

## ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER/EMT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (“FAQS”)

1. A Firefighter/EMT starts at an annual salary of \$65,940. At 54 months from the day you are hired your salary will be \$98,424.
2. To qualify for the Veterans Preference, you must provide one of the following:
  - a. Veterans must attach a letter from the United States Veterans Administration on official stationery stating dates of service and character of service. Active military personnel must attach a letter from their Commanding Officer on official stationery verifying their active duty, length of service, and character of service in the Armed Forces of the United States. This letter should also include a copy of the applicant’s Military ID; **OR** A DD214 for Veteran Status. The Veteran point can get you really far.
3. You must reach the age of 18 to sit for the exam and cannot be over the age of 37.
4. Applicants must be a high school graduate or possess a general equivalency diploma
5. Must have a valid U.S. driver's license at the time of pre-employment processing.
6. In the past there has only been one way to apply, and that’s online.
7. You are not required to be a resident of the City of Chicago at the time of application. However, you will be required to be a resident of the City of Chicago at the time you enter the Fire Training Academy.
8. We expect that there will be a fee. In 2014, the fee for the exam was \$30.
9. Once the application process begins, you will be required to create an online account. You will be able to update your contact information by logging into that account.
10. If you pass the exam,
  - a. You remain on the eligibility list until it is either fully exhausted or retired. A Firefighter/EMT eligibility list typically lasts around six (6) years.
  - b. Please be sure to keep your contact information (*i.e.*, address, phone, and e-mail) up-to-date to ensure that we can reach you if you are referred from the eligibility list.
11. If admitted to the Fire Training Academy,
  - a. Candidates receive approximately twelve (12) weeks of EMT-B training and twelve (12) weeks of fire suppression training at the Fire Academy before graduating and receiving a field assignment as a Probationary Firefighter/EMT. Any person appointed to the position of Firefighter/EMT will be required to become EMT/B certified before graduation from the Fire Academy, and maintain said certification or be subject to dismissal from the service of the City of Chicago. All new appointment Probationary Firefighter/EMTs must serve a nine (9) month probationary period effective the date of appointment.
12. It takes approximately six (6) months to graduate from the Fire Training Academy?
13. What are the benefits that are offered with the Firefighter/EMT position?
  - a. There are many benefits, which include:
    - i. Starting annual salary of \$65,940
    - ii. Tuition Reimbursement
    - iii. Medical, Dental, Prescription and Vision Insurance
    - iv. Opportunity for Advancement
    - v. Attractive Work Schedule (roughly 86 work days a year)
    - vi. Paid Holidays and Vacation Days
    - vii. Retirement Plan
    - viii. Annual Uniform Allowance
    - ix. Home Purchase Assistance