

Apparatus Operator (2121)
Task List 2017

DEFINITIONS:

Apparatus –Apparatuses, which are vehicles operated by Apparatus Operators, include the following: aerial ladder truck (commonly referred to as the “truck”), airport Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV or “crash rig”), Aircraft Rescue Firefighting apparatus (ARFF), heavy utility vehicle, emergency air utility vehicle, hazardous materials “squad” vehicle, and brush patrol tank. Apparatus Operators do not normally operate fire engines.

Equipment – Equipment on the apparatus includes the following accessories: aerial ladder, boom, and other components of the apparatus itself; ground and roof ladders and ladder pipes; numerous portable hydraulic, pneumatic, and electric tools such as chain saws, rotary saws, generators, winches, drills, Holmatro tool, chisels, bolt cutters, blowers, air bags, axes, cutting torches, litter baskets, ropes, breathing apparatus, and spare air bottles, which are used for forcible entry, rescues, ventilation, and other firefighting activities.

First-in district – The First-in district is the geographic area in which a company has primary responsibility for firefighting. Each fire station is located near the center of its own first-in district (in terms of response time more than actual distance). In a fire, each company is generally first on the scene within its own first-in district, but will be assisted, if necessary, by units from neighboring (first alarm) districts.

I. MAINTENANCE OF APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:

1. Visually inspects apparatus for oil, water leaks, and proper condition/amount of fuel, oil, water, brake system, tires, wiring, belts, running gears, and seat belts and takes necessary corrective action in order to ensure that the apparatus is in a state of readiness for any emergency.
2. Performs operational tests on the apparatus engine, ignition, lights, signal devices (e.g., sirens, horns), electrical system, and communication system on a daily basis and after use, and takes necessary corrective action in order to ensure proper operation so that the apparatus is in a state of readiness for any emergency.

3. Performs weekly preventive maintenance on apparatus as indicated in the apparatus log book and the apparatus condition and maintenance records by visually checking or performing operational tests of the hydraulic system, aerial and aerial components, tiller bucket, air conditioning unit, brakes, tire pressure, battery, water filter, power steering system, exhaust system, springs, suspension, frame, transmission fluid, windshield wipers, and power equipment (e.g., chainsaws and blowers) and takes necessary corrective action, such as performing minor repairs or reporting more severe damage to the shop, in order to ensure proper operation.
4. Performs in-depth monthly preventive maintenance on apparatus and equipment such as two-line rope system, harnesses, and extinguishers and takes necessary corrective action in order to ensure proper operation.
5. Identifies damaged or broken components, systems, tools, and or equipment on the apparatus during routine cleaning, maintenance, or inspection, attempts to determine how and/or why the damage occurred, and based on the severity of the damage, determines whether to report the need for repair to the shop or to personally perform the repairs, in order to ensure the apparatus is in proper operational order, prevent additional damage from occurring, and ensure there are no hazardous conditions on the apparatus which might threaten members' safety.
6. Performs in-depth bi-monthly preventive maintenance on apparatus as indicated in the apparatus log book and the apparatus condition and maintenance records by visually inspecting, cleaning, replacing, refilling, lubricating, and/or performing operational tests of the following systems and components: air cleaner, air compressor, alternator, brakes, aerial ladder, cooling system, differential, drive belts, drive line, engine mounts, fuel pump, radio, starter, steering system, tires, transmission, wheel bearings, and wiring; and takes necessary corrective action, such as performing minor repairs or reporting more severe damage to the shop, in order to ensure proper operation.
7. Performs minor mechanical repairs to tools, equipment, and/or the apparatus itself (e.g., tightens loosened bolts and screws, replaces blown fuses and bulbs, reattaches loose wires) during routine cleaning, maintenance, and inspection and directs others to affect or assist with such repairs and ensures that the repairs were done properly in order to maintain the apparatus and equipment in a state of readiness for any emergency.
8. Discusses with the Fire Captain in command and repair facility personnel, either by telephone or direct contact, about the condition of the apparatus and need for repair or scheduled maintenance in order to explain why the apparatus is not at readiness status or to request necessary repairs.

9. Logs into the online LAFD Informational Portal for information regarding scheduled apparatus repairs and availability of reserve apparatus.
10. Cleans fire residue and contaminants from heavy fire apparatus and its equipment using various de-greasers or directs others or assists with such cleaning, in order to ensure that the apparatus and its equipment are in a state of readiness for any emergency.
11. Visually inspects and performs operational tests of personal alarm and personal self-contained breathing apparatus.
12. Wears and operates self-contained breathing apparatus during emergency operations when necessitated by the presence of immediate danger to life and health.
13. Cleans and sterilizes all rescue equipment by rubbing affected areas with a cloth to apply disinfectants such as bleach and water and alcohol-based compounds in order to maintain the apparatus and its equipment in a state of readiness for any emergency.

II. DRIVING AND POSITIONING THE APPARATUS:

14. Reads LAFD maps and develops complete familiarity with the station's first-in district and greater alarm area, such as the topography, major streets, hydrant locations, traffic patterns, and target hazards (e.g., public assemblage areas, schools, high-rises) in order to determine the safest and efficient response route and all alternate routes, if necessary, when notified of an emergency.
15. Drives heavy fire apparatus such as aerial ladder trucks, Heavy Rescue, Hazardous Material Squad, emergency air supply vehicles, Urban Search and Rescue Vehicle, or aircraft crash Rapid Intervention Vehicles to the scene of an emergency, over a variety of roads and surfaces in an expedient manner using defensive driving techniques.
16. Positions the apparatus, including spotting the aerial ladder and/or ladder pipe, in an advantageous and secure location at emergencies by considering factors such as: the type of emergency (e.g., structure fire, brush fire, auto accident, hazardous materials spill, emergency medical services, structural collapse, trench collapse and confined space rescue); occupancy type (e.g., single family dwelling, apartment house, high rise, industrial); size of building; size of fire (entire building or area engulfed in flames, or just a portion); source of water (in order to avoid interfering with access to hydrants, standpipes, and sprinkler inlets); parking space for other emergency vehicles; location of firefighters while handling the emergency; avoiding hazards such as heat, building collapse, falling glass, falling wires, or traffic; and providing security from theft; and positions the apparatus accordingly.

III. EMERGENCY DUTIES:

17. Acts as company commander in the short-term absence of the Captain by performing such functions as planning and directing company activities during emergency operations, including developing strategy and tactics to mitigate the emergency, providing accountability for and supervising company members, communicating via radio, and initiating the Incident Command System (ICS).
18. Operates hydraulically powered aerial ladders, with considerations for load limitations, in order to provide the safest possible access to buildings for other members of the firefighting or rescue crew to provide ventilation in instances of fire or to rescue people trapped in a building.
19. Selects, manually positions, manually raises and lowers, and climbs 12', 14', 16', 20', 24', and/or 35' ground ladders and roof ladders of 10', 12', 16' and 20', according to accepted safety procedures, in order to access a building, support firefighting efforts, and affect ventilation or rescue.
20. Operates equipment such as chain saws, rotary saws, axes, drills, and blowers to ventilate burning structures by providing positive pressure or making opening(s) through which heat, smoke, and hot gases can escape.
21. Makes forcible entry into structures by using such tools as bolt cutters, rotary saws, sledge hammers, or battering rams to break windows, cut security bars or dead bolts, or breach walls in order to provide access for firefighters or cut off the spread of a fire.
22. Operates equipment such as Holmatro tool, air bags, cutting torches, air chisels, two-line rope system, litter baskets, and aerial ladders for rescues such as physical extrications, hillside and cliff rescues, and rescues from burning buildings.
23. Performs salvage operations such as shutting down sprinkler systems when appropriate, removing water from the property, expelling heat and smoke, and covering valuable items and floors using salvage equipment (e.g., salvage covers, plastic sheeting, sawdust, shovels, squeegees, water-vac, submersible water pumps during and after a fire) in order to minimize property damage.
24. Directs and/or monitors the safety and accountability of other firefighting personnel engaged in emergency operations such as fire suppression, raising and lowering ground and roof ladders, performing ventilation, performing forcible entry, Rapid Intervention Company (RIC), operating rescue equipment, and/or performing salvage operations.

25. Locates the building's Fire Control Room, monitors the heating/ventilating/air conditioning (HVAC) system, operates controls to physically recall all elevators, monitors alarm panels, relays information on fire locations to other firefighting personnel during a high rise fire; and consults with the building operating engineer regarding ventilation in order to limit the spread of the fire and expedite firefighting efforts; unlocks stairwell doors, passes out keys and sound powered phones; and resets the fire alarm system for false alarms.
26. Frees victims trapped in an elevator, vehicle, or other locations by either locating the elevator control room, considering factors such as the size of the car and number of trapped victim(s) in determining whether to raise or lower the car, operates mechanical or hydraulic controls to safely position and stabilize the car, and uses radio communication to coordinate the safe movement of the car with the rescue team in order to expedite the rescue of the trapped victim(s).
27. Performs minor/temporary repairs or adjustments to malfunctioning electrical, mechanical, pneumatic, or hydraulic apparatus components or equipment in order to enable emergency operations to continue.
28. Uses a wide variety of firefighting and rescue tools such as nozzles and hoses, axes, rotary and chain saws, and medical equipment in order to perform the duties of a firefighter at the scene of an emergency, at the direction of a Fire Captain or on own initiative as the situation warrants.
29. Administers emergency medical aid to the public such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), splinting broken bones, and monitoring the administration of oxygen during resuscitation as an Emergency Medical Technician.
30. Participates in search and rescue activities and rapid intervention procedures in structures whenever there is a possibility of a person lost during an emergency incident by checking the location in a systematic manner as prescribed by company operations.
31. Assists in laying hose at fire scenes by helping to complete various activities such as developing firefighting and supply lines, developing a line to a large stream appliance, and operating those lines and appliances in order to extinguish fires as quickly as possible.
32. Overhauls burned structures once a fire has been visually extinguished in order to ensure complete extinguishment of the fire, eliminate hazardous conditions, protect the property from additional damage, determine the cause and location of ignition, separate salvageable material from debris, estimate dollar loss, leave the area clear enough for insurance adjustors to work, and secure the premises.

33. Locates and operates various types of fire sprinkler shutoff valves in structures in order to shut down and drain sprinkler systems so that sprinkler heads can be replaced following sprinkler activation.
34. Replaces sprinkler heads in structures using wrenches, socket sets, and specialized tools in order to restore the functionality of the sprinkler system.
35. Directs traffic by strategically placing apparatus to block traffic and laying flares and traffic cones, and controlling traffic patterns at the site of an emergency in order to keep traffic flowing, to maintain emergency operations, protect LAFD personnel from vehicle traffic, and protect LAFD equipment from theft or damage.

IV. RECORD KEEPING DUTIES:

36. Visually inspects station records such as LAFD maps, incident packets, building inventory books, and apparatus log books for missing, worn, and outdated pages and orders and inserts new replacement pages in order to keep each book current and the pages in good condition.
37. Writes information on a variety of paper logs and forms such as the apparatus log book, bi-monthly preventative maintenance records, repair record, tire record, salvage cover record, and daily, weekly and monthly apparatus check records in order to maintain a written record of all maintenance, repairs, and status of the apparatus, equipment, and station.

V. FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT:

38. Participates in pre-incident planning inspections with company members and nearby fire stations by walking through a building or area and observing and discussing important characteristics (e.g., ventilation, means of egress, types of roof construction, wire locations, and sprinkler system features) and specific hazards (e.g., presence of hazardous materials) in order to be prepared with a firefighting plan in case of an emergency at major target hazards such as oil refineries, office high-rises, or crowded apartment buildings.
39. Participates in fire prevention inspections and re-inspections of building occupancies and local businesses in the company's first-in district by visually checking premises for obvious violations in order to affect abatement of fire hazards, and issuing notices when required.
40. Explains violations found during inspections to citizens and local business owners/employees, suggests ways to correct violations, and attempts to obtain voluntary correction without judicial action in order to obtain maximum cooperation in elimination of fire hazards.

VI. ROUTINE DUTIES:

41. Works with other Firefighters to clean station facilities, including kitchen and living quarters, apparatus floor, and equipment such as hoses, ladders, hand tools, and battery chargers in order to maintain the station in habitable condition and readiness status.
42. Participates in LAFD public relations programs, including giving school demonstrations and answering questions from citizens in order to present a positive image of the fire service, increase fire safety awareness among the public, and create interest in possible candidates to apply for the Firefighter examination.
43. Assists in annual fire hydrant inspections by using hydrant wrenches to open hydrants in order to inspect accessibility, water flow, and damaged or missing parts and report issues to the department.
44. Replaces depleted oxygen bottles, compressed air bottles, and dry chemical extinguishers by submitting a Supply and Maintenance request or transporting the depleted bottles to the appropriate facility to be recharged, either after a fire or when inspection discloses that it is necessary, in order to ensure that these are maintained in a state of readiness.

VII. TRAINING DUTIES (CONDUCTING AND ATTENDING):

45. Attends formal and informal training sessions, maintenance seminars, and company drills on topics such as fire prevention, apparatus maintenance and troubleshooting, sexual harassment awareness, and earthquake preparedness in order to update knowledge and improve firefighting, rescue, and other skills, either voluntarily or at the direction of the station commander.
46. Reads manuals such as the manufacturer's operating manual for the apparatus, apparatus log book, LAFD Manual of Operations, Book 29, LAFD Rules and Regulations, LAFD Driver's Training Manual, LAFD Apparatus Operator's Training Manual, and the California Vehicle Code, and various documents from the LAFD Reference Library in order to keep aware of Department policy and be intimately familiar with the operation of the apparatus.
47. Provides classroom style and hands on training on tools, equipment, and firefighting and rescue techniques to coworkers on an ongoing basis, through use of discussion, demonstration, and/or by walking through fire scenes following an incident, in order to ensure that the company is prepared to operate as a team at emergency incidents.
48. Provides classroom style and hands on training to coworkers on aerial ladder truck operation, maintenance, repair, driving techniques, aerial operation techniques, oil hydraulic theory, and general automotive theory, through the use

of demonstration, discussion, supervised practice, and responsible for ensuring complicity with new driver training program and documentation in order to have firefighters trained and ready to act in the absence of the Apparatus Operator.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS:

49. Acts as a company commander in the short term absence of the Captain by overseeing all fire station activities, operating radios and Mobile Data Computer, updating daily timekeeping records, responding to requests for schedule changes by company personnel, and other first-line supervisory duties.
50. Field tests new firefighting/rescue tools and equipment when requested by the Equipment Engineering unit by using the new item in firefighting/rescue activities and preparing and forwarding periodic reports evaluating the acceptability of the equipment in order to determine whether the equipment will become part of the regular inventory.
51. Engages in LAFD-approved cardiovascular and strength building exercises while on duty in order to meet Departmental standards for weight, stamina, and strength.