



So, you want to be a Spokane Valley Fire Department Firefighter.

Below please find some basic information and some resources for you on becoming a Firefighter with Spokane Valley Fire Department.

To be eligible to apply during this application period:

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- Have U.S. Citizenship
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Possess a valid driver's license and
- Possess a current Washington State or National Registry EMT-B certification or National Registry Paramedic or Washington State Paramedic certification by the start of the fire academy.

Before submitting your application, you must take the Public Safety Test (PST). The PST test consists of a written exam and the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT).

The written exam can be divided into two broad areas: cognitive abilities and non-cognitive traits. It is important to know that the exam does not measure job-specific knowledge or any specific skills that require specialized training.

The exam covers the following cognitive areas:

- Deductive reasoning
- Mathematical reasoning
- Inductive reasoning
- Information ordering
- Spatial orientation
- Visualization
- Written comprehension
- Written expression
- Non-cognitive traits

Candidates must score at least 70% on the written exam to be considered a passing score.

[For more in-depth information on the written exam visit the PST website.](https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/)
<https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/>

Candidates will also have to take the CPAT test. CPAT standards require candidates to attend two mandatory Candidate Orientations and two Practice Tests prior to their actual CPAT test. While candidates may waive these requirements, we strongly encourage you to attend. Candidates who take the practice tests typically do better on the actual test.

This test consists of eight job-specific events:

- Stair climb
- Hose drag
- Equipment carry
- Ladder raise
- Forcible entry
- Search
- Rescue drag
- Ceiling breach and pull

[More information on the CPAT test can be found on the PST website.](https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/) Look under the Test & Event Calendar tab. Along the left side of the page is the information for Firefighter.

<https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/>

Refer to Spokane Valley Fire and Public Safety Testing websites for current deadlines regarding written and physical tests.

SVFD hiring is managed through Civil Service, which defines a merit-based process designed to ensure fairness in hiring for public employees. At the close of the application period, candidates will be ranked on a Civil Service list based on their test scores. Those ranking high on this list will be sent a pre-employment packet asking for a variety of information including your education, employment, driving record, criminal record, and personal references. Any additional materials you feel would strengthen your position as a candidate should be submitted with the employment packet, such as a professional resume, letters of reference, and relevant professional certifications.

Following the submission of your pre-employment packet, you will proceed through a series of interviews. The interview is with a panel in a formal business setting.

After the final interview with the Fire Chief, you may receive a conditional job offer. If you receive and accept a conditional job offer, the Department will conduct a medical exam, a psychological exam, a drug test, and a criminal background check.

Candidates who sign conditional job offers will be hired by the Department, barring any medical issues, a failed psychological exam, or discovery of negative background information.

Note: *Due to limited staff time, we kindly ask that you reach out to the Civil Service Examiner only if absolutely necessary.* All job requirements and critical dates have been listed in the materials on our website and on the PST website. You may be eager to make a good impression by speaking with us during the application process, but we ask that you please save that effort for the interview panel, should you be invited. Thank you for understanding.

We wish all the candidates good luck during the application process!