

PRESS RELEASE



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Plano Fire Department Changes Applicant Eligibility Requirements

On Tuesday (June 23), the Plano Civil Service Commission approved the Plano Fire Department's request for changes to the eligibility requirements needed to take the department's Firefighter entrance examination.

Previously, the Plano Fire Department required applicants to have firefighter certification from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, plus an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate from the Texas Department of State Health Services. In addition, applicants were required to have a high school diploma and have completed 30 college hours to be eligible to take the entrance examination.

The new change, approved by the Plano Civil Service Commission, now allows the fire department to require only the high school diploma and the 30 college hours.

"It is our hope that with these changes the number of applicants taking our tests will increase," said Assistant Chief Dan Thompson who heads the Personnel Division. "We are aware that the requirement that they hold a firefighters certification has greatly limited the number of enthusiastic and interested candidates."

The Plano Fire Department last held an entrance examination last February and the list of eligible applicants from that test will expire in August – the list is viable for six-month periods. The department anticipates holding the first entrance examination with these *new* eligibility requirements in late fall. Those hired from the fall test will then be sent to Collin College's Fire Academy to receive their firefighter and EMT training/certification while being employed by the Plano Fire Department.

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