

I'm thinking about becoming a **FIREFIGHTER!**

Most likely, you're already a little familiar with the job of a firefighter. **Firefighters put out fires in buildings, homes, forests, cars, and anywhere else they occur.** They do their best to **keep their communities safe** and they **help to save lives!** However, a firefighter's job doesn't stop there!

As a part of helping to protect people and places, firefighters also have responsibilities such as **providing emergency medical care** at the sight of an incident, **rescuing people** from burning buildings, who are pinned inside wrecked vehicles, or experiencing other dangerous situations. Firefighters work hard to **educate the public about fire safety.** Firefighters also spend time **repairing and maintaining their equipment** and **learning new things to help them continually improve their skills.** Because their job requires them to be strong, healthy, and fit, firefighters must also spend time **looking after their well-being and physical fitness.**

The job of a firefighter requires many important qualities. A firefighter's job is often dangerous, so a person who wants to be a firefighter must be **brave** and **strong.** Firefighters must also be able to **operate equipment** and **work well with others.** Being able to **lift heavy things, climb, and work in hot, stressful conditions** are also important qualities for firefighting!

While the majority of firefighters today are men, there are women who work as firefighters too! Most have high school degrees and some college education in subjects like fire science.

Firefighters undergo training at special schools and take written and physical tests to make sure they are ready for this difficult and important job!

Firefighters can be volunteers, part-time, or full-time in the fire profession. If you may be interested contact your local volunteer fire department. Most accept high school students as junior firefighters where you can begin training right away and learn the ropes of a heroic profession!