



Travis County ESD #9

Westlake Fire Department

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Hiring Process Applicants,

Below are the details on the Hiring Process Testing for Travis County ESD No. 9/ Westlake Fire Department.

1. The written exam will be on Friday December 5, 2025, or Saturday December 6, 2025, (a date will be assigned to you). The test will be held at The Westlake Fire Department (Fire Station 902) at 1295 S. Capital of Texas Hwy Austin, Texas 78746. Testing will begin promptly at 8:30am. Check in for the exam starts at 8:00am and the doors will be locked at 8:30am.

2. Written Exam Testing Information

The Fire and Police Selection, Inc. (FPSI) Firefighter Aptitude and Character Test (FACT) will be used for the written exam. There is no need for a test prep period. The type of skills and abilities on the test will be basic math reasoning, map reading skills, etc. A FACT Candidate Orientation Guide is available from the Fire and Police Selection, Inc. for an extra cost but is not required. See below:

Applicants may order the practice "FACT Candidate Orientation Guide" by clicking the following link: <https://www.fpsi.com/product/new-fact-vb/>

3. Physical Ability Test Information

Immediately after the written exam, candidates are encouraged to attend an orientation for the Physical Ability Test. The test will be held at 1295 S. Capital of Texas Hwy (Fire Station 902), West Lake Hills, Texas 78746. During the orientation, candidates can view the course, try each station, and ask questions as needed. Afterward, candidates can complete a timed practice run of the course. If they pass the practice within the allotted time, they will have officially passed the physical ability test and will not need to return for the official testing day on December 12, 2025. If they do not pass the practice run, they may return on December 12, 2025, for a second attempt.

The information below has been developed to introduce you to the Westlake Fire Department's Physical Ability Test. The test consists of a series of tasks designed to assess important physical abilities necessary for effective job performance as a firefighter.

There are eight job related physical ability test stations that are timed in a continuous series.

The following is an overview of the Physical Ability Test:

1. Box steps with a 40-pound hose bundle
2. Confined space crawl
3. Victim Rescue (dummy drag)
4. Ceiling pull
5. Charged Hose Line Advance
6. Equipment Carry
7. Forcible entry side breach
8. Hose/ appliance Connection

Applicants must wear a provided self-contained breathing apparatus equipped with a full, forty-five-minute cylinder, excluding the face piece, for all components of the Physical Ability Test. Applicants must wear a provided structural firefighting coat, structural firefighting helmet, and structural firefighting gloves. You may bring your own NFPA-approved equipment to use, however, the testing authority reserves the right to inspect all equipment, and to disallow equipment, to ensure that its use does not affect the fair and impartial administration of the Physical Ability Test.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to wear athletic shoes (open-toed shoes are not allowed) and shorts. You will be performing physical acts that demonstrate strength, agility, and endurance, and it is important to be outfitted in attire that does not hinder your performance. During the Physical Ability Test, you may get dirty from crawling or maneuvering through the exercises and/or wet. Plan your dress accordingly.

All eight Physical Ability Test stations will be timed in a series. The applicant will complete these eight stations three consecutive times. The end of the test will conclude after the appliance station is conducted. The test has a cutoff time of 9 minutes and 15 seconds (9:15). Failure to complete the Physical Ability Test in the allowed time will result in a disqualification from the process. Running during the Physical Ability Test will not be allowed.

Before an applicant starts the Physical Ability Test a testing monitor will “walk” the applicant through the course and review rules, expectations, and answer any questions. Questions will not be answered while you are testing.

To ensure all applicants complete the stations in the same order, testing monitors will guide each applicant to the appropriate station through the process.

The testing monitor will be there to issue warnings to the applicant if a mistake is made and the applicant must make the appropriate correction. If three total warnings are accumulated throughout the eight stations, the applicant will be disqualified. If the applicant cannot complete one of the stations they will be disqualified.

Station 1- Box Step

1. The applicant will pick up a 40-pound hose bundle and stand in front of the box.
2. The applicant will step up onto the box and then back down.
3. The test continues for 20 repetitions.
4. * Disqualification: If the applicant is unable to complete the number of steps required or if the applicant drops the bundle while stepping.

Station 2- Confined Space Crawl

1. The applicant will crawl through an 8-foot confined space prop.
2. The testing monitor will inform the applicant when the designated length is achieved.
3. *Disqualification: If the applicant is unable to crawl the length required.

Station 3- Victim Rescue (dummy drag)

1. The applicant will drag an approximately 160-pound “dummy” representing a human.
2. This will be a backward, under-the-arms, 20-foot drag.
3. * Disqualifications / Warnings: If the applicant is unable to drag the dummy across the distance designated the applicant will be disqualified.

Station 4 – Ceiling Pull

1. The applicant will need to simulate pulling ceiling with a pike pole for 10 repetitions.
2. This will be an 8-foot pull down with resistance added.
3. * Disqualifications / Warnings: If the applicant is unable to pull the pike pole the desired distance or complete the number of repetitions.

Station 5 - Charged Hose Line Advance

1. The applicant will advance a charged 1 ¾ hose line to a designated location, then open the nozzle.
2. The total length will be approximately 25’.
3. * Disqualifications / Warnings: If the applicant is unable to advance the line to the designed location or cannot control the line while discharging water the applicant will be disqualified.

Station 6 – Equipment Carry

1. The applicant will carry two 60-pound props to simulate fire ground equipment the designated length.
2. The total length will be approximately 40’.
3. * Disqualifications / Warnings: If the applicant is unable to carry the props to the appropriate length the applicant will be disqualified.

Station 7 – Forcible Entry Side Breach

1. The applicant will advance a 60-pound hose roll a designated length by striking it from the side.
2. The applicant will achieve this with a sledgehammer.
3. * Disqualifications / Warnings: If the applicant is unable to hit the hose roll the appropriate length.

Station 8 – Hose/ Appliance Connection

1. The applicant will connect two sections of hose with the appliances provided.
2. The hose will not be of the same size
3. * Disqualifications / Warnings: If the applicant is unable to connect the two hoses as an approved fire service connection the applicant will be disqualified.

The Physical Ability test will need to be completed within 9 minutes 15 seconds (9:15) or less. The Physical Ability is a pass-or-fail test. It is not in the applicant's best interest to put speed over following instructions and being efficient.

Applicants who pass the Physical Ability Test will be contacted by a member of the Department to discuss the next steps in the Hiring Process.

Please call us at 512-539-FIRE (3473) or e-mail us at careers@westlakefd.org if you have any questions. Good luck to all the applicants and I look forward to meeting you soon.