



# LADDERS

*The recruit newsletter of the South Euclid Fire Department*

*Climbing to a career as a firefighter in the South Euclid Fire Department, one rung at a time.*

Issue Eleven

## Keeping Focus

By definition, Keeping focus is paying attention to a central theme or attraction. If you are pursuing a career in the fire service, your career focus should revolve around the following:

1. Review your career plan. First you should have a plan, if you don't you may not have an idea of what you should be doing. You can download a sample plan from our web site. . [http://www.cityofsoutheuclid.com/fire/images/Career\\_Plan\\_for\\_Joe\\_Firefighter.pdf](http://www.cityofsoutheuclid.com/fire/images/Career_Plan_for_Joe_Firefighter.pdf) Like any plan, you should periodically evaluate the plan and make any changes.
2. Make sure all the materials you need are ready for submitting an application. Make sure you are using all resources available to find out when cities are giving civil service exams. Remember ties on the exam are broken by who turns in the application first.
3. Make sure you are keeping up with your continuing education. After all the effort to obtain your certification, you do not want them to lapse because you have failed to keep up with your con-ed. Most hospital systems offer free con-ed, you just need to get on their e-mail list and you can sign up for on line fire training at the Ohio Fire Academy.
4. If you are in medic school and doing medic ride time, consider this an on the job interview. You are being evaluated and this offers you the chance to shine.
5. How is your college education going? A college degree shows that you have both what it takes and the passion to do this job. You can bet that future promotions once you have been hired will earn extra credit for college degrees.
6. Make sure you are reading even a little every day. There is so much material available on the internet, take some time each day to read and learn. It doesn't always have to be fire related, as long as it keeps you focused and inspired.
7. Keep up your contacts. You aren't in this alone and if you look around there are probably a lot of people willing to help you out. Seek their help and support.
8. Perhaps one of the best ways to build your resume and experience is to gain part time firefighting employment. This also is an on the job interview. Working even part time will broaden your experience, create more contacts, instill confidence and build your reputation.

A career in the fire service can be yours, all you have to do is work at it. These jobs are highly competed for. Having a plan, following the plan and keeping focus will improve your chances.

Stay safe and best wishes.

Chief Huston