

## FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER

**SALARY RANGE:** 60,989.00 - 113,007.00 USD /year

**OPEN PERIOD:** Wednesday, June 10, 2009  
to Friday, July 10, 2009

**SERIES & GRADE:** GS-0804-11/13

**POSITION INFORMATION:** Full-Time Permanent

**PROMOTION POTENTIAL:** 13

**DUTY LOCATIONS:** vacancy(s) in one of the following  
locations: few vacancies - Bethesda, MD

### **WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: MERIT PROMOTION (MP) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

All current or former federal employees with competitive/reinstatement eligibility, ICTAP/CTAP eligible in the local commuting area and Veteran Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) eligible.

#### **JOB SUMMARY:**

**Make a Career Connection!** We are looking for individuals who would like to come to work for a small, independent regulatory agency dedicated to saving lives. We work very hard to protect the public from the unreasonable risk of injury and death from consumer products. Every U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) employee is proud to be a part of a team that works together to assure that the products you use every day are safe. Consider a position at the CPSC as your career choice.

**Join the team!** This position is located in the Headquarters Office of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction, Directorate for Engineering Sciences, Division of Combustion and Fire Sciences (ESFS).

As the repository of technical expertise on combustion and fire sciences for the CPSC, ESFS staff has the opportunity to regularly interact with national and international experts in combustion and fire safety. This position offers the chance to work on a blend of short term and long term projects that are highly topical and relevant with an opportunity to effect changes to the fire safety of a variety of consumer products.

#### **KEY REQUIREMENTS:**

- U.S Citizenship Required.
- Background Investigation Required.

**Additional Duty Location Info:** few vacancies - Bethesda, MD

**MAJOR DUTIES:**

At the full performance level of the position (GS-13), you will serve as the Commission's expert on flammability hazards, performing engineering analyses and studies of the safety aspects of consumer products and components. You will also develop draft safety standards, evaluate existing standards and make technical determinations on the adequacy of standards. You will prepare plans, perform engineering analyses and implement studies to answer specific questions on a product. Then analyze results and develop a comprehensive technical evaluation. You will be responsible for communicating with staff, senior management, contractors, and outside parties on various aspects of your work as well as overseeing studies and work done by others.

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**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:  
SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:**

In addition to meeting the basic entry qualification requirements indicated above, applicants must have specialized experience in the amounts shown below:

Applicants must have 52 weeks of specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the Federal Service (time-in-grade). Specialized experience is experience that has equipped the candidate with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position. Applicants must meet the time-in-grade requirements of the position within thirty (30) days of the closing date of this announcement.

**Examples of qualifying specialized experience include:**

GS-11: Experience in: 1) performing routine engineering tests, evaluations and analyses and developing reports based on findings; 2) designing and implementing engineering studies; and 3) applying knowledge of fire safety engineering principles, theories, and research to assist in the determination whether a consumer product is a hazard.

GS-12: Experience in: 1) performing complex engineering tests, evaluations and analyses and developing reports based on findings; 2) designing and implementing engineering studies; and 3) applying knowledge of fire safety engineering principles, theories, and research to assist in the determination whether a consumer product is a hazard.

GS-13: Experience in: (1) performing complex engineering tests,

evaluations and analyses and developing comprehensive technical evaluations based on findings; (2) developing draft consumer product safety standards, evaluating existing consumer product safety standards, and making technical determinations on the adequacy of safety standards; (3) applying knowledge of fire protection engineering principles, theories, and research to assist in the determination whether a consumer product is a hazard; and (4) experience speaking and writing effectively to communicate complex and technical material to a variety of audiences.

**Basic Requirement:**

Degree: professional engineering. To be acceptable, the curriculum must: (1) be in a school of engineering with at least one curriculum accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) as a professional engineering curriculum; or (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: (a) statics, dynamics; (b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); (c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; (d) thermodynamics; (e) electrical fields and circuits; (f) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and (g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics.

OR

Combination of education and experience--college-level education, training, and/or technical experience that furnished (1) a thorough knowledge of the physical and mathematical sciences underlying professional engineering, and (2) a good understanding, both theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their applications to one of the branches of engineering.

In addition to meeting the basic entry qualification requirements indicated above, applicants must have specialized experience and/or directly related education in the amounts shown below:

GS-11: Applicants must have Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree or 3 full years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to such a degree OR 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-9 grade level.

GS-12/13: There is no substitution for specialized experience for this grade level.

Candidates MUST submit college transcript(s) or a list of college courses that includes hours and grades in order to qualify.

Must meet education requirements.

**HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:**

Applicants will be scored on a scale of 70 to 100, not including veterans' preference. Based on your answers to the Vacancy Specific Questions, an automated scoring system will be used to rate and rank your applications. Your self-determined rating, narrative responses,

resume and supporting documentation will then be reviewed. If upon review it is determined that your application package does not support your answer choices, your score may be modified to reflect the final rating based on all the information provided in your application. Ultimately, the Office of Human Resources Management is responsible for determining an applicant's final rating. Please ensure that your resume and narrative responses provide enough detail to support your answers to the Vacancy Specific Questions. Also, one or more additional assessment tools may also be applied (e.g., a structured interview, panel review, written test, work sample, etc).

Individuals who meet eligibility requirements for special priority selection under ICTAP/CTAP must be well-qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection. ICTAP/CTAP eligible will be considered well qualified if they attain at least a rating score of 85 in a numerical rating scheme or eligible must obtain at least a rating of Medium (on a scale of Low, Medium, and High) on all rating factors.

Anyone wishing to be considered under ICTAP/CTAP should annotate your application to reflect that you are applying as an ICTAP/CTAP eligible.

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### **HOW TO APPLY:**

This vacancy announcement is being advertised simultaneous to Vacancy Announcement #4440ESFS-2009-0007. Applicants who wish to be considered under both announcements must apply to both vacancy announcements.

Your application and all required supplemental documents must be submitted in the manner specified in this section. Applications and supplemental documents that are submitted in any other manner without prior approval from the agency point of contact will be incomplete and will not be considered.

Please be advised that your application will be

regarded as incomplete and will not be considered if the Office of Human Resources Management does not receive your application and all required supplemental documentation, as specified in the "Required Documents" section of this vacancy announcement, by midnight Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the closing date of this vacancy announcement.

If you require assistance, contact the agency point of contact identified within the vacancy announcement.

You must follow all three steps described below in order to complete the application process:

### **STEP ONE - (Online Resume - USAJOBS)**

You must create a user account and at least one Federal resume at USAJOBS. Information you provide in USAJOBS is general information completed by all applicants. The information you provide and your Federal resume will become part of your application and will automatically be transferred to the CPSC Career Connection system when you apply on-line. After you finish submitting your resume from USAJOBS, you will automatically be taken to CPSC Career Connection where you will be asked to complete the next step of the application process. You may edit your resume up until midnight EST of the announcement close date.

### **STEP TWO - (Vacancy Specific Questions - CPSC Career Connection)**

In CPSC Career Connection, you will answer vacancy specific questions necessary to evaluate your qualifications for the specific job to which you are applying. When completed, the information you provided at USAJOBS and the answers to the CPSC Career Connection questions will become your application. You may edit your answers up until midnight EST of the announcement close date. After the vacancy closes the HR office uses the application package to automatically rate, rank and certify candidates.

### **STEP THREE - (Faxing Supporting**

#### **Documentation)**

After you have completed the vacancy specific questions and selected the "FINISH" button, a list of fax cover sheets will appear with instructions. A complete listing of the material that must be submitted to the HR office is provided in the "Required Documents" section of this announcement. Review this section for which documents are applicable to you and how to submit. Most of these documents will be requested upon completion of the Vacancy Questionnaire. All applicable supplemental application material must be received at the appropriate fax number, shown on the fax cover sheet, by midnight Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the closing date of the vacancy announcement.

#### **Faxed documents submitted with missing**

**information will not be processed.** The

following will prevent your documents from being

processed:

- Not using the special fax cover sheet mentioned above.
- Missing, incomplete, or invalid Vacancy Identification Number.
- Missing or incomplete Social Security Number or name.

For additional information:

Office of Human Resources Management

Telephone: 301 504-7925

email: [recruitapps@cpsc.gov](mailto:recruitapps@cpsc.gov)

#### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

Submit your required supplemental documentation by carefully following the fax instructions provided in the "**How to Apply**" section of this vacancy announcement. If you submit supplemental documentation in any other manner without prior approval from the agency point of contact, your application will be deemed incomplete and will be removed from consideration. Required supplemental documents must be received by midnight Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the closing date of the vacancy announcement. Please direct questions or problems to the agency point-of-contact identified in this vacancy announcement.

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED:**

(You should only submit the following documents if they are applicable to you.)

**SF-50 (NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION)-**

All status candidates or reinstatement eligible must submit a copy of your most recent SF-50, which indicates competitive status eligibility.

**PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL** -Applicants must submit their most recent performance appraisal dated within 18 months, or a reason explaining why one cannot be provided.

**VETERANS PREFERENCE**

Veterans applying under VRA or VEOA must provide a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD-214). In addition, if you are claiming 10 point Veteran's Preference, you must submit an Application for 10 Point Veteran's Preference (SF-15), and the documentary proof required by that form, i.e., letter from the Veterans Administration dated within one year from the closing date of the announcement. For more information, call the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 912-757-3000. Select "Federal Employment Topics" and then "Veterans" Or, dial OPM's electronic bulletin board at 912-757-3100 or visit their VetGuide website:

[VetGuide](#)

The SF-15 may be obtained at:

[Form SF-15](#)

**ICTAP/CTAP ELIGIBILITY -**

Federal employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP eligibility must submit proof that they meet the requirements of 5 CFR 330.605 (a) for CTAP and 5 CFR 330.704 for ICTAP. This includes a copy of the agency notice, a copy of their most recent Performance Rating and a copy of their most recent SF-50 noting current position, grade level, and duty location. Please annotate your

application to reflect that you are applying as a CTAP or ICTAP eligible.

**COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS** - Applicants must submit college transcripts from a U.S. Department of Education accredited college or university if using education to qualify for this position.

The CPSC does not recognize academic degrees from schools that are not accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the Department of Education. Any applicant falsely claiming an academic degree from an accredited school will be subject to actions ranging from disqualification from federal employment to removal from federal service.

Qualifying education from colleges and universities in foreign countries must be evaluated in terms of equivalency to that acquired in U.S. colleges and universities. Applicants educated in whole or in part in foreign countries must submit sufficient evidence, including transcripts, to an

accredited private organization for an equivalency evaluation of course work and degree. You must provide a copy of the letter containing the results of the equivalency evaluation upon request. Failure to provide such documentation when requested will result in lost consideration. For a listing of services which can perform this evaluation, you may visit the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc.'s web site at [Amideast](http://Amideast.org)

If the above supplemental documentation is not applicable to you, you need not submit any documentation other than an on-line resume and responses to the Vacancy Specific Questions.

Supplemental information submitted in a franked government agency envelope will **NOT** be accepted.

**AGENCY CONTACT INFO:**

HR Specialist  
Phone: 301-504-7925  
Fax: 000-000-0000  
TDD: 301-504-7925  
Email: [recruitapps@cpsc.gov](mailto:recruitapps@cpsc.gov)

Or write:  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Office of Human Resources Management  
4340 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Fax: 000-000-0000

## **WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:**

Once your complete application is received we will conduct an evaluation of your qualifications and determine your ranking. The most highly qualified candidates will be referred to the hiring manager for further consideration and possible interview. You will be notified of the outcome.

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### **BENEFITS:**

You may participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, with costs shared with your employer. More info:  
[Health Benefits Program](#)

Life insurance coverage is provided. More info:

[Life Insurance Program](#)

Long-Term Care Insurance is offered and carries into your retirement. More info:

[Long Term Care Insurance](#)

If you are transferring from another agency, you may continue in the CSRS or FERS program. If you are a new employee and your appointment is for a period longer than one year, you are automatically covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) unless you are eligible for coverage under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). You will be covered by a Basic Benefit Plan, Social Security (FICA) and a voluntary 401-k style Thrift Saving Plan (TSP).

TSP allows you to make tax deferred contributions and receive matching agency funds for part of it. For additional information on TSP, see:

[TSP Information](#)

You will earn annual vacation leave. More info:  
[Annual Leave Information](#)

You will earn sick leave. More info:  
[Sick Leave Information](#)

You will be paid for federal holidays that fall within your regularly scheduled tour of duty.  
More info:  
[Federal Holidays](#)

Alternative work schedule options are available.

If you use public transportation, part of your transportation costs may be subsidized. Our

human resources office can provide additional information on how this program is run.

Telework/ telecommuting may be made available after completion of 1 year of employment. Our human resources office can provide additional information on how this program is run.

More info on benefits can be on the CPSC website at:

[Working for the Federal Government](#)

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

All qualified candidates will receive consideration for this position without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, political affiliation, labor organization affiliation, marital status, sexual orientation, or other non-merit factors.

The CPSC welcomes and encourages applications from persons with physical and mental disabilities (including disabled veterans in receipt of compensation at the rate of 30% or more) and will reasonably accommodate the needs of those persons.

All application materials become the property of the agency and will not be returned.

Some positions may have promotion potential to a higher grade than the grade at which filled. Positions with known promotion potential do not guarantee promotion, nor is the promise of promotion implied.

All the information you provide will be verified by a review of the work experience and/or education as shown on your application forms, by checking references and through other means, such as the interview process. Any exaggeration of your experience, false statements, or attempts to conceal information may be grounds for not hiring you, or for firing you after you begin work.

This position may require a one (1) year probationary period or a two (2) year trial period.

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factor.

The CPSC provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case

basis. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact the Human Resource Specialist listed in this vacancy announcement.