



One of the first steps you will encounter during the application process will be the **Firefighter Written Entry Exam**. This test is designed for candidates aspiring to become career firefighters. However, do not let the name of the test discourage you! Although this is a firefighter entry-level test at this point all applicants are considered equal regardless of their existing knowledge.

The **Firefighter Written Entry Exam** is mostly a **reading comprehension test**. The bulk of the exam gauges your ability to read, retain, recall and disseminate important information that is found in the Test Preparation Manual (TPM), 9th Edition. About seventy-five percent (75%) of the test is made up of specific questions directly out of the TPM. Past experiences, training or certificates that you may have are irrelevant. **Do not rely on your existing knowledge of the fire service to answer any of the questions found on the test.** It is imperative that you use only the information given in the manual, even if you know the answer to a question is incorrect. **You must read the manual to successfully pass this portion of the Entry Test.** Again, this is a reading comprehension exam and not a test of your knowledge of the fire service!!

The other twenty-five percent (25%) of the test measures your general cognitive skills. These will be basic math problems, word problems, mechanical aptitude, and problem solving test items. There is no study manual for these cognitive ability items.

How to Study

1. Make use of the practice test. You can find the order form under the cover of the test preparation manual.
2. Use your ambition to be a career firefighter as your motivational drive to study for the entry exam.
3. Read the entire Test Preparation Manual several times.
4. It may take you over 40 hours of total study time to master the information contained in the TPM.
5. Focus on one chapter a day, while briefly reviewing the other chapters you have read.
6. Go to a quiet appropriate place to study. Loud environments with the potential for distraction or interruption will end up preventing you from retaining the information.
7. Focus on problem areas such as list of names, numbers, dates and times, then review them daily.
8. Utilize a calendar to set goals of your study progress.
9. Do not rely solely on the vocabulary and sample question knowledge to get you a passing grade on the test.
10. Do not try to cram for the exam, there is entirely too much information in the TPM to absorb it in a short period of time. Develop a study routine and try to be prepared at least two weeks prior to the test date. Use that extra time for more review!

Good Luck!