



Candidate Information Packet Firefighter/Paramedic Test 2009

Orland Fire Protection District • 9788 W 151 ST • Orland Park, IL 60462-3110 • 708-349-0074

INFORMATION

Welcome Firefighter/Paramedic Candidates

Welcome to the Orland Fire Protection District testing process for new firefighter/paramedic candidates. We are pleased you chose to accept the challenge of joining one of the best fire protection agencies in the country.

The Orland Fire Protection District began in 1894 as the Orland Park Volunteer Fire Department. Later, we were organized as a municipal fire department for the Village of Orland Park. In 1969, the Orland Fire Protection District was created after voters passed a referendum that created the district – a separate government entity.

You may be part of a proud tradition that continues today. As the Orland Fire Protection District progresses through the 21st Century, there will be changes produced by expansion and progress. You may be part of our team which fulfills those changes.

This packet is designed to guide you through the testing process, as well as to inform you about the Orland Fire Protection District. Most of the information you will need for further testing is provided within this packet or will be discussed during the orientation meeting.

Introducing the Orland Fire Protection District

Candidates must pass an examination to be a firefighter. The testing process includes obtaining a valid CPAT certification, a video-based written exam, as well as an oral interview. An eligibility list is established and positions are filled from that list as openings occur in the District. Once hired, firefighters serve a one-year probationary period. Upon completion of the probationary period, they are sworn in as career employees. All Orland firefighters are also certified paramedics.

With the exception of administrative personnel, the Orland firefighters work a 24-hour shift, followed by 48 hours off. Three separate shifts are required for our operation of the District. A battalion chief heads each shift.

Over 100 sworn firefighters and over 50 non-sworn staff serve the Orland Fire Protection District. Most of the six Orland fire stations are staffed with at least four firefighters and a lieutenant. Some fire stations have extra personnel who "float" to cover vacations, sick days, and other periods of time off.

All fire stations have an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance and ALS fire suppression companies. Some fire stations house other apparatus, such as a ladder truck or squad. Personnel with specialized training are assigned to these fire stations to operate the specialized equipment.

The Orland Fire Protection District has gained a regional reputation for its excellence in specialty teams, including technical rescue, hazardous materials, dive rescue, and urban search and rescue team.

The Orland Fire Protection District is governed by a five member Board of Trustees that oversees the budget and financial operation of the District. The Fire Chief reports to the Board of Trustees. A three-member Board of Fire Commissioners is responsible for hiring and disciplinary matters. The Commissioners develop the testing process for new hires.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to visit one of our fire stations and speak with a firefighter or visit our web site at www.orlandfire.org.



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LEGAL NOTICE – ANNOUNCEMENT OF TESTING FOR POSITION OF FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orland Fire Protection District, Orland Park, Illinois, announces that it will establish an eligibility list for the position of firefighter/paramedic. **Applications will be available at and must be returned to the Orland Fire Protection District Administration Building located at 9788 West 151st Street (directly behind Station Number 1), Orland Park, Illinois, on the following dates. Applications will also be available at www.orlandfire.org.**

Monday through Friday, February 23, 2009, to March 20, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, February 28, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturday, March 7, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The application period will close on Friday, March 20, 2009 at 5 p.m.

All completed applications must be filed in person. In the event that two or more candidates achieve the same overall score, the candidate whose application was received first by the Orland Fire Protection District, as evidenced by the time and date stamped on the received application, will be placed on the eligibility list ahead of the other candidate(s) who have the same score.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Age:** Applicants must have attained the age of 21 prior to March 21, 2009, and be under the age of 35 on March 21, 2009, unless the candidate meets a statutory exemption.
2. **Certification Requirements:** Applicants must become EMT-P certified/licensed from the State of Illinois, at the time of a conditional offer of employment. If hired, all candidates must become Firefighter II certified within twelve (12) months of employment.
3. **Vision:** Applicants are required to meet visual acuity standards with uncorrected vision of 20/100 corrected to 20/20 in the better eye and 20/40 in the poorer eye. Applicants must also be able to distinguish between colors and shades as required by the position.
4. **Education:** Graduation from high school or evidence of a G.E.D. equivalence diploma.
5. **Residency:** Applicants must be citizens and residents of the United States for a period of one (1) year prior to date of examination. Any candidate appointed would be granted one (1) year to establish residency within a geographic area that extends sixty-five (65) miles beyond the District's boundaries.
6. **Driver's License:** Applicants must possess a valid driver's license both at the time of the application and the time of appointment.
7. **CPAT:** Valid CPAT card by June 26, 2009.
8. **Testing Content:** The testing process will include, but may not be limited to:
 - a. Written examination
 - b. Oral interview
9. **Conditional Offer of Hire:** Upon receiving a conditional offer of hire, all candidates will be subject to a background check (including State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation records) and must pass a complete medical examination, which may include comprehensive drug testing, a psychological test, and a polygraph test.

MANDATORY ORIENTATION MEETING

A mandatory orientation meeting will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2009**, at the Orland Park Civic Center located at 14750 South Ravinia, Orland Park, Illinois. Any applicant who does not attend the mandatory orientation meeting will be unable to continue the application process. The dates of the complete testing process will be announced at the orientation meeting.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

INFORMATION



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The Testing Process for Firefighter/Paramedic 2009

First Stage – Orientation

A mandatory orientation session will be held on **Saturday, March 21, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Orland Park Civic Center located at 14750 South Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois. All candidates will receive information about the testing program and the District. Candidates must attend the orientation session to continue the application process. Parents, spouses and significant others are welcome to attend. Information will be given about the CPAT certification.

Second Stage – CPAT certification

Candidates must obtain a current Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) Validation Card. If you have a current validation card (obtained after June 26, 2008) you may show that. If you need to obtain a card, there are dates available at SUFD or NIPSTA to obtain it. Additional information is located on the next page of this guide. Or you may obtain a CPAT Validation Card on your own. You are required to schedule appointments for CPAT conditioning exercises and testing on your own at the agency where you intend to take the test.

The District will accept a Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) Validation Card issued within one year of June 26, 2009 as evidence of successful passage of the physical ability test component. This card will be presented to the Orland Fire Protection District Administration located at 9788 W. 151 St., Orland Park, Illinois no later than 5 p.m. on June 26, 2009.

Third Stage – Written Examination (constitutes 70% of total score)

The written exam will be administered in a video-based format at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2007** at Moraine Valley Community College, "B" building, Rooms B-109 and B-119, 9000 W. College Parkway, Palos Hills, Illinois. The names of candidates who successfully pass the written exam will be posted at the Administration Building of Orland Fire Protection District, 9788 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, Illinois, and at the Orland Fire Protection website: www.orlandfire.org.

Fourth and Final Stage – Oral Examination (constitutes 30% of total score)

The top 50 candidates, who pass the written examination with a score of 70% or better, and who met all conditions of the application process, will be notified of the date and time to appear for an interview with the Commissioners at the Orland Fire Protection District's Administration Building, 9788 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, Illinois.

Creation of the Eligibility List

The Board of Fire Commissioners shall create the Initial Eligibility List of those candidates who qualify to become firefighter/paramedics with the Orland Fire Protection District. Candidates will be mailed a copy of the Initial Eligibility List. After the Initial Eligibility List is created, candidates who are eligible for Preference Points may submit a claim for these points on the District's standard form. A full explanation of how Preference Points may be claimed will be provided to all candidates at the end of the Oral Interview Stage.



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Testing Process Calendar for Firefighter/Paramedic 2009

Saturday, March 21, 2009	9 a.m.	Orientation Meeting & CPAT Orientation Orland Park Civic Center 14750 South Ravinia Avenue Orland Park, Illinois 60462
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CPAT certification to be obtained by candidate within one year of June 26, 2009.

[You may obtain CPAT at other locations.]

SUFD Date: April 29

NIPSTA Date: March 7 and April 11

[additional dates available on web sites]

SUFD CPAT Test

Southwest United Fire Districts (SUFD)

7550 Lyman

Darien, IL 60561

phone: 630.910.2087

web: www.sufd.org - use CPAT link

CPAT Testing Facility is at the

Chicagoland Roofers Apprenticeship Training Center

approximately 7014 S. Wolf (use "Roofers Road")

LaGrange, IL 60525

NIPSTA CPAT Test

2300 Patriot Blvd.

Glenview, IL 60026

phone: 847.998.8090

web: www.nipsta.org - use CPAT link

Saturday, June 27, 2007	9 a.m.	Written Test Moraine Valley Community College "B" building, Rooms B-109 and B-119 9000 W. College Pkwy. Palos Hills, Illinois 60465
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To Be Determined	Oral Interview Orland Fire Protection District Administration Building 9788 W. 151 st Street Orland Park, Illinois 60462
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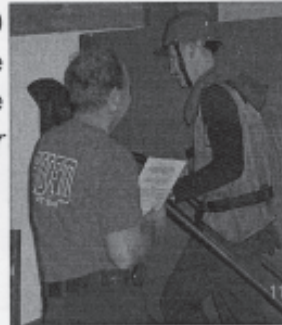
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What is the CPAT?

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a pass/fail physical ability test encompassing eight events that challenge the applicant as if they were on the scene of a working fire.

CPAT is a timed test that gives the applicant 10 minutes and 20 seconds to complete. Candidates wear a weighted vest to simulate the weight of firefighting equipment, hardhat, and gloves throughout the test. *All equipment necessary to complete test is furnished on site for both practice sessions and test dates.*



The 8 CPAT Events include:

1. Stair Climb
2. Hose Drag
3. Equipment Carry
4. Ladder Raise and Extension
5. Forcible Entry
6. Search
7. Victim Rescue
8. Ceiling Breach and Pull



Each candidate is scored on a pass/fail basis relating to time to complete the course. No candidate is ranked higher or lower based on their completion time. Up to 4 practice sessions are scheduled for the candidate to orientate to the CPAT testing process. Attendance at practice sessions dramatically improve a candidates opportunity for success.



Candidates are given access to candidate preparation guides that describe physical fitness programs that target the body areas that are emphasized in the test. Candidates can also seek assistance from our staff certified Peer Fitness Trainers if needed.

