

259-008-0011

Minimum Standards for Employment as a Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatcher

(1) On or before the date of employment, each telecommunicator and emergency medical dispatcher shall be fingerprinted on standard applicant fingerprint cards.

(a) The hiring agency, if a public agency, is responsible for fingerprinting and shall forward two (2) cards to the Oregon State Police Identification Services Section for processing and assignment of identification number.

(b) If the hiring agency is a private agency it is responsible for fingerprinting and shall forward two (2) cards to the Department along with the appropriate fee.

(A) Applicant's fingerprints will be retained and kept on file with the Oregon State Police Identification Services Section.

(B) The Oregon State Police Identification Services Section shall notify the Department and the employing agency of any criminal record disclosed through processing the applicant's fingerprint card.

(C) If any procedural change is made by either the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Oregon State Police Identification Services Section, the Department shall comply with the most current requirements.

(D) If the fingerprint clearance has not been obtained prior to submission of the application for certification, a criminal history affidavit provided by the Department shall be completed and returned to the Department by the applicant pending fingerprint clearance.

(2) Criminal Records. No telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher shall have been convicted:

(a) In this state or any other jurisdiction, of a crime designated under the law where the conviction occurred as being punishable as a felony or as a crime for which a maximum term of imprisonment of more than one (1) year may be imposed;

(b) Of violating any law involving the unlawful use, possession, delivery, or manufacture of a controlled substance, narcotic, or dangerous drug;

(c) In this state of violating any law subject to denial or revocation as identified in OAR 259-008-0070 or has been convicted of violating the statutory counterpart of any of those offenses in any other jurisdiction.

(3) Moral Fitness (Moral Character). All telecommunicators and emergency medical dispatchers must be of good moral fitness.

(a) For purposes of this standard, lack of good moral fitness means conduct not restricted to those acts that reflect moral turpitude but rather extending to acts and conduct which would cause a reasonable person to have substantial doubts about the individual's honesty, fairness, respect for the rights of others, or for the laws of the state and/or the nation.

(b) The following are indicators of a lack of good moral fitness:

(A) Illegal conduct involving moral turpitude;

(B) Conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

(C) Intentional deception or fraud or attempted deception or fraud in any application, examination, or other document for securing certification or eligibility for certification;

(D) Conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice;

(E) Conduct that adversely reflects on his or her fitness to perform as a telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher. Examples include but are not limited to: Intoxication while on duty, untruthfulness, unauthorized absences from duty not involving extenuating circumstances, or a history of personal habits off the job which would affect the telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher's performance on the job which makes the telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher both inefficient and otherwise unfit to render effective service because of the agency's and/or public's loss of confidence in the telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher's ability to perform competently.

(c) If reliable evidence is received by the Board or Department that a telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher lacks good moral fitness, a rebuttable presumption will be raised that the telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher does not possess the requisite moral fitness to be a telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher. The burden shall be upon the telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher to prove good moral fitness.

(4) Education:

(a) Applicants for the position of a telecommunicator or emergency medical dispatcher will be required to furnish documentary evidence of one of the following:

(A) High School diploma; or

(B) Successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) Test.

(i) For the purpose of determining high school graduation level as required by these rules, the applicant must have achieved a score no less than that required by the Oregon Board of Education before issuing an Oregon GED certificate.

(ii) Applicants holding a GED from another state may be required to obtain an Oregon certificate at the discretion of the Department.

(b) Evidence of the above shall consist of official transcripts, diplomas, or GED test report forms. Other documentation may be accepted, at the discretion of the Department.

(5) Reading and Writing Standard. Before beginning basic telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) training or challenging basic telecommunicator training, each applicant shall provide evidence to DPSST that the applicant has attained a minimum of a 12th grade reading and writing level in the English language.

(A) The hiring agency is responsible for administering a reading and writing instrument, approved by DPSST, and shall forward the results to DPSST on an application for training (Form F-5) prior to the applicant being admitted to basic telecommunicator or EMD training.

(B) Individuals submitting transcripts verifying that they possess at least a four-year academic degree from an institution recognized by DPSST under the provisions of OAR 259-008-0045 are exempt from completing the 12th grade reading/writing test prior to attending a course identified in this section.

(6) Physical Examination. All Telecommunicators and Emergency Medical Dispatcher applicants must be examined by a licensed physician.

(a) The medical examination must be completed not more than 180 days prior to initial offer of employment, nor more than 90 days after initial offer of employment, and must conform to applicable standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Title 42 USC 12101.

(b) Individuals who have had a successfully completed physical examination (while at the same employer) and are selected for a certifiable position in a discipline in which the individual is not yet certified must complete and pass a new physical examination.

(c) The Department will not require a new physical examination when a Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher obtains employment, or re-employment, in the same discipline if the Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher:

(A) Has had a successfully completed a physical examination, and

(B) Is currently certified; or

(C) Is currently employed full-time in another jurisdiction and has successfully completed a comparable physical examination in that jurisdiction.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), a medical examination may be required by a hiring agency at its discretion.

(e) Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatcher applicants must meet the following criteria:

(A) Visual Acuity. Corrected vision must be at least 20/30 (Snellen) when tested using both eyes together.

(B) Color Vision. Red or green deficiencies may be acceptable, providing the applicant can read at least nine (9) of the first thirteen (13) plates of the Ishihara Test (24 Plate Edition). Applicants who fail the Ishihara test can meet the color vision standard by demonstrating that they can correctly discriminate colors via a field test conducted by the employer and approved by DPSST. **The results of the field test and the methods for testing must be maintained by the employing agency.**

(i) Any employing agency that conducts a field test to meet the color vision standard must also complete a Department approved affidavit attesting that the applicant can either correctly discriminate colors or is able to successfully perform the required tasks of a Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher, notwithstanding the applicant's inability to correctly discriminate colors.

(ii) Any affidavit required by (i), that the Department receives and accepts, is non-transferable to any subsequent employer and may not be used by any other entity for certification purposes.

(iii) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this rule, each employer must complete an agency-specific field test and a Department approved affidavit as described in subsection (i) of this section for any Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher who previously met the color vision standard by completing a field test.

(C) Peripheral Vision. Visual Field Performance must be 120 degrees in the horizontal meridian combined.

(f) Applicants for the position of Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher must have sufficient hearing in both ears to perform essential tasks without posing a direct threat to themselves or others. The applicant must meet National Emergency Number Association (NENA) hearing standard 54-002 (June 10, 2006).

(g) Applicants for the position of Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher must be able to use vocal cords and have significant speaking ability to perform speaking-related essential tasks.

(7) If further medical examination is required, it will be at the expense of the applicant or the hiring authority.

(8) All Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatcher applicants must submit a current-version DPSST Medical Examination Report for Telecommunicators and Emergency Medical Dispatchers (DPSST Form F-2T), or a medical report completed by a licensed physician containing at a minimum the information on Form F-2T. This Report will be furnished to the examining physician by the hiring agency.

(9) A copy of the Medical Examination Report must be sent to the Department prior to acceptance into a basic course, or any course where such report is required by the Department.

(10) The Department may require an applicant offered conditional employment to take a subsequent examination by a licensed physician of the Department's choice at the expense of the applicant or the hiring authority.

(11) The Board may waive any physical requirement where, in its judgment, the waiver would not be detrimental to the performance of a Telecommunicator or Emergency Medical Dispatcher's duties. The applicant may be required to demonstrate the ability to perform the essential functions of the job.

(12) A person or department head requesting a waiver of any physical requirement set forth in section (11) of this rule must submit the request to the Department in writing, accompanied by supporting documents or pertinent testimony which would justify the action requested. The supporting documents must include information pertinent to the waiver request. The Board or Department may require additional documentation or testimony by the person or department head requesting the waiver if clarification is needed. Any expense associated with providing documentation or testimony will be borne by the person requesting the waiver or the requesting agency. If the person requesting the waiver does not obtain employment within one (1) year from the date a waiver is granted, the waiver will be considered void. If the Board grants a waiver, it will be recorded on the certification and any subsequent certification unless removed by the Board upon proof that the condition prompting the waiver no longer exists.

[ED. NOTE: Forms referenced are available from the agency.]

Stat. Auth.: ORS 181.640

Stats. Implemented: ORS 181.640