

CPAT Orientation & Physical Conditioning

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) consists of eight separate events. CPAT is a sequence of events requiring you to progress along a predetermined path from event to event in a continuous manner. The events include: Stair Climb, Hose Drag, Equipment Carry, Ladder Raise and Extension, Forcible Entry, Maze Search, Victim Drag and Ceiling Breach and Pull. This test was developed to allow fire departments to obtain pools of trainable candidates who are physically able to perform essential job tasks on the fire scene. This is a pass/fail test based on a validated maximum total time of 10 minutes and 20 seconds.

During the events, you wear a 50-pound vest to simulate the weight of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and firefighter protective clothing, a helmet and gloves. An additional 25 pounds, using two 12.5-pound weights which simulate a high-rise pack (hose bundle), is added to your shoulders for the stair climb event only. Throughout all events, you must wear long pants, footwear with no open heel or toe, a provided hard hat with chinstrap, and provided work gloves. Watches and loose or restrictive jewelry are not permitted.

All props are 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. 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 intentionally allows you approximately 20 seconds to recover and regroup before each event.

The history of Candidate Physical Ability Testing in Connecticut has shown beyond a doubt that preparation is the key to success. CPAT is extremely demanding. CPAT tests your strength, agility, balance and ability to follow directions while under physical and emotional stress. Many have made the error in believing they can pass without proper preparation. The Connecticut Fire Academy is required to offer detailed Orientations and two Practice Tests prior to the administration of CPAT. The orientations include a review of all materials within the Candidate Guide booklet. More importantly, the orientations give the candidate the opportunity to perform a self-evaluation by physically reviewing and using the same equipment used in the testing process. The Practice Tests allow candidates to run the test course under timed conditions. If the Practice Test is conducted under "CPAT Conditions" and the candidate passes, it will be counted as passing CPAT. Attending the orientations and practice tests is highly recommended.

To allow for the required eight week CPAT preparatory period as well as the time to process the CPAT applications, a deadline has been established for registering for both the spring and fall testing cycles. Applications received after the published deadline will not be accepted and you will not be able to test during that CPAT testing cycle. Those who have been accepted into the CPAT testing process will receive a packet with information on the testing process and the CPAT Waiver Form that lists the dates and times for their orienta-

tions, practice tests and the CPAT test. If you do not receive a CPAT packet during the two weeks following the application deadline, it is your responsibility to contact the Connecticut Fire Academy within thirty days of the application deadline to verify you are registered and that we have your proper mailing address. Inquiries made after the thirty day time period will not be acted on and you will not be allowed to participate in that CPAT testing cycle.

Please refer to our website at www.ct.gov/cfpc for a listing of the CPAT application deadlines and to download the current CPAT Application form. It is also highly recommended that you download and review the Candidate Preparation Guide and the Candidate Orientation Guide.

The CPAT testing fee is \$150.00 of which \$50 is a non-refundable processing fee. Registered candidates who wish to withdraw from the CPAT testing process must do so in writing to the CPAT Program Manager. The written request for a refund of the CPAT testing fee (minus the \$50 processing fee) must be received at the Connecticut Fire Academy at least one day prior to the candidate's first scheduled orientation. Requests for refunds received on or after the candidate's first orientation date will not be considered.

CPAT Cancellations by the Connecticut Fire Academy

CPAT may be cancelled due to a number of conditions affecting testing. The main reason for cancellation is adverse weather. The weather can be very unpredictable, do not rely on your local weather reports, as the conditions may be different at the test site. It is highly recommended that you call 877-528-3473 (in state), (860) 627-6363 (out of state) extension 415 Prior to traveling to the testing site. There will be a prerecorded message stating that the test is either running or has been cancelled. Unfortunately, the test can be cancelled at the last minute. If you are traveling a long distance we encourage you to call extension 415 several times during your travel.

If the CPAT test is cancelled the message on extension 415 will state how and or when you will be notified of the rescheduled CPAT test date.

Except for test cancellations as indicated above your assigned practice tests and CPAT test will not be rescheduled for any reason.

2014 CPAT SCHEDULE

The Connecticut Fire Academy offers a spring and fall testing cycle. It is important to understand that all orientations, practice tests, and CPAT tests are based on two application deadlines. Applications must be received by the application deadline to be registered for that testing cycle. The 2014 application deadlines are March 6, 2014 for the spring testing cycle and July 31, 2014 for the fall testing cycle.

Candidates will be sent a packet containing their assigned orientations, practice tests, and CPAT test dates and times approximately two weeks after the application deadline.

Directions to CPAT Center in Meriden

From the Hartford Area:

- Take I-91 South
- Merge onto CT Route 9 via Exit #22 North toward New Britain
- Take Exit #22 toward CT Route 15 South
- Turn right onto Frontage Road
- Turn right onto CT Route 372 Worthington Road
- Merge onto CT Route 15 South via ramp on Left toward New Haven
- CPAT Center will be on your right.

From New Haven Area:

- Take I-91 North
- Merge onto CT Route 15 North via Exit #17 toward Berlin Turnpike
- You will pass CPAT Center on your left, take next "U" turn onto Route 15 South
- CPAT Center will be on your right.

