

Obtaining a career in the Fire Service

Pursuing a career in the fire service takes a lot of hard work and dedication. But it will lead to a long and rewarding career.

Traditionally this has been a very competitive career resulting in hundreds of applicants per job opening available. It is very important to learn from the process and keep trying, always looking for a way to make yourself more marketable, and become more effective at showing your qualifications throughout the testing process. **NEVER GIVE UP!!!**

- The number one thing is keep a clean record. Events in your past could affect your future.
- Stay physically fit.
- Get Involved! You can begin preparing for a specific career in the fire service when you turn 15 years old by joining a fire explorer program or taking a Regional Occupational Program (ROP) course.
- Become an Emergency Medical Technician.
- Once you are 18 years of age (or 17 with parental consent) there are several volunteer programs available through Corona Fire Department, Cal Fire, Riverside County Fire Department and other various departments.
- Once you graduate from High School enroll in Fire Science course at a local college; such as Santa Ana College, Riverside Community College, Rio Hondo Community College, Mt. San Antonio College and Palomar College.
- Once you graduate start applying to Fire Departments.
- There are endless opportunities in the fire service. The fire service is not all about fighting fires. Opportunities such as:
 - Fire Prevention - Specially trained fire service employees who are well versed in Fire Codes, and conduct inspections to insure compliance and safety within the community.
 - Emergency Dispatcher - Dispatchers receive calls and contact the most appropriate available unit to respond to emergencies of all kinds.
 - Fire/Arson Investigator - Some fires are suspicious and a thorough investigation of the scene is needed. Burn patterns, colors, and chemicals are but a few of the things an investigator will look and test for.
 - Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) - Various chemicals require a specialized group to respond to mitigate the problem safely and efficiently, that group is the HAZMAT Team. The team has various tools and equipment needed to determine what an unknown substance is and how best to deal with it.
 - Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) - Another specialized team of individuals ready to respond to more complex rescue incidents, or even national to international disasters.
 - Fire Mechanics - Specially trained mechanics educated in diesel as well as the large capacity water pumps found on Fire Engines and related apparatus are a necessity to keep the emergency responders up and running.
 - Emergency Management - is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within a community to reduce hazards and cope with disaster

City of Corona Fire Department Explorer Post 360

For those who are interested in joining or learning about the fire explorer program. The City of Corona Fire Explorer Post 360 is comprised of 36 young adults who are eager to gain real life experiences, training, and exposure to the career opportunities of the fire service.

Post 360 runs an International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) based curriculum designed to prepare them for the Fire Academy. Explorers can promote to Lieutenant, Captain, and finally Chief. Each progressive rank requires more skills, knowledge, and dedication than the previous one, and thus is that much more rewarding.

Explorers must be between 15 and 20 years of age, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, and have a professional appearance to participate. The explorers develop their knowledge in the classroom as well as the drill grounds with hands on training. Explorers will also have many opportunities to help within the community at a variety of events.

Please contact us with any questions or comments at: Post360.Corona@ci.corona.ca.us

Resources

City of Corona Fire Department Fire Explorers Program:

<http://www.discovercorona.com/City-Departments/Fire-Department/Fire-Explorers.aspx>

Santa Ana College:

<https://www.sac.edu/AcademicProgs/HST/FireTech/Pages/default.aspx>

Riverside Community College:

<http://www.mvc.edu/bctc/fire/>

Rio Hondo Community College:

<http://www.riohondofire.com/>

Mt. San Antonio College:

<http://www.mtsac.edu/firetech/>

Palomar College:

<http://www2.palomar.edu/fire/>