

Columbus Rural Fire District #3

Position Announcement

Columbus, MT

Columbus Rural Fire District #3 (CRFD) is accepting applications for the immediate hiring of a Fire Apparatus Technician

Full-time Position

This position will work within the chain of command established within the organization. Applicants must possess strong communication, leadership, and organizational skills, as well as proven integrity in working with volunteer organizations and the community.

This position will have a primary focus of overall maintenance and mechanics, though some emergency response or call out may be justified at times.

Under general supervision, the Fire Apparatus Technician is responsible for performing repairs on various diesel and gasoline powered vehicles and equipment as well as fire pumps, small engines, and related components. Incumbents in this classification work receive on-the-job training in the maintenance and repair shop, which includes inspecting, maintaining, and repairing fire apparatus and related equipment. Positions in this classification are characterized by their ability to perform assigned maintenance and repair and the ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

The Fire Apparatus Technician will be an employee of the Columbus Rural Fire District, however, the position will be job shared with other agencies in the area. There will be travel to those agencies required in this position. This position works independently and performs mechanic work of inspecting, maintaining, repairing fire apparatus and vehicles as well as potentially performing welding and fabrication. Within one year of employment, the individual will have obtained EVT level 1 certification, within year two, EVT level 2 certification and, within year three, EVT level 3 certification. Appropriate ASE certifications are desired upon hire, though they may be obtained over a negotiated time frame as well.

Columbus Fire Rescue (collectively the Columbus Rural Fire District #3 and the City of Columbus Fire Department) is a large, geographically diverse rural fire district in Stillwater County in south central Montana. CRFD serves a municipal community of approximately 2,000 residents as well as a rural area of approximately 750 square miles for fire and 850 square miles for EMS. CRFD serves a total population of 6,500 residents with 45 volunteers and 9 career staff. CRFD provides structural and wildland fire protection, EMS, HAZMAT, and rescue within its jurisdiction.

The starting salary range for this position is \$23.00 to \$26.00 per hour, DOE, with a pay increase after successfully completing a 6-month probation period. Pay increases will also potentially come with further certifications such as EVT 1,2 and 3. This position includes excellent benefits including health insurance (100% coverage for employee and family), accidental death and disability insurance available to employees with a cost share, FURS retirement system, and paid vacation and sick time. The shift rotation will be 4 10-hour days.

The application deadline is September 5, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Applications and a copy of the complete job description can be picked up at Columbus Fire Station #1: located at 944 E. Pike Avenue, or they can be found at: <https://columbusfirerescue.com/join-us>

For questions about the position, please call 406-322-4302 or email Chief Rich Cowger at rcowger@columbusfirerescue.com or Assistant Chief Nick Jacobs at njacobs@columbusfirerescue.com. Applicants should include a resume, cover letter, and complete application; incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please submit the complete application to:

Columbus Rural Fire District #3

PO Box 285

Columbus, MT 59019