



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you would like a career which involves helping people in emergency situations you may consider working as a firefighter for a city or county. Firefighters are often the first to arrive after an emergency. They rescue people from burning buildings, wrecked cars and flooded areas. They may also help control, prevent and clean up hazardous materials spills.

JOB DUTIES

Firefighters typically put out fires using water hoses, fire extinguishers and pumps and rescue victims in emergency situations. They also treat sick and/or injured individuals in their homes. They prepare written reports on emergency incidents; clean and maintain equipment; and provide public education on fire safety.

HIRING OUTLOOK

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of firefighters is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024. Physically fit applicants with high test scores and paramedic training will have the best job prospects.

MORE INFO?

Learn more about careers in fire service at CareerExpo2017.org.



SALARY

Working in the field of fire services can help you earn a regular salary, medical coverage and a retirement pension. Wages will vary depending on your work location and the salary levels set by local governments.

CAREER	SALARY RANGE
Firefighter 1	\$37,178-\$56,506
Emergency Medical Technician	\$41,299-\$61,962
Fire Captain	\$58,014-\$83,190
Deputy Fire Chief	\$78,585-\$92,590
Battalion Chief	\$81,056-\$103,753
Fire Chief	\$85,595-\$151,525

Source: Mid-America Regional Council 2016 Local Government Salary Survey

WHAT IT TAKES

There are many requirements you need to clear if you are going to become a firefighter. Most states require close to 600 hours of active firefighting training during attendance at a fire academy or local training program. To become a firefighter in Kansas and Missouri, you must:

- Have a high school diploma or GED.
- Pass a comprehensive pre-hire examination.
- Pass a physical examination and criminal history background check.
- Have excellent physical fitness.
- Hold a valid driver's license.
- Have an insurable driving record.

Find your path in ...

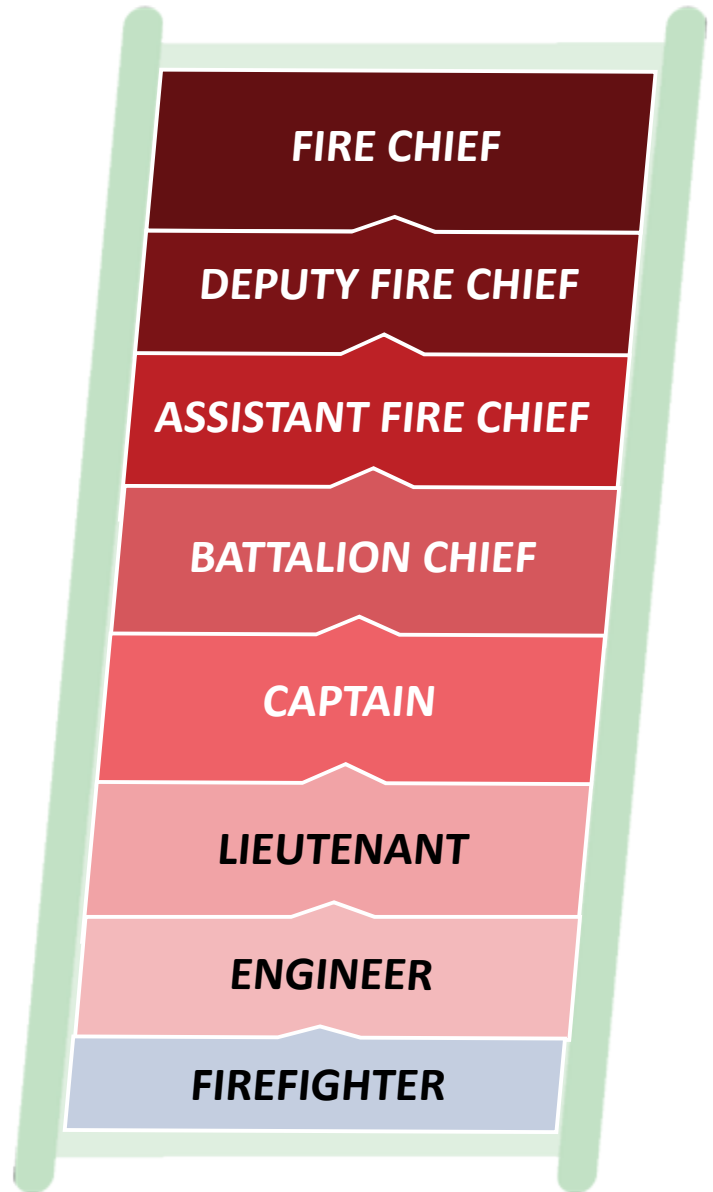
FIRE SERVICES

TRAINING AND ADVANCEMENT

Firefighters have multiple career advancement opportunities. With experience, they may be promoted to engineer, driver/operator, lieutenant, captain and battalion chief. There is also the opportunity for firefighters to become fire prevention officers, arson investigators and fire marshals.

To be promoted beyond battalion chief, a firefighter must usually obtain a bachelor's degree in fire science, public administration or related field. Positions beyond battalion chief include: assistant chief, deputy chief and chief.

Firefighters may also obtain certification as an executive fire officer through the National Fire Academy; however, they need at least an associate degree to obtain certification.



TOP SKILLS

- Integrity
- Physical fitness
- Communication
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Dedication
- Team player
- Mechanical aptitude
- Tolerance
- Public image conscious
- Self-sacrifice
- Quick decision maker

EDUCATION

At the very minimum, applicants need to obtain a high school diploma or GED. Some organizations may also require applicants to have a Firefighter I Certification. Many firefighters earn a degree in fire science and become an EMT to advance their career. Some departments may require an EMT certification; larger departments may require a paramedic's license.

