



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 Four

Education

Education is a key element in your plan to pursue your career as a firefighter. Today's firefighters start their careers with more education than their predecessors. The best time to obtain your education is now when you have fewer commitments and more time. Consider the following when designing your education plan.

Basic Training – Employers are choosing from candidates that have their fire and paramedic training. Though not having this training is not a significant obstacle for employers, there are an ample amount of quality candidates with their basic training, so they tend to get hired. The two main requirements are Fire Training, often referred to as “240” course and paramedic training. There are many options available that will allow you to fit this training into your schedule. One note on this training, the instructors are often firefighters. You are already making an impression, either good or bad.

College – A college education is becoming more and more important in the fire service. Even those with degrees in non fire related fields have an improved chance of getting hired. Once hired, college degrees and a college background improve chances of getting promoted and advancing your career. A college education and degree will help in other career choices, in the event you choose a different career. Start with the basic courses at a community college.

Certifications – There are several fire certifications that will improve your resume. Some of them require time on the job, but part time and volunteer time counts. There are certifications for Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor and Arson Investigator and others.

Con Ed and Other Classes – As a certified firefighter or paramedic, you must complete continuing education each year. Many of the hospitals offer EMS con-ed at no cost. There are several sites that provide con-ed for a very reasonable cost. The National Fire Academy has free on line classes.

Education not only provides you the credentials to do the job, but the knowledge to do the job safely and efficiently. A good bank of education in your resume shows that you have passion for the job. When we hire, we look for people with the passion, skills and knowledge to do this job. The job is always changing and your ability to learn is an important attribute.

Education, like the mass of our age's inventions, is after all, only a tool; everything depends upon the workman who uses it - *The Simple Life*

Keep at it, stay focused and best wishes – Chief Huston