

How to Become a Raleigh Firefighter - Then and Now

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From myself, here's a comparison of the requirements to become a firefighter in Raleigh in 1912 and 2012. Transcription of [newspaper article](#) (then) and posted text from web site (below). Salary was \$55.00 per month in 1912, and is \$2,722 per month in 2012. Age requirement was 20 to 35 year old in 1912, and 21 or older in 2012.

Raleigh Fire Department Recruitment in 1912

Regulations Regarding Applications For Membership of Raleigh Fire Department

Each applicant must be between the age of twenty and thirty-five years, and must not be less than five feet seven and one-half inches tall, and must weigh not less than 146 pounds.

Each application must be signed by three well known citizens of Raleigh, who must state their opinion of applicant, and also state the length of time each has personally known applicant. Each application must bear the signature of a reputable physician stating that the physician is of the opinion that applicant is in sound, healthy condition. The physician must also state that the applicant is absolutely free from any tubercular or kindred diseases, or heart disease.

All applications must be in the hand-writing of the applicant, and must state name, in full, place of birth, age, weight, height, previous occupation and address, address of residence, and whether married or single.

All applications must be mailed to the chief of department.

Applicants upon being appointed would report in person to chief of department and will then be examined as to physical condition regarding health. Applicant will then be given mental examination, consisting of ordinary questions which every citizen should know and elementary arithmetic. Applicant will then report for examination to determine strength and fitness and will, if successful in foregoing examinations, be appointed a probationary fireman.

The probationary fireman will be put through drills, fire department work and be quartered in fire houses, and attend fires and do route work of a fireman, and will draw three-fourths pay from the day he becomes a probationary fireman until he has gone through the trial period, which is sixty days.

At the end of the sixty days, if accepted, he will become a regular fireman and will draw the one-fourth pay for the preceding sixty days, and then will go on at full pay. The applicant will release the city of Raleigh from liability for any accident or injury he is liable to receive during the trial period.

Fireman will have one day (24 hours) off each 8th day and one hour for each meal each day.

Scale of pay:

Fireman 1st year \$55.00 per month.

Firemen 2nd year \$60.00 per month.

Firemen 3rd year \$65.00 per month.

Lieutenants \$70.00 per month.

Captains \$75.00 per month.

Application shall be in hands of chief of department not later than noon, December 10th, 1912.

Address all communications to

SHERWOOD BROCKWELL

Chief of Fire Department,
Raleigh, N.C.

Source: Newspaper Advertisement in December 1912

Raleigh Fire Department Recruitment in 2012 - From city of Raleigh web pages

Minimum Requirements

HS graduate (or GED). Age 21 by the beginning of the academy. Vision corrected to 20/30 in each eye and cannot be colorblind. A Valid NC Class "C" Driver's License.

Salary

The salary for Firefighter I is \$32,673 or \$2,722.75 per month.

Fire Recruitment Process

Step 1 of 7 - Complete a Firefighter Employment Application (Position Number 200-12) – Closing date: October 5, 2012

Make sure all sections of the employment application are complete. If a section does not apply to you, answer "not applicable." Remember to sign and date the application.

- Make sure to include a full 10 years of previous addresses (no post office boxes) on the Supplement Form. You may attach a resume to the application, but it is not required.
- Employment applications are available at the following locations:
 - Online - RFD Employee Application
 - Personnel Department - 222 West Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC, 27602
 - Any Raleigh Fire Station
 - Keeter Training Center - 105 Keeter Center Drive, Raleigh, NC 27601
- Employment applications must be postmarked by the closing date. Incomplete applications, and applications postmarked after the closing date will not be considered.
- Employment applications must be submitted in person or by mail (**no faxes or e-mails**) to:
 - Keeter Training Center
Application Process
105 Keeter Center Drive
Raleigh, NC 27601

Step 2 of 7 - Attend Orientation Days (Optional) – October 10-13th, 2012

To prepare for the process, we recommend attending an orientation to the Aptitude Test and Physical Agility Test. The Aptitude Test and Agility Test orientation sessions will be held at the Keeter Training Center. Arrive early for the Aptitude Test practice session. Please contact the Keeter Training Center at 919-831-6395 with any questions

Step 3 of 7 - Register for Written Aptitude and Physical Agility Testing – October 18-20 and 25-27, 2012

Successful applicants will have to sign up for the Written Aptitude Test and Physical Agility Test. If you submit your application in person, you will sign up at that time. If you mail your application in, you must call 919-831-6395 to schedule a time for your Aptitude and Physical Agility Testing.

Step 4 of 7 - Complete Written Aptitude Testing and Physical Agility Testing

Candidates must report to the testing site at Keeter Training Center at least 15 minutes before the time that you registered for online.

- Candidates will complete a Written Aptitude Test and compete in the Physical Agility Test (PAT).

Step 5 of 7 - Background and Reference Checks

- Candidates who successfully complete the Aptitude Test and PAT may undergo background and reference checks including strong>criminal and civil background, social security number verification, personal and professional reference, and driving records for up to 7 years, depending on the state.

- If you lived **outside** of North Carolina anytime during the past 7 years, you will be required to provide a certified copy of your Motor Vehicle Report from every state where you lived and had a driver's license. Out-of-state driving records are **your** responsibility to provide.
- North Carolina driving records will be provided by the City of Raleigh.
- **All military personnel must provide a copy of their DD214.**

Step 6 of 7 - Oral Interview

Applicants will be notified if they are selected for an interview by phone and/or mail.

Candidates who successfully complete the Written Aptitude Test and PAT may be invited for an oral interview at the Keeter Training Center.

Step 7 of 7 - Offer of Employment

Offers of employment will be made to the final candidates. Employment is contingent on a physical examination, which is based on the physical requirements of the position, and a controlled substance test.

Name: (real name preferred)
E-mail: (optional)
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Small print: All html tags except and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.