

## Montana Firefighters' Testing Consortium Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. How do I become a firefighter in Montana?**

A. In order to become a firefighter in Montana, you will need to successfully participate in the Montana Firefighters' Testing Consortium (MFFTC) process. Your name must be on the current year's eligibility list to be considered for employment in Montana as an entry level firefighter.

**Q. What is the Montana Firefighters' Testing Consortium?**

A. The Montana Firefighters' Testing Consortium conducts testing each year in June for entry level firefighters.

**Q. Which cities participate in the MFFTC?**

A. The MFFTC is comprised of the following cities: Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, Miles City, Butte, and Missoula and Missoula Rural and Lockwood Fire Districts.

**Q. How do I get my name on the current year's eligibility list?**

A. You must complete a registration form, which is posted on the MFFTC's website ([www.montanacareerfirefighterjobs.net](http://www.montanacareerfirefighterjobs.net)) in November of each year. Once registered, you must successfully participate in the MFFTC's process, which includes a written test and a physical ability test.

**Q. What are the dates you will accept a registration form?**

A. The Registration form is accepted from mid-November to mid-February each year. For this year's specific deadline, please refer to the registration form.

**Q. Why am I being charged to participate in the testing process?**

A. The fee you pay covers the cost of the written test and other related materials as well as maintenance of the physical testing equipment.

**Q. What are the minimum qualifications for entry-level firefighter?**

A. All agencies require the following minimum qualifications: a valid driver's license, a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent certification, and to be at least 18 years of age to apply. Some agencies require additional qualifications; please refer to the registration form for more information on other minimum qualifications for each agency.

**Q. What is the salary for an entry-level firefighter?**

A. Each agency's starting salary is listed on the Registration form.

**Q. What are the benefits for an entry-level firefighter?**

A. Each agency provides similar, but different benefits. Please contact each agency you are interested in for more specific details.

**Q. What if I've already taken a written and physical test in another state?**

A. Even if you have completed both tests elsewhere, you are still required to complete them during our testing process.

**Q. What can I expect from the written test?**

A. Characteristics of the written test include: ability to learn; remember and apply information; reading comprehension; interests; situational judgment; and logical and mathematical reasoning ability.

**Q. Is there study material to prepare for the written test?**

A. A study guide for the written test will be distributed **20 minutes prior to the exam** (NOTE: there is no recommended reading material to prepare for the written test).

**Q. What is a passing score for the written test?**

A. A score of 70% on the written test is considered passing.

**Q. What can I expect from the physical ability test?**

A. Currently, the MFFTC uses the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) for their physical ability test. This test includes the following events: [Stair Climb](#), [Hose Drag](#), [Equipment Carry](#), [Ladder Raise](#), [Forcible Entry](#), [Search](#), [Rescue](#), and [Ceiling Breach & Pull](#).

**Q. Will I receive a certificate of completion?**

A. If you would like a letter stating you have successfully completed both the written and physical testing, please notify personnel at the check-out booth.

**Q. When can I apply for a firefighter position with one of the participating agencies?**

A. Successful candidates will be allowed to pick up Application for Employment packets from each agency they are interested in working as a firefighter before they leave the testing site.

**Q. Can I apply for more than one agency?**

A. YES. You may apply for each agency that you are interested in working for as a firefighter.

**Q. When will I interview with the participating agencies?**

A. Each participating agency has a different interviewing schedule. You should refer to the Application for Employment packet for more information.

**Q. May I interview with more than one agency?**

A. YES. You may interview with more than one agency. However, once you accept an offer, your name will be removed from the eligibility list and you can no longer accept another offer.

**Q. If I am hired by one agency and next year want to work for another, do I have to participate in the MFFTC process again?**

A. YES. To be hired by any of the participating agencies, you must be on the current year's eligibility list.

**Q. When will I be hired?**

A. Each participating agency has a different interviewing schedule. You should refer to the Application for Employment packet for more information. You may also contact each agency for more specific details.