

Fire Truck Inspection Checklist (What to Look For)

Engine & Drivetrain

- ☐ Engine Hours
- ☐ maintenance or service logs
- ☐ Engine starts cleanly (cold and warm)
- ☐ Excessive smoke, knocking, or leaks
- ☐ Transmission engagement and shifting
- ☐ Differential and driveline condition

Pump & Water System

- ☐ Pump engagement and disengagement
- ☐ Leaks around valves and fittings
- ☐ Corrosion in plumbing
- ☐ Foam systems (if equipped)
- ☐ Pump winterized properly
- ☐ Confirm last pump test date

Ladder or Aerial (If Applicable)

- ☐ Inspect ladder rails, rungs, and hydraulic systems
- ☐ Check extension, retraction, and rotation
- ☐ Look for visible cracks, rust, or hydraulic leaks

Electrical Systems

- ☐ Emergency lights and sirens
- ☐ Control panels
- ☐ Scene lighting
- ☐ Inverter and generator systems
- ☐ Dashboard warning lights
- ☐ Functionality of switches and panels
- ☐ Battery condition and wiring wear

Body, Frame & Compartments

- ☐ Rust on frame and undercarriage
- ☐ Aluminum body corrosion
- ☐ Door seals and compartment latches
- ☐ Evidence of structural damage

Equipment Included (or Removed)

- ☐ What stays and what's removed
- ☐ Mounted tools, hose reels, racks
- ☐ Cabinets sold empty vs equipped

Notes

How to Inspect If You Can't Visit in Person

If an in-person inspection isn't possible:

✓ Review the Listing Carefully

- ☐ Read the full description
- ☐ Zoom into all photos
- ☐ Look for disclaimers or condition notes

✓ Contact the Seller

- ☐ Most listings include a seller contact. Ask:
- ☐ Is the vehicle running?
- ☐ Known mechanical issues?
- ☐ Last time it was in service service?
- ☐ Reason for surplus?

✓ Request Additional Photos or Info

- ☐ Many sellers are willing to provide:
- ☐ Engine bay photos
- ☐ Undercarriage shots
- ☐ Hour meter readings
- ☐ Videos of moving parts

Common Fire Truck Inspection Red Flags

- ▶ Severe frame rust or structural corrosion
- ▶ Pump or ladder listed as "non-functional"
- ▶ Missing title or unclear documentation
- ▶ Incomplete listing with minimal photos
- ▶ Seller unable to answer basic questions

These don't always mean "don't buy" – but they should affect your bid price.