**Hydrant Technician**

**Job Description and Person Specification**

**Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**

# **Job description**

Job title: Hydrant Technician

Grade: Grade 4

Department: Fleet & Procurement – Water & Hydrants Section

Reports to: Lead Hydrant Technician

Line manager responsibilities: None

Updated: February 2024

**Main purpose of job**

To inspect, maintain, and carry out minor repairs to existing hydrants, and to inspect new installations. To obtain hydrant data at source and assist in the maintenance of an accurate electronic register of fire hydrants.

**Main Responsibilities and Duties:**

* To survey hydrants within allocated Service areas (urban and rural) to verify, obtain and update information for existing and newly identified apparatus, and new installations. To make associated database updates as appropriate.
* To assess hydrants to establish a risk prioritised re-inspection strategy and assist with the allocation and organisation of inspection work.
* To carry out a dynamic risk assessment of the work area, employ safe systems of work in line with personal capabilities, and use appropriate signing, lighting and guarding compliant with Highways legislation.
* To inspect fire hydrants to investigate reported defects from operational personnel, Water Providers, Highways Authority, and members of the public.
* To carry out repairs to hydrants on roadways, verges and pavements, acting on own initiative, subject to Highways Legislation, procedural guidance and British Standards for fire hydrants and make associated database updates as appropriate. Repairs and maintenance works will include cleaning hydrant chambers of mud, water and rubbish; painting covers and/or marker posts and/or plates; installation, replacement and relocation of marker posts and/or plates; screwing down the hydrant case to stop minor leaks; fitting false spindles where missing from the installation; hydrant outlet replacement and capping minor leaks.
* To report major defects and leaks directly to the Water Providers as and when identified, to notify the Lead Hydrant Technician accordingly and make associated database updates as appropriate.
* To report all other defects to the Lead Hydrant Technician and make associated database updates as appropriate, including assisting with decisions regarding the strategic abandonment or relocation of fire hydrants.
* To carry out inspections of new installations and repairs to hydrants by Water Provider or their subcontractors to ensure that work has been completed to an acceptable standard, to notify the Lead Hydrant Technician accordingly and make associated database updates as appropriate.
* To liaise with water providers, engineers, agents and subcontractors with regard to defects, installations and planned and ongoing water schemes.
* To liaise with operational personnel, as required, to obtain and provide information regarding fire hydrants and other emergency water supplies.
* To provide information regarding water supplies and fire hydrants, as requested, to Water Providers, other external organisations, police, local authorities, and members of the public.
* To attend regular team meetings for the purpose of problem solving, exchange of information, views, and new developments.
* To identify improvements and Best Practice to ensure maximum efficiency within the Hydrant section and make recommendations to the Lead Hydrant Technician.
* To request orders for consumables and equipment to be used for the repair and maintenance of fire hydrants.
* To work with other Hydrant Technicians as required, and to coach and mentor new and temporary members of technical staff.
* To carry out duties at the main place of work and/or other premises or places as required and as directed.
* To liaise with other team members within the department, other departments within the service, external agencies and other third party contacts, as and when directed, or when required.

**General Duties: i.e. the duties that apply to all roles at this level.**

* To undertake on own initiative and/or assist in activities or project work, embracing continuous improvement for the department and Service goals and objectives.
* To perform tasks in a safe manner in accordance with Health and Safety policies and legislation.
* To comply with all Service Policies and Procedures,
* To participate in the Personnel Performance & Development (PPD) Review process to identify personal training and development needs and to attend training events as directed.
* To actively promote the Service’s Core Values and a culture of equality, diversity, and fairness within the workplace.
* To maintain security and confidentiality of information, whether computer based or otherwise, in line with legislation, especially the Data Protection Act and Service policies.
* Any other duties as designated by Line Managers.

**Core Values of the Service**

We are proud to help.

We are honest.

We are respectful.

We are working together.

Please follow this link to the Service Core Values [Behavioural Framework](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/WorkingForUs/ACareerwithDSFRS/CoreValues.cfm?SiteCategoryId=13&T1ID=44&T2ID=372)

Signed acceptance of the core values of the Service and agreement that the job description is a fair and accurate statement of the requirements of the job: -

Job holder: Date:

Job holder’s manager: Date:

Designated senior manager (if applicable) Date:

##### Person specification

Grade: 4

Job title: Hydrant Technician

## **Key competencies**

Proven ability to read maps with understanding of the national grid and global positioning references.

### **Essential and measured by application, test and interview.**

Proven self-motivation with good time management, planning and organisation skills.

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

**Work Experience**

Proven experience of carrying out basic maintenance tasks including the use of hand tools, power drill and painting.

**Essential and measured by application and interview.**

Proven experience of maintaining manual and electronic records.

**Essential and measured by application, test, and interview.**

Previous experience of manual handling.

### **Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

Proven experience of working with MS Office software packages (Outlook, Word, Excel)

4

**Essential and measured by application, test, and interview.**

Experience of database maintenance

**Desirable and measured by application, and interview.**

Experience of Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

### **Desirable and measured by application and interview.**

Experience of using Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

### **Desirable and measured by application, and interview.**

## **Qualifications and knowledge**

Good general level of education

**Essential and measured by application.**

Awareness of methods used for signing, lighting and guarding street works and road works.

**Essential and measured by application, test and interview.**

Awareness of risk assessment processes

**Essential and measured by application and interview.**

Qualification in NRSWA Unit 2 – Signing, Lighting and Guarding.

**Desirable and measured by application.**

## **Personal qualities and attributes**

Ability to work on own initiative and prioritise own workload and also be an active team member.

**Essential and measured by application and interview.**

Good interpersonal skills

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

Ability to work with a wide range of people at all levels.

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

Current driving licence with ability to travel to all sites within Devon and Somerset and to meetings both in Devon and Somerset and occasionally nationally.

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

Strong stakeholder ethic

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

A high level of energy and resilience.

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

Professional in conduct

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

Commitment to continuous improvement.

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

Willingness to undergo appropriate Vetting/Screening processes in line with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service requirements.

**Essential and measured by application, and interview.**

**Factor guides.**

### **Supervision/management of people**

Level 1 Little or no supervisory responsibility other than assisting in work familiarisation of peers and new recruits.

### **Creativity and innovation**

Level 2 Work is largely regulated by laid down procedures, but needing occasional creative skills to deal with routine problems.

### **Contacts and relationships**

Level 2 Contacts on well-established matters providing readily available information or assistance, or occasionally dealing with issues where the outcome may not be straightforward.

### **Decisions – discretion**

Level 2 Work is carried out within clearly defined rules and procedures involving decisions chosen from a range of established alternatives.

### **Decisions – consequences**

Level 2 Decisions which have a material effect on the internal operations of the post’s own or other departments or on the individual or the provision of service to the public.

### **Resources**

Level 3 Responsible for the proper use and safekeeping of smaller plant, vehicles, machinery and higher cost materials or for the accurate handling and security of larger sums of cash and cheques or other financial resources.

### **Work environment – work demands.**

Level 1 Work where tasks are interchanged but the programme of tasks is not normally interrupted.

### **Work environment – physical demands.**

Level 2 Work requiring normal physical effort with periods of substantial effort; or normal physical effort occasionally in awkward postures; or prolonged effort in a constrained position involving considerable manual dexterity.

### **Work environment – working conditions.**

Level 3 Majority or work performed outside involving exposure to all weather conditions or exposure inside or outside to considerable noise or dirty or difficult or disagreeable and unpleasant surroundings/conditions.

### **Work environment – work context.**

Level 3 Work potentially involves moderate risk to personal safety of injury, illness or health problems arising from the environment or the public/clients.

### **Knowledge and skills**

Level 2 Ability to undertake work consistent with a comparatively basic knowledge and skills requirement, which encompasses a range of tasks involving application of readily understood rules, procedures or techniques.