



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 Two

Developing A Career Plan

Imagine starting a journey, where you kind of know where you want to go, but are not sure exactly how to get there. So you head off in the right direction. You can imagine it won't take much to get you lost or off track. The same thing can happen to you as you start your career. Here are a few tips on developing a career plan for you.

- ① **Your first step is to determine your goal. This should take some reflection and thought. Pursuing a career as a firefighter might be kind of vague. What type of department do you want to work for, full time, big city, suburban, fire/ems? Where do you want to work? This area or are you willing to move?**
- ① **List all the objectives you will need to complete to work toward your goal. Start with educational requirements. You may have to research what is needed. Where will you go to school? When and how will you pay for it? How much time do you have to put toward these requirements so that you can achieve them in good order?**
- ① **List other important objectives and how you will accomplish them. What should you be reading? Seek methods of improving your placement on entrance exams. How and when to start taking exams?**
- ① **Explore things you can do that will make you a better candidate. Physical fitness, knowledge and passion for the profession. Consider any type of employment related to firefighting that will help you be a better candidate.**
- ① **Give some thought to possible barriers to your dream. Are there areas you need to improve on, driving record, work relationships, etc? What are you going to do when life throws a roadblock? Planning ahead makes these detours easier and shorter.**
- ① **Financial concerns should be a part of your plan. How are you going to pay for schools? How do you go to paramedic school and work at the same time? What type of job best fits into the plan for my dream job?**
- ① **Time should be a consideration. Firefighting is a lifelong passion, the sooner you get started the better. Set some realistic time goals for your objectives. Some objectives are easily met, others are harder and patience may be required.**
- ① **Keep in contact with those in the career field. They can relate to you trends in hiring, new training information, or other information that will help you.**
- ① **Keep adjusting your plan as needed. It rarely goes exactly as planned. Those who can adapt and overcome make the best firefighters.**

As I write this today, May 25, 2011, it was exactly fifty years ago today that President Kennedy announced plans for us to go to the moon. Eight years later we accomplished this amazing feat. This was not done without a very good plan. Stay focused and talk to you soon.

Chief Huston