



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WORK IN THE FIRE SERVICE

Simply tick **YES** or **NO** to each of the following questions:

Are you able to meet the demands of working in a disciplined uniformed service? Can you take orders from other people?

Yes _____ No _____

Can you accept the need to keep to rules that tell you what you can and cannot wear and the standard of appearance you must maintain e.g. how you should wear your hair?

Yes _____ No _____

Can you get on with people from different backgrounds and cultures?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you have the emotional strength to deal with a road traffic accident or other instances where there may be severe injuries or loss of life?

Yes _____ No _____

Can you work as part of a close knit team? Can you work under pressure without letting the rest of your team down?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you have the sensitivity to deal with members of the public when they are distressed, confused or being obstructive?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you committed to maintaining and developing your skills? Are you prepared to study on top of your normal working day?

Yes _____ No _____



Do you suffer from aquaphobia, claustrophobia or vertigo?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you committed to maintaining your health and physical fitness? Is regular exercise a part of your everyday life?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you prepared to work day and night shifts, evenings?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you a practical person who likes to work with their hands and with equipment? Do you enjoy making things or finding out how things work?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you someone who can always be relied on to be somewhere on time? Are you someone that others see as dependable?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you prepared to work outside in all types of weather, even if you are wet and cold and you don't know when a job might finish?

Yes _____ No _____

**If you answered YES to all of these questions perhaps a career in the Fire Service is for you
!!**

Joining the Fire Service



Fire Services Activities- What do they do?

The main duties of the Fire Service are to help protect the public in emergency situations. Firefighters respond to a wide variety of calls, such as car crashes, chemical spills, flooding, water rescue and general rescue as well as fires. With many fire crews being trained as first responders they can provide first aid until the arrival of ambulance personnel.

There are two main divisions of firefighter: full-time firefighters and retained firefighters.

The Fire Service is also tasked with Fire Prevention. The main duties of a Fire Prevention Officer are to survey buildings under construction and existing buildings to ensure fire safety regulations are adhered to. Community Fire Safety is also under the remit of the Fire Service amongst other services.

Careers in the Irish Fire & Rescue Service fall into 2 categories

1) Firefighter

1.1) Full-time Fire Fighter

Full-time firefighters normally work a shift system comprising nine-hour days and 15-hour nights across four watches. Full time services exist in the major cities of Ireland. The position is open to male and female applicants. Typically, recruits train for about 16 weeks in firefighting and rescue techniques drills, breathing apparatus, hazardous chemicals and pumping operations. Full time firefighters are paid a salary.

1.2) Retained Firefighter.

The Irish Fire service is predominately a retained fire service. Retained Firefighters are part-time and they generally have other jobs or businesses. The main requirement when recruiting firefighters is that they live and work within a reasonable distance of the fire station and they have a reasonable level of fitness. The position is open to male and female applicants. Though part-time, recruits undergo extensive initial training including a three-week recruit course and a two-week breathing apparatus wearers course. They will receive extensive training throughout their career as a firefighter. Retained firefighters are paid a retaining fee and a per-call fee.

Retained fire crews make up most of the stations in Ireland. Retained fire-fighters, account for over 65 per cent of the country's fire service, are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recruiting process

The Fire Service recruits people as vacancies arise. Vacancies are advertised in the local newspapers, on local radio and on local government websites. It is also advisable to follow your local Fire Service us on Facebook or Twitter where they will bring variances to the attention of their followers.

- An application form must be completed
- A Garda Vetting Form must be completed



- When a vacancy appears, interviews and basic written and numerical ability tests are held and qualified candidates are put on a panel
- From this panel, persons are asked to carry out a medical and physical test
- If successful at these tests, a person is sent on a three-week firefighter recruit induction course. Once this is successfully completed, the new firefighter is given an alerter and will then attend fires with the remainder of the crew
- The new firefighter is usually sent on a breathing apparatus course within a year of joining the Fire Service. This must be successfully passed
- The firefighter will then be offered a probationary contract, once this time has been completed the firefighter maybe offered a full contract.

It is important to remember that retained firefighters must be available for calls at all times unless he/she has got approval not to attend from his/her station officer

Firefighter Working Environment

Working hours: full-time firefighters normally work a shift system comprising nine-hour days and 15-hour nights across four watches. Retained Firefighters, are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Location: Opportunities exist mainly in towns or cities throughout the country.

Firefighters will perform their duties in a wide variety of working environment and terrains eg, road biased work, mountain sides, fires etc.

Career Development

After 7 years as a Firefighter, you can apply for promotion to the rank of Sub Officer. Ranks above this include Station Officer.

2) Full-Time Senior Officers

Senior Officers work on a full time basis from 9am- 5pm, but may often be required to work outside these hours. They will also be required to go on the senior officer roister. This requires the RSFO (Roistered Senior Fire Officer) to attend calls such as fatalities, major fires or any call which it may be deemed necessary to have an RSFO in attendance.

Senior Fire Officers fall into mainly two categories:

1) Fire Prevention Officers

The main duties of a Fire Prevention Officer are to survey buildings under construction and existing buildings to ensure fire safety regulations are adhered to. Fire Prevention Officers can also be called to major fires where a coordinator is required.

2) Operational Fire Officer

The main duties of an Operational Officer are to manage the operational requirements of the fire service i.e. training, equipment, etc. Operational Officers can also be called to major fires where a coordinator is required.



Training

Senior Officers are required to have a professional qualification and be graduates of engineering, architecture or surveying.

They will be required to undergo the same initial training as a fire fighter and additional Officer training. Training throughout their career will be ongoing.

Career Development

There are several ranks available to Senior Officers which may be applied for after the appropriate years service and experience has been obtained the highest of these is the CFO, Chief Fire Officer who is in overall command of Tipperary Fire Service.