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# Smoke Your Firefighter Interview



## Synopsis

Chief Lepore's most popular book is called *Smoke Your Firefighter Interview* (360 pages). It provides readers with a view of the interview from the perspective of the panel raters. The objective is for candidates to see themselves through the eyes of the raters. By the end of the book, readers will understand exactly how they are being scored. More importantly, they will understand how to completely answer the types of questions that they will encounter on the fire department interview. Since it is often weighted 100% of the candidate's final score, earning a high score on the interview is essential to getting hired. In this book, Chief Lepore uses his 30 years of fire service experience to review over 90 commonly-asked fire department interview questions. The author shares not only the questions that you can expect in your fire department interview, but also how the panel expects the entry-level candidate to answer them. Most importantly, Chief Lepore explains the reasons for the correct answer. The "Reasoning" section that follows each question is often longer than the answer itself. It covers the exact key points that the interviewers are looking for in the previous question. This section includes the following: expectations of a probationary firefighter; understanding the candidate's knowledge of their position within the organization; the rank structure of the fire service; and how to expertly navigate the tricky waters of stepping up as the new firefighter when he or she identifies something that is not right. The reasoning section is designed to provide an in-depth insight into the unique culture present in every fire station in every department throughout the country. It is expected that entry-level firefighters understand the culture prior to getting hired. For those who understand it, the interview questions make more sense. For those who are new to the fire service culture, passing the interview can be a daunting task. The interview panel will quickly identify candidates who simply memorize the answers to both routine and complex questions, but have no understanding as to why they would act or perform in a certain way. The panel's follow-up questions are designed to identify how committed candidates are to their answers. *Smoke Your Firefighter Interview* allows readers to do more than simply memorize the right answer. By explaining the rationale, which often includes the culture of the fire service, readers are able to understand and internalize the "right" answer. Since readers now completely understand the concepts, they are able to clearly express their thoughts to the oral board. The oral interview is the most important part of the hiring process.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book has helped me immensely in improving my firefighter interview skills. I went from not passing interviews to being hired as a firefighter. The important thing that Chief Lepore does in this book is help people understand the logic and thought processes behind answering interview questions. Anyone can memorize a textbook answer, but once you understand the logic behind it you are then able to dynamically answer any question thrown your way and it will be an answer that is from the heart. Thanks Chief Lepore!

Much of what is said is common sense but I have gained some insight into the interview process. Hopefully it will help get hired. I will find out here shortly and hopefully report back. Anyone interviewing should buy it, its a small price to pay even if you learn one thing. You never know if that one thing helps you get hired.\*EDIT\*I believe things are changing in the fire service just as they are in the rest of society. If you live in a larger, liberal jurisdiction this book probably won't help you. The entire hiring process is changing in order to give everyone a fair shot. The CPAT and the video based testing are both borderline comical. The interview does not allow you to really show why you are a good candidate. Its just a bunch of P.C. BS and trickery. If you want to pass the interview, do this.1. Know EVERYTHING about the dept.2. Think of situations where you made a moral decision3. Think of situations where you had to do something you didn't want to do4. Think of situations where you worked as a team to solve a problem5. Think of situations where you made a mistake and you learned from it.6. RELAX7. Listen to the questions carefully, speak slowly and clearly.8. Be ready for trick questions.Good luck

I have begun the hiring process with local Fire Departments and I feel very confident with the interviews after studying and reviewing this book. Truly there is no other book out there that provides so much information specifically for Fire Department Oral Interviews.

Without a doubt one of the best tools an aspiring firefighter should have. A great easy to read and understand book about the most overlooked part of getting hired by a fire department. The oral interview is the most important part of the hiring process. In this book the author guides you through the interview and helps you understand what fire departments are looking for.

If you plan on becoming a firefighter, this book is an absolute must. Not only does it help with interviews, but a lot of the psychological test given by the bigger firefighting testing agencies pull examples similar or identical to those presented in this book. Even if you think you are a great interviewer, you might be surprised by the information you garner in this book. Talked to a lot of people about it, everyone says they jumped up list after reading this book and doing interviews.

This book is a great read and has a lot of good information in it. It's content is spot on from small to large departments alike. I highly recommend for all firefighters to read, rather you looking to get into the fire service or need some brushing up after being on the job for awhile.

I give this book a perfect score because of the results it produced. I purchased this book one month before my FIRST interview with the Oakland Fire Department. Six weeks later I was sitting across the table with the Fire Chief. This book can and will prepare any and every candidate for their oral board. Moreover, this book does not give "canned" responses to interview questions, it gives you a framework to think and reason in. This new paradigm will allow you to produce your own answers to score highly on any fire related oral board. Chief Lepore and all his books are assets to all of us hoping to become part of the fire family. Thank you Chief!!

This book is priceless when it comes to improving your oral board scores. This book helps to enlighten future firefighters on what the fire service is about and what you may expect as a rookie. Read it from front to back, and along with practice, it is almost impossible to not improve your oral boards.

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