



## Seattle Firefighter Application FAQ

### General Information

#### **What is the application and testing schedule for Entry-Level Firefighter?**

- The Firefighter application filing period, and video exam testing period with National Testing Network (NTN), **are now closed**.
- Candidates invited to participate in the Oral Boards (interview panels), will receive an email with instructions to schedule their on-site interview in Seattle. Candidates may choose from times on **Wednesday – Saturday** between the dates of **January 22 through February 8, 2025**. Successful candidates will then be placed on the eligibility register.
- The first recruit class from the 2025 register is expected to begin in August 2025. Please note that there are multiple recruit classes per register. You can review the prospective hiring schedule [here](#).

#### **What is the application and testing schedule for Lateral-Entry Firefighter/Paramedic?**

- The Lateral-Entry application filing period is open through **January 28, 2025**. View the job posting and apply [here](#).
- Video exams will be conducted through NTN between **December 27, 2024 and January 31, 2025**; and Oral Board Exams will be conducted in **February 2025** (dates are tentative). Successful candidates will then be placed on the eligibility register.
- Conditional offers are scheduled to be made in **May 2025**, with Recruit School beginning in **June 2025**. Paramedic training is scheduled for **September 2025 – January 2026**.

### Eligibility

#### **Is there an age limit to apply as a firefighter for Seattle?**

- No, there is no maximum age limit.

#### **What are the physical requirements for becoming a firefighter?**

- Candidates must meet specific physical fitness standards, including passing the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). To prepare for the CPAT, it is recommended that candidates engage in a physical training program focusing on endurance, strength, and agility.

#### **Are there any educational requirements to apply?**

- Candidates must possess a high school diploma or GED. Additional education, such as an associate's degree or higher, may enhance your application but is not required.

**Is an Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) certification needed to apply or test for the position of firefighter?**

- (EMT) certification or proof of EMT course completion is not required at the time of application or during the testing process, but it is required before a candidate can be given a final hire offer. See SFD's [EMT Requirement](#) page for more information.

**Application**

**Is there a fee associated with applying for the job, or taking the NTN exams?**

- There is no fee to apply, but there is a fee to take the NTN exams. Candidates with demonstrated financial hardship may submit a request to have the fee waived prior to test registration. See "Candidate FAQ #26" on the [NTN website](#) to learn more on how to apply for a fee waiver.

**Can I submit my resume or other supporting documentation with my application?**

- A resume and/or other supporting documentation is not required during the application or testing process. Candidates who progress onto the register/eligible list and are under consideration with the Fire Department will submit documentation at a later date.

**Exams**

**Is there test prep available for the FireTEAM and/or PSSA1 exams?**

- NTN provides several means for candidates to prepare for their exams. They offer two types of practice tests (for a fee) for the FireTEAM. In addition to the practice test, which is intended to help candidates get acclimated with the Fireteam exam, NTN provides an in-depth description of their exams along with a general NTN Test-Taking Tip Sheet. Below are links to this information:

<https://nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs/ntn-test-firefighter.cfm>

<https://nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs/pdf/ntn-test-taking-tips.pdf>

<https://nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs/index.cfm?mode=page/faq-pssa>

**Do you accept scores from other types of exams? Or can I submit proof of education/training in lieu of taking the FireTeam and Public Safety Self Assessment Part 1 (PSSA1)?**

- We only accept scores from NTN's FireTeam and PSSA1 exams as part of the testing process. All candidates must submit scores from these exams in order to be considered for hire, and no substitutions will be accepted.

**I've already taken the FireTeam/PSSA1 or Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT). Can I submit my score?**

- Yes, we will accept FireTeam and PSSA1 scores completed between **October 4th, 2023, and December 10th, 2024**. You can use the "department add" feature to transfer scores to Seattle from your NTN profile.

- The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) only accepts CPAT test results from its own CPAT testing process. After the civil service examination process concludes and the eligible list is established, SFD will issue instructions for scheduling the CPAT and provide an exam fee waiver to eligible candidates.

#### **Am I able to retake the FireTeam/PSSA1 for Seattle’s hiring process?**

- Yes, NTN allows candidates to retake both exams. Please note that the retest window is 90 days, and you can submit scores only once to Seattle.
- Regarding your test performance feedback: NTN advises that if your score falls into the *green* category, you are one of the top performers nationally (across all departments/jurisdictions). The farther to the right the indicator moves, the more competitive your score is. We recommend you base your decision to retake the exam on where you fall on each exam component.

#### **I’m seeing a prompt to take the PSSA2 exam in my NTN profile. Is this test required for Seattle?**

- No, only the FireTeam and PSSA1 tests are required for our testing process. You may see the option to take the PSSA2 if you have signed up to send your scores to other Departments in NTN.

#### **When will I receive my FireTEAM and PSSA1 scores?**

- Scores will be provided to candidates after December 10<sup>th</sup>. You will also be notified at that time if you will be invited to participate in the Oral Boards portion of the testing process.

### **Eligibility Register**

#### **What happens after I am placed on the eligibility register?**

- After being placed on the eligibility register, candidates will be notified when they are selected for a recruit class. This notification will include the start date and any additional pre-employment requirements.

#### **I’m a veteran or will soon be finishing my military service. How can I request preference points be added to my test score?**

- Qualifying veteran candidates may request preference points be applied to their passing test scores following Washington state law (see [RCW 41.01.010](#)). Per [RCW 73.04.005](#), *“Proof may include, but is not limited to, a Department of Defense DD form 214, NGB form 22, or equivalent or successor official paperwork stating the required information from a government agency.”*
- Please note that we cannot accept a statement of service letter or similar documents, as preference points can only be added after a candidate is officially recognized as a veteran (see [RCW 41.04.007](#)).

- If you wish to apply for preference points after passing your test, please contact us at [FireCareers@seattle.gov](mailto:FireCareers@seattle.gov) with your qualifying discharge documentation at that time, and we will provide you with an application form. Preference points may be added at any point during the life of the Firefighter Register.

**How can I stay informed about the hiring process?**

- We encourage candidates to regularly check SFD's [Hiring Process page](#) for updates and important information regarding the hiring process.

**If you have any other questions, please feel free to reach out to us at [FireCareers@seattle.gov](mailto:FireCareers@seattle.gov).**