

CPAT INFORMATION

CPAT stands for the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness/Fitness Initiative Candidate Physical Ability Test. The Topeka Fire Department uses the CPAT to assess the physical condition and abilities of potential candidates.

Applicants MUST have a valid CPAT certification to receive a conditional offer of employment.

It is strongly suggested that applicants obtain their CPAT certification as soon as possible to ensure not missing out on a possible offer of employment. The CPAT is a strenuous test and some candidates find that they have to take it more than once to pass. You should allow time to take the test more than once if necessary. All of the test facilities offer practice tests, however some charge a lesser fee for the practice test but several do not charge for practice test. At some of the test facilities, if you take a practice test and pass, that counts as an overall official pass and you pay the difference between the practice test fee and the regular fee and receive your certification. Each facility handles this differently so be sure to ask as you seek a facility. Overall, it is again strongly recommended that you not wait until the last minute to take the test. The Topeka Fire Department will pay for **ONE** CPAT examination fee per candidate after you have taken and passed the Topeka Firefighter written examination. This does not cover the cost of practice tests, unless the facility will allow a passing practice to count as the regular pass. The TFD will then pay for the practice test. Otherwise practice tests are optional and will be the responsibility of the applicant.

Candidate's will be required to pay the CPAT test administration site directly for the CPAT test and once the test is completed, upon the submission of required reimbursement documentation, the candidate will be reimbursed for the test. The required reimbursement documents will be supplied to those candidates passing the written examination. The candidate will be reimbursed regardless if they pass or fail the CPAT.

Once obtained, TFD's expectation is that you will maintain a current CPAT card while you are on the TFD eligibility list.

Below is a list of regional CPAT test providers that have upcoming tests. Please contact the provider directly to schedule your CPAT test. Space is limited for each test so you are encouraged to schedule your test as soon as possible.

- Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS | <http://www.hutchcc.edu/cpat>
- Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS | <http://www.jccc.edu/academics/public-safety/fire-science/cpat.html>
- Metropolitan Community College Blue River Campus, Independence, MO | <http://www.mcckc.edu/professional-dev/public-safety-institute/fireacademy/>

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) consists of eight separate events. The CPAT is a sequence of events requiring you to progress along a predetermined path from event to event in a continuous manner. This test was developed to allow fire departments to obtain pools of trainable candidates who are physically able to perform essential job tasks at fire scenes.

The CPAT Candidate Preparation Guide can be accessed in Appendix B at <https://www.iaff.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/CPAT-2nd-Edition.pdf>

Watch the CPAT Orientation Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f99Xh62jPC0>

This is a pass/fail test based on a validated, maximum total time of 10 minutes and 20 seconds.

In these events, you wear a 50-pound vest to simulate the weight of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and fire fighter protective clothing. An additional 25 pounds, using two 12.5-pound weights that simulate a high-rise pack (hose bundle), is added to your shoulders for the stair climb event.

Throughout all events, you must wear long pants, a hard hat with chin strap, work gloves and footwear with no open heel or toe. Watches and loose or restrictive jewelry are not permitted.

All props were designed to obtain the necessary information regarding your physical ability. The tools and equipment were chosen to provide the highest level of consistency, safety and validity in measuring your physical abilities. While the course layout may vary in order to conform to the fire department's test area, the events and distances between events are always the same.

The events are placed in a sequence that best simulates fire scene events while allowing an 85-foot walk between events. To ensure the highest level of safety and to prevent exhaustion, no running is allowed between events. This walk allows you approximately 20 seconds to recover and regroup before each event.

To ensure scoring accuracy by eliminating timer failure, two stopwatches are used to time the CPAT. One stopwatch is designated as the official test time stopwatch, the second is the backup stopwatch. If mechanical failure occurs, the time on the backup stopwatch is used. The stopwatches are set to the pass/fail time and count down from 10 minutes and 20 seconds. If time elapses prior to the completion of the test, the test is concluded and you fail the test.