

# What Does a Firefighter Do?

There are many different people who help us in the emergency services. The fire brigade were formed after the Great Fire of London in 1666.

## Great firefighters are...

- brave
- strong
- healthy
- determined
- hardworking
- reliable
- trustworthy



They work long hours and some even work during the night, which keeps us safe while we sleep.

## What job does a firefighter do?

Firefighters are part of the emergency services. Their job is to keep everyone safe by putting out fires or using their equipment to cut strong metal to rescue people who are trapped.

## Where do they work?

Firefighters work in a fire station. Fire stations are all around the country so that they can get to everyone if they need any help. Firefighters travel to emergencies in their fire engine. The fire engine is painted bright red and has blue, flashing lights so that it is easy to see.

## What do firefighters wear?

Firefighters wear special outfits that protect them from getting injured.

**Strong hat:** to protect their head from falling objects.

**Fireproof clothes:** to stop them from being injured when going into burning buildings.

**A light:** to help them see in the dark, smoky rooms.

**Radio:** to talk to one another and listen to instructions.



# What Does a Firefighter Do?

There are many different people who help us in the emergency services. The fire brigade work closely with the police force, paramedics and the coastguard to ensure that we are safe all of the time.

## Great firefighters are...

- brave
- strong
- fearless
- determined
- hardworking
- healthy
- reliable
- team players
- trustworthy



Firefighters need to be available 24 hours a day and normally work in 10 hour shifts. There will be firefighters working even when you are asleep at night!

## What roles and responsibilities do firefighters have?

The main role that a firefighter has, is to respond to emergency situations and keep people safe. They respond to different emergencies including car accidents, flooding and fires. Firefighters are highly trained and work well as part of a team.

## Where do they work?

Firefighters are based in a fire station where they wait for an emergency call. While they are waiting they practise their skills, rest and clean the fire engines and the equipment. It is really important that all of the equipment is clean and ready to be used in an emergency.



## What do firefighters wear?

Firefighters have two different uniforms. The first is for when they are training and in the fire station. They also need to wear a protective uniform that ensures they are safe in an emergency situation.

Gas mask with oxygen tank to help the firefighter to breathe.

Hard, protective helmet with visor to protect their eyes.

Radio to talk to one another and listen to instructions.

A light to help them see in the dark, smoky rooms.

High visibility jackets and trousers that are non-flammable (do not catch fire).

Steel-reinforced boots to protect their feet.



# What Does a Firefighter Do?

Firefighters are extraordinary people, who are incredibly brave and strong. Firefighting is a dangerous and demanding job that calls for total teamwork: it can take several people just to hold a powerful fire hose working at full pressure.

## Vehicles used by the fire service:

The fire service use several different vehicles to respond to emergency calls. The fire engines are most commonly seen in emergencies. The engine can hold 1800 litres of water and carries rescue equipment to help those in trouble. Other vehicles include a motorbike that can easily reach emergencies quickly and a water response unit, which is a boat that can be deployed to reach people trapped in floods. These amazing vehicles support the firefighters when carrying out their important jobs.



## What roles and responsibilities do firefighters have?

The main duties of a full-time firefighter are to help protect the public in emergency situations. They respond to a wide variety of calls, such as car accidents, chemical spills, flooding, water rescues and general rescues, as well as fires.

## Where do they work?

Firefighters are based at a fire station. At the moment there are around 63 fire stations around the U.K. In-between alarms, firefighters must clean and repair their equipment. They practise firefighting skills, and they may perform fire inspections. Firefighting is a strenuous job, so they must exercise to keep fit. Firefighters need to be

able to lift people from a building if they are in danger.

### What do firefighters wear?

Firefighting is dangerous work. During a fire, floors can cave in and walls can topple. Flames and smoke can burn or seriously injure people. Firefighters may come in to contact with poisonous gases or other hazardous materials. To protect themselves, firefighters wear protective clothes that can be heavy and hot. The clothes are non-flammable, which means that they are fire-resistant. Firefighters wear a hard helmet which protects their head from falling objects and steel-reinforced boots so that their feet are safe from injury.

### How do you become a firefighter?

The Fire and Rescue Service requires hardworking and determined individuals. To become a firefighter, you need to pass strict medical and physical tests. You also need to take a written theory test. New firefighters are also encouraged to volunteer at their local fire station in order to gain some experience in the profession. Even when you are fully qualified, firefighters are always being trained in new firefighting techniques to ensure that they are ready for anything.

