may have their conditional offer of employment rescinded and be removed from the certification list pursuant to Civil Service Rule 6.04.*

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*In addition, candidates must successfully complete a medical exam and be able to perform all of the essential functions of the **FFT/PM** classification. A candidate who does not successfully complete a medical exam or is unable to perform all of the essential functions of the **FFT/PM** may have their conditional offer of employment rescinded and be removed from the certification list pursuant to Civil Service Rule 6.04.*

Q23: What does the medical exam consist of?

A: *The pre-placement medical evaluation is administered after a conditional offer of employment is made. It is designed to determine an applicant's ability to safely perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation. The Fire Department complies with its obligations under all local, State, and federal laws when making hiring decisions.*

Q24: What will disqualify me from being a firefighter?

A: *You may be disqualified for various reasons, including, but not limited to: not meeting all of the Specialty Requirements listed on the job posting; having certain felony conviction(s); receiving a dishonorable military discharge; being on probation as directed by a court; and having any Driving Under the Influence (DUI) conviction(s) within two years of your application date.*

Q25: Why is my name not on the eligible list after I passed the written test?

A: ***Candidates "self-qualify" to take the written test based on their answers on their application.** Passing the written test does not guarantee placement on the eligible list. If you did not provide a copy of the required CPAT certificate and EMT-P license issued by the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority, your name will be withheld from the eligible list until all the required documents have been submitted by the deadlines and verified.*

Q26: How long do I have to submit my documents after being withheld from the eligible list?

A: *Withhold means that the names of candidates who are successful in the written exam, but have not submitted proof of requirements will not be included on the eligible list until the required documents have been submitted by the deadlines. You have until May 30, 2024, to submit the required CPAT certificate and California EMT-P license. Once the required documents have been submitted by the deadlines and verified, the names of the candidates will be placed on the eligible list. Candidates who were withheld from the eligible list and later placed on the eligible list will not get additional time unless the eligible list is extended or restored.*

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Q27: The job posting indicates that the FFT/PM exam contains test parts that may be used in future exams. What does this mean?

A: *This means that if you apply for other exams within the County of Los Angeles that uses the same test part(s), your responses from those test part(s) will be automatically transferred to the new exam for twelve (12) months. You will not be allowed to re-take any such test part(s) for the twelve (12) months from the date you completed the test part(s). You will receive a notice indicating your responses are being transferred to the new examination. Please note that transfer of score does not indicate you have either passed or failed the test part of the exam.*

Q28: Will candidates who do not receive a passing score for the FFT/PM exam be allowed to take the forthcoming FFT exam?

A: *Since these are two separate exams, applicants will be allowed to apply for and compete in the examination process for the FFT/PM and FFT as not all test part(s) on the FFT/PM are assessed through the FFT exam, and vice versa. Only test part(s) assessed by both the FFT/PM and FFT examinations will meet the score transfer criteria. Therefore, candidates who apply for both examinations will be allowed to take both the FFT/PM and FFT examinations, regardless of whether they pass or fail either exam.*

Q29: Where can I get answers to any additional questions?

A: *For additional questions pertaining to the FFT/PM exam, please contact the Examination Section at (213) 466-5500 or via email at Fire-FFTParamedic@fire.lacounty.gov.*

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