



CAL FIRE PHYSICAL/MENTAL STRESS JOB DESCRIPTION

BATTALION CHIEF (FORMERLY: STATE FOREST RANGER I)

A DESCRIPTION IS GIVEN BELOW OF THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRESSES TO WHICH BATTALION CHIEF IS SUBJECTED TO AT CAL FIRE. YOUR JUDGEMENT IS NEEDED AS TO THE EMPLOYEE'S CAPACITY TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED DUTIES. IN YOUR CONCLUSION, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LONG-RANGE OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED PERFORMANCE, AND THE EMPLOYEE'S ABILITY TO SAFELY PERFORM THESE DUTIES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INCREASED RISK OF INJURY TO SELF OR OTHERS BECAUSE OF MEDICAL CONDITION.

A Battalion Chief is responsible for structural and wildland fire protection and prevention within a predetermined district. Located within this district, there are usually two or more fire suppression stations, a lookout station, and varying amounts of equipment and installations. The Battalion Chief supervises the employees in the district and oversees the rapid initial attack unless relieved by higher authorities.

The individual carries on an active fire prevention program within this predetermined area of responsibility through contacts with local people, organizations, and newspapers. The individual analyzes the structural and wildland fire problems for this district and keeps aware of the fire hazards.

This particular duty requires that the Battalion Chief be able to think clearly and use good judgment during emergencies. There may be long periods of no stress; but when a fire, flood, or other emergency occurs, a Battalion Chief must be able to mobilize the required resources to meet the stressful demanding situations. An emergency situation may require that the individual be able to work more than 24 hours with no sleep or sleep could be interrupted; this is accompanied by erratic meals. The individual must keep track of the many contingencies involved in each emergency so that the strength of attack forces can be altered, including personnel, ground equipment, and aircraft. The Battalion Chief does not have an immediate outlet to relieve mental tensions; therefore, the resultant hidden or repressed tension and anxiety cannot be overlooked or underestimated in terms of their cumulative effects upon the individual.

A Battalion Chief must have visual acuity (Snellen) of not less than 20/100 without correction in each eye, corrected to not less than 20/30 in one eye; hearing adequacy within speech frequencies (uncorrected); and normal speech. The individual must have full use of both hands and feet.

The incumbent may be required to wear respiratory protection equipment (including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)). The use of such equipment may place a physiological burden on the incumbent that varies with the type of equipment used, the job and workplace conditions in which the equipment is used, and the medical status of the incumbent. As such, Cal/OSHA requires that the incumbent be annually medically cleared to be fit-tested for respiratory protection equipment. This clearance process consists of a comprehensive medical evaluation including a review of the incumbent's medical history, a complete physical examination, and vision, hearing, spirometry, and exercise treadmill tests.

The incumbent typically is required to perform psychologically stressful and/or physically demanding duties consistent with firefighting, disaster response, and emergency medical response, including working in isolated areas, walking or running on uneven rough terrain, and remaining on duty 24 hours or longer without a break while performing these duties.

CATEGORY I - ARDUOUS PHYSICAL WORK

Duties involve field work requiring physical performance calling for above-average ability, endurance, and superior condition, including occasional demand for extraordinarily strenuous activities in emergencies, under adverse environmental conditions, and over extended periods of time; requires running, walking, difficult climbing, jumping, twisting, bending and lifting over 25 pounds, pace of work is typically set by the emergency situation.

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT HE/SHE HAS READ THE CAL FIRE PHYSICAL/MENTAL STRESS JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE EMPLOYEE NAMED BELOW AND THAT IN HIS/HER JUDGMENT THE EMPLOYEE HAS THE CAPACITY TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED DUTIES, HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE LONG-RANGE OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED PERFORMANCE, AND THE EMPLOYEE IS ABLE TO SAFELY PERFORM THESE DUTIES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INCREASED RISK OF INJURY TO SELF OR OTHERS BECAUSE OF MEDICAL CONDITION.

EMPLOYEE NAME (PRINT)	WORK UNIT
MEDICAL PROVIDER'S NAME (PRINT)	DATE
MEDICAL PROVIDER'S SIGNATURE	
ADDRESS (PRINT)	
TELEPHONE	