

## THEME: DISABILITY QUESTIONS

**Can you tell me about a time when you had to solve a difficult problem while working as a volunteer firefighter? What was the situation, and how did you handle it?**

Situation:

- During my time as a volunteer firefighter, we received a call about a residential fire late at night.
- Upon arrival, the fire had engulfed a significant portion of the house, and the homeowners were distressed because their dog was trapped inside.
- The houses were closely packed, posing a risk of the fire spreading to neighboring properties.

Task:

- Ensure the fire didn't spread to neighboring properties.
- Assess the structure's safety to see if a rescue was possible for the trapped dog.

Action:

- Coordinated with my team to create a safe entry point.
- Used a thermal imaging camera to locate the dog amidst thick smoke and debris.
- Navigated through the structure to reach and rescue the dog.

Results and Transitions:

- Successfully extracted the dog and reunited it with the family.
- Balanced the rescue operation with efforts to control the fire.

Personal Lessons:

- Learned the importance of staying calm under pressure.
- Realized the significance of trusting my training and leading decisively during critical moments.

Observations of Others:

- Teamwork and effective communication were essential to ensuring safety and success.
- Witnessed the distress and relief of the homeowners during the incident.

Professional Connection:

- The experience highlighted the importance of providing compassionate care during emergencies.
- Showcased the ability to adapt and respond to unique needs in high-pressure situations.

**Can you describe a specific time when you had a disagreement with a team member during your firefighting duties? How did you resolve that conflict?**

**Situation:**

- During a training exercise, a fellow firefighter and I disagreed on the approach to simulate a rescue scenario in a confined space.
- He preferred a traditional approach, while I proposed using new equipment for better efficiency.

**Task:**

- Resolve the disagreement to prepare effectively for the training exercise.
- Ensure the chosen approach would enhance team safety and skill development.

**Action:**

- Suggested discussing the pros and cons of each approach with input from the team lead.
- Presented reasoning for the new equipment, highlighting its benefits in simulating real-world scenarios.
- Acknowledged concerns about safety risks and unfamiliarity with the new equipment.

**Results and Transitions:**

- Reached a compromise to combine both approaches, starting with the traditional method and incorporating the new equipment.
- The exercise went smoothly, and the team gained practical experience with the new equipment.

**Personal Lessons:**

- Learned the importance of open communication and active listening.
- Recognized the value of focusing on shared goals to resolve conflicts effectively.

**Observations of Others:**

- Observed the willingness of team members to adapt and learn.
- Noted the constructive feedback from the team lead.

**Professional Connection:**

- The experience emphasized the need for collaboration and adaptability in the fire service.
- Demonstrated the significance of embracing new techniques and equipment for continuous improvement.

**Can you share a time when you were part of a successful team that accomplished a challenging task? What role did you play, and what was the outcome?**

Situation:

- Worked on a large-scale wildfire incident with a rapidly spreading fire due to high winds.
- Our team was assigned to protect a small rural community in the fire's path.

Task:

- Coordinate with neighboring teams to establish a defensible fire line around vulnerable areas.
- Assess the terrain and determine optimal placement of firebreaks.

Action:

- Communicated the strategy to the team and led the setup of a water supply system.
- Located nearby water sources and coordinated with water tanker units.

Results and Transitions:

- Successfully contained the fire at the perimeter of the community.
- Minimal damage was caused to the area, safeguarding lives and property.

Personal Lessons:

- Reinforced belief in the power of collaboration and clear communication.
- Learned the importance of staying composed under pressure.

Observations of Others:

- Noticed the dedication and resilience of team members.
- Acknowledged the support and cooperation from neighboring teams.

Professional Connection:

- The experience underscored the critical role of teamwork in emergency response.
- Highlighted the ability to protect communities through effective planning and execution.