



City of Durham Fire Department

Ability Testing Description

The tasks listed below are normal duties or situations encountered by firefighters. Applicants are asked to read this information to assist in determining physical preparedness to complete the tasks. This test is completed by employees who are NOT current employees of the City of Durham. The city of Durham is NOT liable for injuries incurred during the testing. The Durham Fire Department reserves the right to change or add any portion of this test.

Task 1: Dry Hose Deployment

Candidate advances 150 feet of pre-connected 1.75-inch dry hose line for 150 feet. (Each dry 50-foot section weighs approximately 20 pounds, for approximately 60 pounds of dry weight.)

Applicable Job Duty

Removes pre-connected dry hose line from transverse hose bed, extends to designated area, waits for hose line to become charged, and advances charged hose line to attack fire

Task 2: Charged Hose Deployment

Candidate advances 100 feet of pre-connected 1.75-inch charged hose line for 70 feet. (Each charged 50-foot section weighs approximately 38 pounds, for an approximate total of 76 pounds of charged weight.)

Applicable Job Duty

Removes pre-connected dry hose line from transverse hose bed, extends to designated area, waits for hose line to become charged, and advances charged hose line to attack fire

Task 3: Ladder Removal/Carry

Candidate removes a 72-pound, 24-foot aluminum extension ladder from mounted hooks, carries the ladder 54 feet around a diamond shaped course, and replaces the ladder to mounted hooks.

Applicable Job Duty

Removes and/or replaces extension ladders and straight ladders from apparatus

Carries straight or extension ladders from the apparatus to the site of use

Task 4: Halyard Raise

Candidate raises and lowers the fly section of a 24-foot aluminum extension ladder with a halyard.

Applicable Job Duty

Extends the fly section of an extension ladder with a halyard

Task 5: Victim Removal

Candidate carries or drags a 165-pound dummy for 26 feet.

Applicable Job Duty

Carries a conscious, unconscious, injured, or deceased victim up or down stairs or across grounds without the use of equipment such as stretcher, backboard and straps, and/or other improvised equipment, to an area of safety

Drags an unconscious, injured, or deceased victim up or down stairs or across grounds to an area of safety (with or without equipment)

Task 6: Roof Ventilation

Candidate ascends and descends an 11-foot distance walking/crawling on the rungs of a 12-foot roof ladder while carrying a simulated 20-pound chain saw. Candidate stands on a flat rooftop and strikes a tire 30 times with an 8-pound sledgehammer.

Applicable Job Duty

Climbs, works from, and descends ladders

Climbs, works from, and descends ladders while carrying equipment such as chain saw, axe, pike pole, and/or sledgehammer

Creates ventilation openings in ceilings and roofs (either flat or pitched), using tools such as rotary or chain power saw, prying tool, axe, rubbish hook, pike pole, and/or sledge hammer

Task 7: Attic Crawl

Candidate crawls a distance of 21 feet across a simulated attic area while carrying a simulated flashlight in his/her hands.

Applicable Job Duty

Searches for extension of fire while walking or crawling in areas with restricted heights and joisted walkways (such as an attic)

Task 8: Stair Climb with Hose

Candidate climbs four flights of stairs with a 50-pound hose bundle and places bundle on the landing of the fourth floor.

Applicable Job Duty

Climbs stairs with a hose bundle/pack or other necessary equipment, in order to facilitate the extinguishment of fires in multi-story structures

Task 9: Crawling Search/Stair Descent

Candidate crawls on the platform of the fourth floor for a distance of 60 feet. Candidate places the hose bundle on his/her shoulder and takes it back down the four flights of stairs. Candidate places bundle down at the bottom floor.

Applicable Job Duty

Searches for extension of fire while walking or crawling in areas with restricted heights and joisted walkways (such as an attic).

Task 10: Stair Climb with Equipment/Hose Hoist

Candidate picks up two air bottles (with shoulder strap), places air bottles over shoulder, and returns up the stairs to the third floor. On the third floor, the candidate places the air bottles on the ground and hoists a 100-foot section of an extended hose line up, and over the balcony rail. The candidate must then return both bottles back to the first floor.

Applicable Job Duty

Hoists tools (such as chain saw, hose line, and/or roof kit) up multiple stories or other elevated areas, using ropes

Climbs stairs with hose bundle/pack or other necessary equipment, in order to facilitate the extinguishment of fires in multi-story structures.