



# 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.*

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## Your Current Employment

Before we get to our discussion about your current employment, some news. The current civil service list for the City of South Euclid will expire soon. With anticipated retirements in 2014, we hope to have a civil service exam later this year. With that in mind I will increase the frequency of our newsletter to once a month. Any details on our civil service exam will be sent as soon as they are official.

Our topic for today, your current employment. When fire departments start working on their eligibility list one of the more important items is your background. How deep they look varies, but in South Euclid we look very closely. The employee we hire will hold a very important position and will be serving the community for thirty years or more. An excellent gauge of the type of employee we might hire can be found in their current employment position.

Most employers are reluctant to give out much information about their current or former employees. Requests often result in information on when a person worked and give no history. In a comprehensive background check, the current or former employer may be visited and interviewed. This often results in a better picture of the employee. When interviewing a former or current supervisor, it is much easier to observe the “unspoken or unwritten” communication and arrive at a conclusion.

The keys to a positive recommendation from a current employer are actually very simple.

- Show up to work, be on time and avoid unnecessary call offs. (These are things that can be documented and forwarded to a prospective employer)
- Show respect for you superiors and co-workers. One of the top three things employers are looking for is the ability to work with others.
- Show respect for your customers. If you work in a fire service job, this is critically important. The citizens of each community are ultimately your boss.
- Work hard and make sure your work is as good as it can be. This means keeping up on your trade. Keep your fire and medical skills updated and look to improve.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm and passion for your job. Even in non-fire service jobs find a way to demonstrate your passion and enthusiasm.

A great number of our candidates we interview are working in part-time or volunteer fire positions. If this is you there is no better window as to the type of employee we might get than what you are doing at your current job.

**Work hard and stay safe – Chief Huston**