

Fire Protection Engineer

Smithsonian Institution

Summary

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, with 21 museums and the National Zoo. The responsibility of the Fire Protection Division (FPD), Office of Safety, Health, and Environmental Management (OSHEM) is to develop and coordinate a comprehensive Smithsonian (SI) Fire Protection Program, which includes fire engineering and fire prevention.

[Learn more about this agency](#)

Overview

Accepting applications

Posted this week · **Apply by 06/25/26**

Due by 11:59 p.m. ET on June 25, 2026

Location

Few vacancies in the following location:

 **Washington, DC**

FEW vacancies

Work site options

Telework eligible

No

Remote job

No

Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

Salary

\$85,447 - \$158,322 per year

Pay scale & grade

GS 11-13

Promotion potential

13

[? Learn more about pay scale and grade](#)

Pay scale and grade determines the salary of the job.

Work schedule

Full-time - Full-Time, Permanent

Travel Required

Occasional travel - Occasional travel may be required.

Appointment type

Permanent - Federal

Occupations and job series

- [0804 Fire Protection Engineering](#)

Supervisory status

No

Federal service type

This job is in the Competitive Service

Represented by a union

No

Drug test

No

Security clearance

Not Required

Position sensitivity and risk

[Moderate Risk \(MR\)](#).

[? Jobs require a background check](#) and some require a [security clearance](#). The type depends on the job.

Background check type

- [Suitability/Fitness](#)

Financial disclosure required

No

? Some jobs require [financial disclosure](#) to identify conflicts of interests.

Announcement number

26A-SB-313939-DEU-OSHEM

Control number

871516400

This job is open to

 **[The public](#)**

U.S. Citizens, Nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

Clarification from the agency

This position is open to all U.S. Citizens or U.S. Nationals. Note: Federal employees with permanent status or individuals eligible for special appointing authorities may also apply to Job Announcement # 26A-SB-313939-MPA-OSHEM More than one selection may be made from this announcement.

Duties

The Fire Protection Engineer will operate and maintain all buildings and spaces to protect Smithsonian employees, property, and mission from losses that may be incurred in the event of a fire.

In this position, you will:

- Review design and construction project drawings and specifications to evaluate adequacy of both fire protection and life safety to a wide variety of building and occupancy types.
- Apply current national building and fire codes in developing prescriptive and performance-based approaches to solving various fire protection and life safety issues.
- Develop fire protection and life safety policies and programs based on established standards and tailored to the needs of an organization or jurisdiction.
- Provide fire protection/life safety training and presentations to diverse groups, both large and small.
- Prepare reports using proper grammar and context. Prepare technical reports at the conclusion of inspections of SI facilities.

Requirements

Conditions of employment

- Pass Pre-employment Background Investigation

- May need to complete a Probationary Period
- Maintain a Bank Account for Direct Deposit/Electronic Transfer
- Males born after 12/31/59 must be registered with Selective Service.

Conditions of Employment

Qualification requirements must be met by the closing date of the announcement.

For information on qualification requirements, see *Qualification Standards Handbook for General Schedule Positions* on [OPM website](#).

Qualifications

Basic Education Requirement

- Degree: Engineering. To be acceptable, the program must: (1) lead to a bachelor's degree in a school of engineering with at least one program accredited by 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 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 the basic education requirement above:

Experience:

GS-11: You qualify for this position if you have one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the **GS-9** level in the Federal Service or comparable pay band system. **For this position specialized experience is defined as:**

1. Applying fire protection engineering principles in design review and construction oversight;
2. Conducting risk assessment surveys;
3. Performing, or evaluating performance-based engineering analyses; **and**
4. Preparing fire protection engineering reports.

Or Education: Three full years of progressively higher-level graduate education leading to a Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree directly related to this position may be substituted to meet the experience requirements.

Or a Combination: Education and experience may be combined to meet the basic qualifications. For a

full explanation of this option please see the [Qualification Standards](#). Special Instructions for Foreign Education: If you are qualifying by education and/or you have education completed in a foreign college/university described above, it is your responsibility to provide transcripts and proof of U.S. accreditation for foreign study. For instructions on where to fax these documents, see the "Required Documents" section of this announcement.

GS-12: You qualify for this position if you possess one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the **GS-11** level in the Federal Service or comparable pay band system. **For this position specialized experience is defined as:**

1. Conducting fire safety surveys of a variety of buildings;
2. Applying a broad range of fire and building codes and standards to various types of facilities;
3. Developing risk assessments;
4. Applying fire protection principles and techniques, including the use of performance-based engineering analysis to solve complex fire protection issues;
5. Reviewing drawings and specifications for building construction and renovation to ensure compliance with current standards for fire protection and life safety.

GS-13: You qualify for this position if you possess one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the **GS-12** level in the Federal Service or comparable pay band system. **For this position specialized experience is defined as:**

1. Conducting fire safety surveys of a variety of buildings; applying a broad range of fire and building codes and standards to various types of facilities;
2. Developing risk assessments;
3. Applying fire protection principles and techniques, including the use of performance-based engineering analysis to independently solve complex fire protection issues;
4. Reviewing drawings and specifications for building construction and renovation to ensure compliance with current standards for fire protection and life safety; and
5. Serving as a consultant on fire protection and prevention to upper levels of management, engineers, and other personnel.

Your resume must be no more than two (2) pages and should clearly demonstrate how your experience aligns with the responsibilities and specialized experience required for this position. Do not copy language directly from the vacancy announcement, as you will be deemed ineligible for consideration. Instead, provide detailed, descriptive information about your actual experience.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

Part-time and/or unpaid experience related to this position will be considered to determine the total number of years and months of experience. Be sure to note the number of paid or unpaid hours worked each week.

Education

Basic Education Requirement

- Degree: Engineering. To be acceptable, the program must: (1) lead to a bachelor's degree in a school of engineering with at least one program accredited by 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

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Additional information

This position is not included in the bargaining unit.

Recruitment Incentive: Recruitment incentive(s) may be authorized for this position. However, approval for incentives are contingent upon various availability. If authorized, certain incentives will require the incumbent to sign a service agreement to remain in the Federal government for a certain time period.

Note: This statement does not imply nor guarantee an incentive will be offered and paid.

Selections may be made for vacancies across the Smithsonian Institution (SI). By applying to this position, you agree to allow your application and other personal information to be shared with one or more SI hiring officials for employment consideration for same/similar positions within the location(s) identified in this announcement.

Candidates should be committed to improving the efficiency of the Federal government, passionate about the ideals of our American republic, and committed to upholding the rule of law and the United States Constitution.

Benefits



The Smithsonian offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes, in part, vacation and sick leave, holidays, health/life insurance, accident insurance, and excellent retirement program options.

Please see Benefits at <https://www.si.edu/OHR/benefits> for a complete description.

Flexible Spending Accounts - <https://www.fsafeds.com/>
Health Insurance - <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/index.asp>
Leave - <http://www.opm.gov/oca/leave/index.asp>
Life Insurance - <http://www.opm.gov/insure/life/index.asp>
Long Term Care Insurance - <http://www.ltcfeds.com>
Retirement Program - <https://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/>

How you will be evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

Applicants for this position may be evaluated in multiple stages. The first stage is an evaluation of your responses to the online multiple-choice questions that assess your experience, education, and/or training for the job-related competencies below:

- Skill in the application of fire protection engineering principles, practices, and techniques to independently solve complex fire protection problems.
- Ability to interpret and apply established codes and standards, and utilize performance-based engineering methods, to a wide variety of situations.
- Ability to communicate orally, articulating complex engineering ideas with diverse groups.
- Skill in technical writing to produce comprehensive investigative reports and similar written documents, with analyses and recommendations for diverse groups.

Applicants who meet or exceed minimum qualifications will be assigned to one of three category groups based on job-related criteria:

- Best Category - Meets the minimum qualification requirements and excels in most of the job-related competencies above.
- Better Category - Meets the minimum qualification requirements and satisfies most of the job-related competencies above.
- Good Category - Meets the minimum qualification requirements but does not satisfy most of the job-related competencies above to a substantive degree.

This category rating process does not add veterans' preference points or apply the "rule of three", but protects the rights of veterans by placing them ahead of non-preference eligibles within each category. A selecting official may make selections from the highest quality category (Best Category) provided no preference eligible in that category is passed over to select a non-preference eligible in that category unless the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 3317(b) or 3318(b) are satisfied. Preference eligibles who meet minimum qualification requirements and who have a compensable service-connected disability of at least 10 percent must be listed in the highest quality category, except when the position being filled is scientific or professional at the GS-9 grade level or higher. Applicants who have not submitted a resume in the USAjobs system and/or have not answered all of the vacancy questions will not be considered for this position.

Important Note:

Your resume and supporting documentation will be reviewed by a Subject Matter Expert (SME). If a determination is made that you have rated yourself higher than is supported by your resume, you will be assigned a rating commensurate to your described experience. Your resume should provide sufficient information regarding how your education and experience relate to this position, including the major duties and qualifications criteria listed.

You may [preview questions](#) for this vacancy.

Required Documents

Your application package should include the following documents:

- Resume - Your resume can be uploaded and attached to your application or created using the USA Jobs on-line resume builder. Ensure your resume contains the job title (including the occupational series and grade if it is Federal), job-related qualifications, starting and ending dates (month and year), hours worked per week, and hours worked per week, for each employment period. It is your responsibility to ensure all information is submitted. Failure to include this information may result in disqualification for the position.
For assistance with creating a resume, please click [USAJOBS Help Center - How do I write a resume for a federal job?](#)
- Proof of Veteran's Preference - DD214 (Member 4 Copy), if you are a veteran. Additionally, applicants claiming 10-point preference must complete Standard Form (SF) 15, Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference, as well as additional documentation required by the SF-15, such as a VA letter.
- **Unofficial school transcripts, if the position has an education requirement or if you are using education to qualify. If selected for the position, you must provide an official transcript before appointment.**
- Proof of U.S. accreditation for foreign study, if applicable.

If you are relying on your education to meet qualification requirements:

Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from [schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education](#).

Failure to provide all of the required information as stated in this vacancy announcement may result in an ineligible rating or may affect the overall rating.

How to Apply

Click on the "Apply Online" button on the upper right side of the page. Please Note:

- You must apply for this position online through the 'Apply Online' button and submit required supplemental documents (if they are relevant to you).
- Your resume must be no more than two (2) pages.
- You may submit required documents by uploading them online during the application process.
- The complete application package, including any required documents, is due in the Smithsonian Office of Human Resources on the closing date of the announcement by 11:59 PM Eastern Time.
- If you are unable to apply online, paper applications may be accepted with prior approval of the Contact Person listed below.

Agency contact information

 **Stephani Brownlee**

Phone

[202-633-6409](tel:202-633-6409)

Email

BrownleeST@SI.edu

Address

SMITHSONIAN
Office of Human Resources
POB 37012, 600 Maryland Avenue, MRC 517
Suite 5060
Washington, District of Columbia 20013-7012
United States

Next steps

At the end of the application process you will be able to create and save a PDF file that contains your responses to the assessment questions. You may save this file as initial receipt of your application. After the job announcement closes, you will receive an email from the Smithsonian with confirmation of receipt. The Smithsonian receives many applications for each job. Each application is reviewed carefully which may take a few weeks. We will send you an e-mail to update you as we go through phases of the application review process. You may also check your application status by logging into www.usajobs.gov and selecting the tab "My USAJOBS;" e-mailing vacancy.info@si.edu; or by contacting the Office of Human Resources Representative listed. **Additional Information:**

- Tips on applying for Smithsonian jobs are available at <https://www.si.edu/OHR/howtoapply>.
- The Smithsonian does not pay relocation expenses but recruitment incentives may be authorized.
- The Smithsonian Institution is an equal opportunity employer. Additional information can be found on our website at (www.si.edu/oesd).

Fair and transparent

The Federal hiring process is set up to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Criminal history inquiries](#)

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)

[Financial suitability](#)

[New employee probationary period](#)

[Privacy Act](#)

[Reasonable accommodation policy](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[Signature and false statements](#)

[Social security number request](#)



USAJOBS is a [United States Office of Personnel Management](#) website.