



LATERAL FF TESTING AND EMPLOYMENT-RELATED FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE LATERAL FIREFIGHTER POSTING
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS: FEBRUARY 12, 2025 – March 30, 2025

How do I apply for this position?

There are two things you will need to do before the application close date to be considered an applicant.

1. Apply online with East Pierce Fire & Rescue (EPFR) through GovernmentJobs
 - [Job Opportunities | East Pierce Fire & Rescue \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)
 - You will be required to complete the online application, upload a resume and required certifications
2. Test, either virtually or in-person, with National Testing Network (NTN) and select East Pierce Fire & Rescue (vouchers available and must be requested before scheduling your test – please see information in the ‘testing fee’ section below). Candidates must also complete the Public Safety Self-Assessment (PSSA) and the pre-recorded virtual interview before the close date.
 - [FIREFIGHTER Jobs | Find Public Safety Jobs | National Testing Network](#)

What are the minimum requirements for EPFR Lateral Firefighter?

- Minimum of 2 years of continuous service as a professional Firefighter/EMT (FF) or Firefighter/Paramedic (FFPM)
- No greater than a 6-month gap of employment as a professional FF or FFPM prior to the first day of employment with EPFR
- Current EMT-B or EMT-P certified and in good standing, *must attach a copy to application*
- IFSAC Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications, *must attach copies to application*
- 21 years of age by start date
- Valid Driver's License
- High school graduate or GED certification
- Legally authorized to work in the U.S.
- Ability to read, write, and speak the English language

What do I need to know about the NTN Test?

Please refer to the Candidate FAQs on the NTN website

- [Candidate Frequently Asked Questions | National Testing Network](#)

Is there a testing fee?

NTN does charge a candidate fee; however, to eliminate the cost to our applicants, we have vouchers available to cover the fee of a new test. *There are no financial criteria to receive a voucher, however you cannot receive more than 1 voucher per year. You must apply online with EPFR and meet EPFR minimum requirements, as indicated above. Once that is done, email humanresources@eastpiercefirerescue.org to request a voucher. We will reply within 72 hours. If you*

have applied online and meet the requirements listed below, you will receive the voucher number via email. **Please note, vouchers will only be offered through March 27, 2025.*

I received my voucher, how do I use it?

Schedule a test with NTN by visiting their website and choosing Firefighter Jobs, select East Pierce Fire & Rescue, continue to follow the instructions. You will enter the voucher information in the pay section.

- [Public Safety Careers | Firefighter Jobs | Police Officer Jobs | National Testing Network](#)

I have already paid for my test scores to be submitted to EPFR, can I get reimbursed?

Unfortunately, we cannot process reimbursements.

I already have a test score I would like to use, and would just like to add EPFR, can I use a voucher for that?

No, the vouchers are only good for a new test. Unfortunately, you will have to pay for the small NTN fee to add EPFR as a new department.

How do I request testing accommodation?

Please refer to the Candidate FAQs on the NTN website

- [Candidate Frequently Asked Questions | National Testing Network](#)

Is there an application fee?

No, we do not charge an application fee. Online applications are only accepted via our Careers webpage with a free GovernmentJobs account.

- [Job Opportunities | East Pierce Fire & Rescue \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

I can't make changes to my application. Do I need to submit another application?

Yes. When you reapply most of your information is saved with your GovernmentJobs account and will automatically populate. You can then edit what you need to. Please note, it will create a duplicate record, so only the most recent application will be considered. Previous versions of your applications will be declined.

I am having issues with GovernmentJobs, can you help?

We do not have the ability to reset passwords or troubleshoot your account. For GovernmentJobs technical assistance, please call them directly at 855-524-5627 or visit their website.

- [GovernmentJobs | FAQ | Frequently asked questions.](#)

Do you offer Veteran's Preference?

Please review the Washington State Careers webpage at [Veterans' Preference - careers.wa.gov](#) for veteran definitions and preference categories. Preference is added to final, passing NTN score. You must *attach documentation (DD214, NGB form 22 or equivalent) to your online application if claiming preference.*

Do I need to submit my scores?

No. We receive the scores directly from NTN, typically within 7 calendar days after the application close date. Top candidates, based on scores and the pre-recorded virtual interview, will be invited to continue in the district selection process.

- We use the NTN's recommended scoring method which includes the candidate's PSSA score.
- Because of the weighted formula, we do not share candidate scores

Am I able to review my exam to see which questions were missed?

No, we contract with NTN and there is no review option.

Is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification required to apply as a lateral-level Firefighter?

Yes, as noted in the EPFR Lateral Firefighter minimum requirements above, to be eligible you must possess an EMT-B or EMT-P.

What if I have a Paramedic certification?

To be hired as a Lateral FFPM, you must possess your EMT-P and have two years of experience as a professional FFPM.

Do I need a current Candidate Physical Abilities Test (CPAT) to apply?

No, CPAT is not required to apply, however it is a condition of employment. If you receive a conditional offer, you will be required to complete the CPAT. Candidates with a valid CPAT certification completed within one year prior to the start date will not need to test again. We accept CPAT certification from any testing agency which provides CPAT in accordance with the International Association of Fire Fighters standards.

Is COVID vaccination a requirement of employment?

Vaccination is encouraged but is not an employment requirement. Please note that this may not be the most up to date COVID information.

How will I be contacted by the District?

Only candidates that have applied online with EPFR (placing them in our system) will be contacted via email. If you only applied at NTN, but not through our website you will not be contacted. Candidates will be notified if they advance in the process or not.

What are the next steps of the process?

Candidates successfully completing each component will advance to the next step. Please note all dates are subject to change. There are no exceptions made to the scheduled dates.

- Candidates that have completed both the NTN test and EPFR application process by the close date of March 30 will be selected for interviews based on NTN scores and the pre-recorded virtual interview.
 - Candidates will be notified by April 14

- Oral Board Interviews conducted in-person at EPFR Headquarters (HQ)
 - April 29 and April 30
- Chief Interviews conducted in-person at EPFR HQ
 - April 30 and May 1
- Establish list and extend conditional offers, anticipate extending 2-5 offers
 - May 2
- Pre-employment process will include CPAT (candidates with valid CPAT certification completed within one year prior to the start date will not need to test again), medical exam, drug screening, psychological assessment, and comprehensive background investigation with criminal history and driving record – EPFR pays all costs associated with the pre-employment process
- Confirmed offers
 - June 16
- Anticipated start date
 - July 7

The pre-employment process includes successfully passing a background investigation including criminal history and driving record review. Are there automatic disqualifiers for employment?

We encourage candidates to review [RCW 43.43.830](#) for information on background checks. Findings from a civil adjudication proceeding and/or convictions of crimes listed within the RCW are possible disqualifications. Records are reviewed on an individual basis as a condition of employment. Employees must have the ability to legally operate a vehicle in Washington State and are required to provide proof of a current/valid driver's license prior to hire date.

Will I need to attend a Fire Academy?

No. Lateral employees will spend 2-4 weeks assigned to days for in-house training prior to being assigned to their 24-hour shift. This is to provide employees the tools they will need to be successful on the line.

How is my lateral experience recognized?

Lateral-entry employees will begin as FF2 or FFPM2 on the wage scale. The 2025 base monthly salaries are:

- FF \$9802
- FFPM \$11,028

At the end of twelve months of continuous service, the employee will be eligible for advancement to a First-Class Firefighter or Firefighter/Paramedic. Base monthly salaries will increase by 7% in both 2026 and 2027 per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between East Pierce Fire & Rescue and IAFF Local 3520.

Laterals will begin at the 3rd year of accrual rate for vacation, as though they have completed two years of employment with the District, accruing 192 hours of vacation their first year.

In addition to the required course requirements and in-house training, lateral-entry firefighters require three (3) years of continuous full-time regular employment as a FF with EPFR, instead of the normally required five (5) years, to be eligible to promote.

What is the probationary period?

All new lateral employees shall be on a probationary status for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of hire.

What is the work schedule for your firefighters?

EPFR personnel work a “modified Detroit 56” which is three 24-hour shifts (0800 to 0800) every nine days. Once you complete the in-house training, you will be assigned to one of the three shifts (A, B, or C Shifts). Below is an example of the rotations. Green represents A Shift, red represents B Shift, and blue represents C Shift.

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Kelly Days (K-Days): A K-Day is a twenty-four (24) hour shift taken off to reduce average hours worked within a 27-day work cycle. Twenty-four (24) hour shift personnel shall receive one (1) K-Day off every 27-day work cycle. In 2025, employees received an additional K-Day, so one 27-day work cycle has 2 K-Days. In 2026, employees will receive an additional two (2) K-Days, so 3 27-day work cycles will have 2 K-Days.

What type of benefits are offered?

This position is represented by IAFF Local 3520. In addition to our competitive pay, generous benefits include:

- District paid medical, dental, vision, VEBA, and medical expense retirement plan
- Vacation, Holidays, and Sick Leave
- Deferred Compensation in the amount of 6%
- Life and Disability Insurance
- Longevity
- Educational Incentive and Tuition Reimbursement
- Enrollment in the Washington State Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters (LEOFF) retirement system

What opportunities does EPFR provide?

Exciting opportunities include:

- Hazardous Materials Special Operations Team
- Technical Rescue Special Operations Team
- Water Rescue Special Operations Team
- Wildland Special Operations Team
- Paramedic School
- Ad Hoc committees (we regularly utilize personnel for special short-term and long-standing committee work)
- New stations, apparatus, and equipment