



JOB of the Week



Job name: Firefighter

Job description: As a firefighter, you'll respond to emergency situations and protect people, the environment and property from all types of accident and emergencies. You'll work closely with the local community to increase their level of fire safety awareness, in order to help prevent fires and accidents happening in the first place. Promoting fire safety and enforcing fire safety standards in public and commercial premises, you'll act and advise on all matters relating to the protection of life and property from fire and other risks. In the role, you'll continually learn and update your knowledge through a series of lectures, exercises, practice drills and training, which are an integral and on-going part of the job.

Tasks you will undertake in the job:

Firefighters carry out a range of tasks. Some of these you'll do every day, while others are less frequent. They include:

- responding immediately and safely to emergency calls and requests for assistance
- attending emergency incidents including fires, road accidents, floods, terrorist incidents, spillages of dangerous substances, and rail and air crashes
- rescuing trapped people and animals
- minimising distress and suffering, including giving first aid before ambulance crews arrive
- safeguarding your own and other people's personal safety at all times
- cleaning up and checking the site after dealing with an incident
- taking time to become familiar with local streets, roads and buildings so you can respond to emergency calls with speed and efficiency
- inspecting and maintaining the appliance (fire engine) and its equipment, assisting in testing fire hydrants and checking emergency water supplies
- undertaking drills and physical training and taking part in training on techniques, use of equipment.

Qualifications you will need for this job: Personal qualities and physical attributes are more important than academic qualifications, though a good general education is required. A degree or other further education qualifications are not essential and entry without a degree or HND is common. There are some vocational courses such as **BSc (Hons) Fire and Leadership Studies at the University of Central Lancashire** and **BSc (Hons) Fire and Rescue at the University of Wolverhampton** - in partnership with West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service. These courses don't guarantee entry into the fire and rescue service but aim to equip students with the skills needed to pursue a career in the fire industry. Fire-related degree courses in areas including fire engineering, fire safety and risk management or fire and explosion are also available. You need to be aged 18 or over to become a firefighter. You need to be physically fit, have good vision and maintain a good level of fitness and knowledge of new techniques.

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Sectors in which Fire fighters would normally work:

Top 10 industries for this job ?

Public admin. & defence	22493	Computer programming, etc	2371
Health	2112	Services to buildings	1134

Professional development: Initial firefighter training takes an intensive 12 and 18 weeks to complete. It's usually held at a specially-equipped training centre where you will be taught basic firefighting skills such as ladder safety, hose laying and how to use breathing apparatus. Training also involves learning about fire safety and the importance of getting the fire safety message across within the local community. You'll be required to undertake regular study, both in the training centre and out of hours, and your progress will be regularly assessed. Once you've attained your first aid certificate and got to grips with the basic skills, you'll get to experience a simulated fire. On successful completion of the initial training, you'll join a fire station on probation and your performance will be continuously assessed.



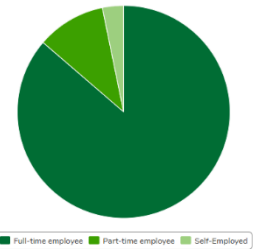
Salary: Average salary for a Firefighter is £36 400, average salary in the UK is £28 758



Working hours: 42 average working hours in the week (37.5 working hours in the average working week).

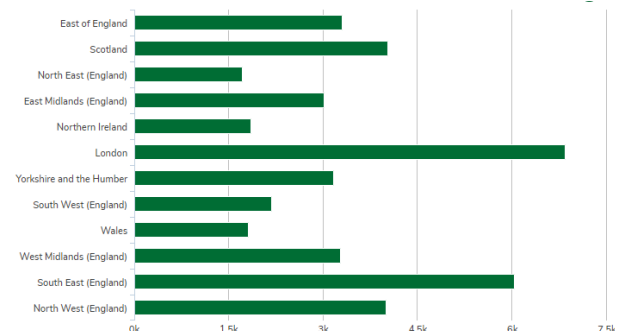
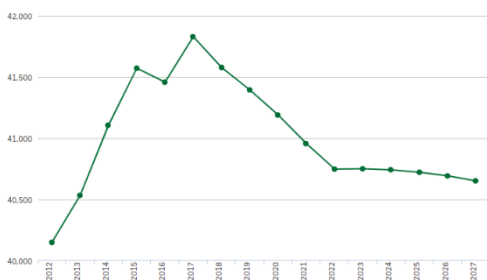
Workforce in the UK: 93% male / 7% female workforce [average 47% male / 53% female]

The work often takes place in dangerous and unpleasant conditions, for example in heat and cold, at heights, in enclosed spaces, smoke-filled buildings and all kinds of weather conditions. You may be exposed to danger from collapsing buildings or vehicles, explosions and fumes. You need to be physically fit, as firefighters carry heavy equipment and breathing apparatus. Women are currently under-represented in the profession. Jobs are available throughout the UK. Smart appearance is important. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus are required to be clean shaven to ensure the equipment can work effectively. Travel within a working day is frequent.



This job in the future:

The workforce is projected to contract by 1.3%, losing 500 jobs however, in the same period, 37.9% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 16,500 job opportunities.



- www.icould.com
- www.successatschool.org
- www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
- www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors
- www.ucas.com/careers-advice
- www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/ (you all have a log on for this service)
- www.careersbox.co.uk (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information
GAT careers links
<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb00fqvMPCykcZA>

