

# Job of The Week

## Firefighter

### Key Skills

- communication skills
- sensitivity and understanding
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of public safety and security
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- knowledge of training and how to present information
- the ability to work well with others
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

### Salary

£24,191- £32,244

### Working hours

41 – 43 p/week  
evenings / weekends  
bank holidays on shifts

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

# Firefighter

## Restrictions and Requirements

You'll need to:

- pass a fitness test
- pass a medical check
- pass enhanced background checks
- have a full driving licence
- be over 18 years of age

Some fire services may only accept applications from people living in the local and surrounding areas.

## Direct Application

You can apply directly to join the fire service. Each one sets its own entry requirements.

Many ask for GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 in English and Maths, or equivalent qualifications.

**You'll need to pass:**

- an online test to assess your judgement ability in a realistic work setting
- number and reading tests.

**If you're successful, you'll:**

- do practical selection tests to find out whether you can do the physical tasks needed for the job
- be interviewed.

## Apprenticeship

You may be able to start training on an operational firefighter advanced apprenticeship.

You'll need to be employed by a fire service to do this.

You could train to be a firefighter in the Royal Air Force (RAF). You can find more information at the RAF website.

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need GCSEs grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, in English and Maths.

## College

You could take a Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Public Services before applying to the fire service, although this is not essential.

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 2 course or 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course.



## Career path and progression

All fire services have a programme that lets you plan and track your career development.

You could work your way up to crew manager, watch manager or station manager. If you're prepared to move between services, you could become an area manager, a brigade manager or a chief fire officer. If you're involved in fire safety and prevention work, you can take professional qualifications leading to membership of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE).

You could also get a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) licence for driving fire engines.

## Day to Day tasks:

- control and put out fires
- respond to emergency call-outs
- inspect and maintain equipment
- deal with bomb alerts and floods
- manage chemical or hazardous substance spills
- carry out practice drills and take part in training
- rescue people and animals from burning buildings and accident sites
- give presentations to schools and community groups
- inspect buildings to make sure they meet fire safety regulations

## Working conditions

You could work at a fire station, at a client's home or business.

Your working environment may be at height, physically and emotionally demanding and cramped.

You may need to wear safety clothing and use safety equipment and a uniform.



# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.  
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

### Fire service officers (watch manager and below)

Weekly Pay <b>£760</b>	Annual Pay <b>£39,520</b>
Hours/Week <b>42h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£18</b>

**Workforce Change** (projected)

Contraction <b>-0.2%</b>	Replacement <b>38.3%</b>
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The workforce is projected to contract by -0.2% over the period to 2027, losing 100 jobs.  
In the same period, 38.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 15,600 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Public admin. & defence  
Health  
Computer programming, etc  
Food & beverage services  
Services to buildings

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### Senior officers in fire, ambulance, prison and related services

Weekly Pay <b>£1,090</b>	Annual Pay <b>£56,680</b>
Hours/Week <b>40h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£27</b>

**Workforce Change** (projected)

Growth <b>4.8%</b>	Replacement <b>47.8%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 4.8% over the period to 2027, creating 900 jobs.  
In the same period, 47.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 8,600 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Public admin. & defence  
Warehousing, etc  
Health

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### Health and safety officers

Weekly Pay <b>£750</b>	Annual Pay <b>£39,000</b>
Hours/Week <b>37h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£20</b>

**Workforce Change** (projected)

Growth <b>3.9%</b>	Replacement <b>49.3%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 3.9% over the period to 2027, creating 2,200 jobs.  
In the same period, 49.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 27,200 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Architectural & related  
Public admin. & defence  
Metal products  
Health  
Security, etc

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# Labour Market Information

## Senior officers in fire, ambulance, prison and related services

Fire officers plan, organise, direct and co-ordinate the activities and resources of a specific physical or functional area of a statutory or private fire brigade/service and the resources necessary for the protection of property at fires within a salvage corps area. Ambulance officers plan, organise, direct and co-ordinate the resources necessary for the provision of ambulance services. Prison officers (principal officer and above) plan, organise, direct, and co-ordinate the activities and resources necessary for the running of a prison, remand or detention centre. Customs officers plan and direct the work of customs, excise and immigration staff in the monitoring and inspection of goods and persons crossing national borders.

Common tasks in this job:

- liaises with other senior officials and/or government departments to determine staffing, financial and other short- and long-term needs;
- prepares reports for insurance companies, the Home Office, Scottish Home and Health Department, and other bodies as necessary;
- advises on the recruitment, training and monitoring of staff;
- fire officers plan, direct and co-ordinate an operational plan for one or more fire stations, attend fires and other emergencies to minimise

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## Health and safety officers

Health and safety officers counsel employees to ensure and promote health and safety in the workplace and co-ordinate accident prevention and health and safety measures within an establishment or organisation.

Common tasks in this job:

- inspects workplace areas to ensure compliance with health and safety legislation;
- helps to develop effective health and safety policies and procedures and carries out risk assessments;
- instructs workers in the proper use of protective clothing and safety devices and conducts routine tests on that equipment;
- compiles statistics on accidents and injuries, analyses their causes and makes recommendations to management accordingly;

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## Fire service officers (watch manager and below)

Workers in this unit group co-ordinate and participate in fire fighting activities, provide emergency services in the event of accidents or bomb alerts, and advise on fire prevention.

Common tasks in this job:

- inspects premises to identify potential fire hazards and to check that fire fighting equipment is available and in working order and that statutory fire safety regulations are met;
- arranges fire drills and tests alarm systems and equipment;
- travels to fire or other emergency by vehicle and locates water mains if necessary;
- operates hose pipes, ladders, chemical, foam, gas or powder fire extinguishing appliances;

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# Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

A day in the life



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltGFSEJe26U&pp=ygUjYSBkYXkgaW4gdGhllGxpZmUgb2YgYSBmaXJZmInaHRlciA%3D>

Recruitment tips



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibd9YtVnE3Q&pp=ygUXZmlyZWZpZ2h0ZXIgcmlVjcnVpdG1lbnQ%3D>

Future proofing London's firefighting



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeCKacy0UNI&pp=ygUPRkISRSBGSUdIVEVSIFVL>

Fire Cadet



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efCnz\\_Rk2LQ&pp=ygUKRkISRSBDQURFVA%3D%3D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efCnz_Rk2LQ&pp=ygUKRkISRSBDQURFVA%3D%3D)

## Useful Websites

[Firefighter](#) | [Explore careers](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

[List of UK fire and rescue services \(nationalfirechiefs.org.uk\)](#)

[Uniformed Public Services Courses at Boston College](#)

[Recruitment – UK Fire Service Resources](#)

[How to become a firefighter | Undergraduate](#) | [UCAS](#)