



Travis County ESD No. 9

Westlake Fire Department

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The Physical Ability Test will take place at 1295 S. Capital of Texas Hwy (Fire Station 902), West Lake Hills, Texas 78746, on December 12, 2025, starting at 9:00 a.m. An orientation will be held after the written exam on December 5th and 6th, 2025, at the same location. During the orientation, candidates can view the course, ask questions, and complete the course. If you pass the course within the allotted time, you won't need to attend the December 12, 2025, test. There is no penalty for not finishing the course within the time during orientation.

The information below is designed to introduce you to the Westlake Fire Department's Physical Ability Test. The test includes a series of tasks aimed at evaluating key physical skills needed for effective firefighting performance.

There are eight job-related physical ability test stations, 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 with a full forty-five-minute cylinder, excluding the facepiece, during all parts of the Physical Ability Test.

Applicants must wear the provided structural firefighting coat, helmet, and gloves. You may bring your own NFPA-approved equipment, but the testing authority reserves the right to inspect all gear and disallow any to ensure the fairness and impartiality of the Physical Ability Test.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to wear athletic shoes (open-toed shoes are not allowed) and shorts. You will perform physical activities that demonstrate strength, agility, and endurance, so it is important to wear attire that won't hinder your performance. During the Physical Ability Test, you may get dirty from crawling or maneuvering through exercises and possibly wet. Plan your clothing accordingly.

All eight Physical Ability Test stations will be timed in sequence. The applicant must complete these eight stations three times consecutively. The test will end after the appliance station is conducted. The cutoff time for the test is nine minutes and fifteen seconds. Failure to complete the Physical Ability Test within the allowed time will result in disqualification from the process. Running during the test is not permitted.

Before an applicant begins the Physical Ability Test, a testing monitor will guide the applicant through the course, review rules and 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 throughout the process.

The testing monitor will issue warnings to the applicant if a mistake is made, and the applicant must make the appropriate correction. If the applicant accumulates three warnings across the eight stations, they will be disqualified. Additionally, 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, 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 test 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 provided 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 must be completed within 9 minutes 15 seconds (9:15) or less. Physical Ability is a pass-or-fail test. It is not in the applicant’s best interest to prioritize speed over following instructions and efficiency.

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

Please contact us at 512-539-FIRE (3473) or email us at careers@westlakefd.org if you have any questions. Best of luck to all applicants!