



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
**Offaly County Council
Fire & Rescue Service**
Central Fire Station, Tullamore, Co. Offaly



Retained Firefighter Selection Tests

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

This Information Sheet explains the tests, which must be carried out as part of the selection process for Retained Firefighters in Offaly County Fire Service. The five tests, which must be carried out, are as follows and are described below;

1. Literacy & Numeracy Test
2. Colour Blindness Test
3. Ladder Climb Test
4. Casualty Evacuation Test
5. Equipment Carry Test
6. Confined Space Test
7. Tower climb/dexterity test

Your attention is drawn to the following important points;

- a. You will be given a safety brief before each test.
 - Any candidate who fails to carry out the instructions of the safety brief or an instruction by any assessor will be deemed to have failed that test and will take no further part in the selection process.
 - If you are unclear or require clarification on any aspect of the safety brief it is important that you ask.
- b. Candidates must pass all tests.
- c. You will be required sign a declaration that
 - You are fit and well to carry out the tests.
 - You are not under the influence of alcohol or medication that would impede your ability to carry out the tests safely.

Any candidate who presents with an injury will not be allowed to carry out the tests. Notwithstanding the above, any candidate who, in the opinion of the facilitators, who appears to be under the influence of alcohol will not be allowed to carry out the tests.

Literacy & Numeracy Test

To complete the test successfully you must pass both the Literacy Test and the Numeracy Test

1. You will be required to read a passage of text to the examiner and transcribing a passage of text read to you by the examiner.
2. You will be required to undertake a numeracy test which involves carrying out simple mathematic calculations.

Colour Blindness Test

To complete the test successfully you must pass the The Ishihara Colour Blindness Test

1. This will involve identifying letters and numbers hidden in a mass of colours.

Ladder Climb Test

To complete the test successfully you must demonstrate confidence going up the ladder, applying the correct technique and coming down again.

1. You will be required to climb the ladder to two- thirds of its height (10 metre); you will be told when to stop.
2. Perform a leg lock which will be demonstrated to you by a safety officer.
3. Clip onto ladder, release your hands from the ladder; outstretch your arms to the side.
4. Identify numbers letters by looking over left and right shoulder.
5. Regain your handhold, and descend to the ground. You should complete this task in a safe and controlled manner. You will be wearing a full body harness and will be attached to a fall-arrest device.

A safety officer will demonstrate the correct mounting and dismounting procedure from the ladder.

Equipment Carry Test

To complete the test successfully you will need to combine endurance, upper and lower body strength and co-ordination and complete the test within 5 minutes.

You will be carrying equipment over the length of the course, moving around a cone, which will be at a distance of 25 metres. The items are laid out in the order which they are to be used.

1. You will start level with the start line holding a hose reel at waist height.
2. Run the hose to the cone and place it down and jog back to the start.
3. Run/jog back to the start and pick up the two coils of 70mm diameter delivery hose (one in each hand).
4. Carry them up and down the course for four lengths, then place one down back in the marked space.
5. Pick up the other by the centre lugs and carry, holding it at chest height to the cone and place it down, then jog three lengths back to the start.
6. Pick up and carry one length of suction hose and one basket strainer up and down the course 4 lengths and place back in marked space.
7. Then run/jog up and down the course 4 lengths.
8. Pick up a 25kg weight and run the course 4 lengths.

Your time will start when the assessor says '3-2-1-GO' and will stop when you cross the finish line with all tasks carried out. **You do not have to remember** the sequence of events, as the assessor will guide you. You must not run with equipment other than the hosereel at the start, though you may run or jog when not carrying equipment.

Confined Space Test

To complete the test successfully you will need to demonstrate an ability to work & path find in zero visibility conditions.

1. You will be required to negotiate a path through a number of rooms and a confined space in darkness.
2. You will start the test wearing a facemask with obscured vision.
3. Make your way through the door following the left hand wall & proceed along the left hand wall negotiating obstacles and doors as found.
4. The finish will be indicated by the assessor tapping you on the head and saying STOP.
5. You may withdraw yourself from the test at any time or if the safety officers think you are suffering unduly you will be withdrawn from the test.

Casualty Evacuation Test

To complete the test successfully you will need to combine upper and lower body strength and co-ordination and complete the test in 40 seconds.

1. Firmly grasp the carrying handle at the back of the dummy's head with both hands.
2. Keeping your body upright and your back neutral pick up dummy so that you can straighten your back whilst keeping your legs bent.
3. Drag the dummy from the start cone, walking backwards along the 30m route to the finish line.
4. You will be guided by the assessor so there is no need to turn around to look for obstacles.
5. The dummy weighs 50 Kg.

Tower Climb Test/Dexterity test

To complete the test successfully you will need to combine upper and lower body strength and co-ordination and complete the test in

1. You will enter the training tower at ground level.
2. You will pick up a length 70mm hose flaked. It will be placed on your right shoulder.
3. Grip the handrail with your left hand. It should remain on the rail until you reach the top.
4. Climb to the top floor landing (top floor) of the tower. A foot should land on each step. Do not skip steps.
5. Reaching the top, shift the bundle fold to the left shoulder and grip the handrail with your right hand.
6. Descend to the starting point without skipping steps. Skipping steps will result in a fail.
7. When you reach the starting point, you will repeat the climb and descend following the same procedures.
8. You will then connect a selection of couplings together in a set time

Offaly County Council will not be responsible for any damage to clothing, personal items or for any physical injuries incurred during these tests