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# Firefighters

*Held up as heroes by many, firefighters risk their lives to save others. When the alarm bell rings, firefighters race to the scene to put out a fire, air out smoke-filled rooms and provide emergency medical care to victims. In fact, in most states firefighters are also certified emergency medical technicians. Life at the fire station is similar to living in a dorm, punctuated by urgent calls to action.*

Can you work long, irregular hours and live and work as a team? If so, a career as a **firefighter** may be for you.

**Firefighters work on teams to fight fires in homes, commercial buildings, forests and other places. They also offer assistance when disaster strikes, such as after an earthquake or bombing.**

## Are You Ready To...?

- Rescue victims in hazardous situations
- Provide first aid and other medical care
- Spend days at a disaster site
- Live and work as part of a close-knit team
- Work odd hours

## It Helps To Be...

Courageous, physically strong, good at making on-the-spot decisions and sensible in a crisis. Being able to get along well with others is also extremely important, because you'll live as well as work with your teammates.

## A Day In The Life...

- Collaborate with other firefighters as a member of a firefighting crew
- Extinguish flames or embers to suppress fires, using shovels, or engine- or hand-driven water or chemical pumps
- Rescue fire victims and administer emergency aid

## Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

**Median Hourly Wage: \$28.47**

*That comes out to more than  
\$59,227 a year.*

**In 2016, we had  
1,344 Firefighters.  
By 2026, we'll need 1,475.**

*Could you be one of the 131?*

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# Firefighters

## After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, most employers for firefighters require job candidates to pass **written, physical and medical tests**.



## Top 5 Industries for Firefighters

1. Local Government
2. Other Support Services
3. Federal Government
4. State Government
5. Other Ambulatory Health Care Services

## Related College Majors

- Emergency Management/ Homeland Security
- Emergency Medical Technology
- Fire Prevention and Safety Technology
- Fire Science
- Public Administration

## Related Industry Certifications

- Fire & Emergency Certification
- Health & Safety Officer
- Incident Safety Officer—Fire Suppression Certification
- Special Hazards Suppression Systems
- Volunteer Firefighter Certification

## Related Careers

- Construction and Building Inspectors
- Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
- Foresters and Forestry Technicians
- Police Officers
- Surgical Technologists

For more Career Profiles, visit our website:

<http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx>.

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