

Mission Statement

To provide support to the Alameda County Fire Department and to train the next generation of career and volunteer firefighters.

The Path to Being a Reserve Firefighter

What do you need to study?

A firefighter needs a general knowledge of physics and building construction for fire, rescue and safety issues. Firefighters use mathematics to perform drug and hydraulic calculations, therefore, a strong foundation in arithmetic is necessary. Advanced math such as algebra and geometry could also prove helpful. Knowledge of chemistry and environmental ecology is necessary when responding to hazardous material incidents. Firefighters maintain fire equipment and apparatus and would benefit from classes such as auto or diesel mechanics.

Firefighter Training

Firefighters respond to multiple types of emergencies in addition to fires. The California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I Certification Program is a recognized standard of basic training. It is also desirable that candidates seek to broaden their knowledge and skills beyond the Firefighter I Certification by completing either a certificate or associate degree in fire science through a community college.

Emergency Medical Training

As a first responder to medical emergencies and vehicle accidents, a firefighter relies on extensive medical training. Consequently, most fire departments require firefighters to possess at least an emergency medical technician certification. Paramedic certification is highly desirable for prospective candidates.

Interested in Becoming A Reserve Firefighter?

Visit the Alameda County Human Resources Website at acgov.org/hrs to view available jobs. If applications are not currently being accepted, you may also fill out a job interest card. The County of Alameda is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

The Testing Process for a Recruit Firefighter

As many Reserve Firefighters are interested in becoming professional firefighters, the following are the classic components of the Alameda County Fire Department examination include:

- Application
- Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT)
- Oral Interview
- Fire Chief's Interview
- Background Investigation
- Medical Evaluation
- 16-week Recruit Academy
- 2-year Probationary Period

Some departments may also require a written examination and psychological evaluation.



Alameda County Fire Department

"Dedicated to Superior Service"



Reserve & Recruit Firefighter Information

Alameda County Fire Department
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Department Mission Statement & Overview

We will provide the highest level of service to our communities by valuing our members; promoting positive leadership; and dedicating ourselves to excellence.

In 1993, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors formed the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) to better serve the communities within Alameda County. ACFD provides all-risk emergency services to the unincorporated areas of Alameda County (excluding Fairview), the cities of Dublin, Emeryville, Newark, San Leandro, and Union City, the Lawrence Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. ACFD serves densely populated urban areas, waterways, industrialized centers, extensive urban interface, agricultural and wildland regions with 28 fire stations, 33 companies, and over 400 personnel and 100 Reserve Firefighters. ACFD covers roughly 508 square miles and serves a population of 394,000, providing a wide variety of services to an ever expanding, dynamic, diverse area, responding to more than 42,000 calls annually.



Alameda County Fire Department Reserve Program

The primary goals of the Alameda County Fire Department Reserve Firefighter Education & Training Program are to improve the quality and increase the quantity of training for prospective professional Alameda County firefighters. The Program has proven itself an innovative and respected leader in developing future firefighters. In particular, it emphasizes the value of recruiting well-trained and qualified firefighting personnel from all areas of society because firefighters protect the community as a whole.

Applicants entering the Alameda County Reserve Firefighter Education & Training Program can expect to enter the program as a Reserve candidate. After an evaluation of previous education and training, candidates are placed into a three-tiered training program. Once a candidate completes the third level of training, they are qualified to become an Alameda County Reserve Firefighter.

The focus of Level I is career and educational guidance for candidates interested in the fire service. Level II provides further career and educational guidance for candidates with some education or background in the fire service or emergency medical services. In Level III, the candidate is prepared in an academy environment to become an active Alameda County Reserve Firefighter that is capable of responding to incidents.

Alameda County Fire Department Reserve Firefighters regularly participate in training and education that assists them in becoming a professional firefighter. Reserve Firefighters can expect to participate in firefighter training, meetings, work experience, and public education and relations within the community alongside professional firefighters. Reserve Firefighters are also required to respond to emergencies, when requested, to support the efforts of professional firefighters.

