

Fire Investigator

Job Code
8081L1

Job Title
Fire Investigator

Pay Grade
32

CONCEPT:

This is specialized work in determining the cause of fires and in investigating those in which arson is suspected.

TASKS

- Determines the cause and origin of a fire by observing it in progress, if possible; by interviewing fire fighters, local law enforcement personnel, and other witnesses; taking their statements; and by examining the scene of the fire after it has worked.
- Conducts criminal investigations of suspected arson cases to provide county attorneys with evidence necessary for prosecuting a case. Conducts surveillance of known pyromaniacs in an attempt to apprehend them in the act of setting a fire; appears in court as an expert witness during the trial of an alleged arsonist.
- Collects any evidence of possible arson, labels it, and preserves it for an analysis and possible trial presentation; takes a complete series of pictures of the scene from all angles.
- Interviews suspects in an arson investigation; informs them of their rights; may request that they take a polygraph test.
- Writes detailed reports of investigations, including all pertinent information, and presents it to the director, county attorney, or other proper authorities and to the State Fire Marshal.
- Testifies and presents evidence in a court of law if arson charges are filed and a suspect is brought to trial.
- Uses expolsi-meter, strobe-meter, and various tools, such as rakes and shovels, to analyze the fire scene.
- Talks to various civic, school, and other groups to inform the public of the purpose of the State Fire Marshal's office and to acquaint them with various fire hazards found in homes or businesses, the use of fire extinguisher, and other facts related to fire prevention.

LEVELS OF WORK

- Class Group consists of one class.

Minimum Requirements:

Two year's experience in general law enforcement and criminal investigation. Education may be substituted for experience as determined relevant by the agency. Must have a current full-time law enforcement certification.

Necessary Special Requirements:

Must be a United States citizen and at least 21 years of age. At time of offer, candidate must take and pass a drug screening test approved by the Division of Personnel Services and take a pre-employment physical. Top candidates must take and pass a background check and polygraph. This class requires the use of a firearm for law enforcement duties and therefore, candidates cannot have been convicted of, and must be free of any diversions from, a felony or misdemeanor domestic violence crime as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 922 (d) (9) and (g) (9).

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