

FIREFIGHTERS



WHAT DO FIREFIGHTERS DO?

Firefighters are trained professionals who respond to emergencies such as fires, road accidents, floods, and medical emergencies. They rescue people and animals, extinguish fires, and prevent dangerous situations from spreading.

Their work is physically demanding and requires teamwork, quick decision-making, and bravery. Each day can be different — one call may be a house fire, the next a car crash, or helping someone trapped in water.

WHY THEIR WORK MATTERS

Firefighters save lives, protect property, and keep communities safe. They also educate the public about fire safety and help prevent accidents through inspections and safety campaigns. Their work reduces risks, prevents disasters, and provides vital support in emergencies.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED

Being a firefighter requires a combination of physical ability and personal qualities:

- **Bravery** – facing dangerous situations with courage.
- **Teamwork** – working closely with colleagues during emergencies.
- **Problem-solving** – making quick decisions under pressure.
- **Physical fitness** – lifting heavy equipment and performing rescues.
- **Communication skills** – giving clear instructions and comforting people in distress.
- **Dedication and resilience** – coping with long shifts and challenging situations.

HOW TO BECOME A FIREFIGHTER

There are several routes into a firefighting career:

1. Qualifications

- Most fire services require **GCSEs** or equivalent in English, maths, and science.



- Some roles may require **A-levels** or vocational qualifications in health, science, or public services.

2. Training

- Complete a **firefighter training program** provided by a fire service or college.
- Training includes fire safety, emergency medical response, rescue techniques, and use of firefighting equipment.

3. Work Experience

- Volunteering as a **retained firefighter** or joining cadet schemes can provide hands-on experience.
- Physical fitness tests and interviews are required before joining full-time.

WHERE FIREFIGHTERS WORK

Firefighters primarily work in **fire stations**, but they are deployed to emergencies in **homes, offices, forests, and roads**. Some firefighters also specialize in:

- **Rescue operations** (mountains, water, confined spaces)
- **Fire investigation** (determining the cause of fires)
- **Community education** (teaching fire safety and prevention)

A DAY IN THE LIFE

A firefighters day can involve training exercises, checking equipment, and preparing fire engines. When a call comes in, they must act quickly, driving to the scene, assessing the situation, and performing rescues. After an emergency, they clean equipment, complete reports, and continue with ongoing training.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Firefighting remains a highly respected and essential career. Modern fire services increasingly focus on prevention, community safety, and specialized rescue techniques, creating opportunities for growth and advancement within the profession.

Being a firefighter is challenging, rewarding, and vital to society. It requires courage, teamwork, and dedication. For those willing to train, stay fit, and work under pressure, it is a career that saves lives, protects communities, and makes a real difference every day.



Find out more

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znnmp9q>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Firefighter>

<https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/education/online-safety-resources-children>

Example Questions

- What emergencies do firefighters respond to?
- What do firefighters rescue?
- How many routes can you take to become a firefighter?
- What are the main roles and responsibilities of a firefighter?
- How does a firefighter's day in the life look?