

FIREFIIGHTERS

Firefighters protect the public by responding to fires and other emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel on the scene of an accident.

DUTIES

Firefighters typically do the following:

- Drive fire trucks and other emergency vehicles to emergencies
- Put out fires using hoses and pumps
- Find and rescue victims in burning buildings or in other emergency conditions
- Treat victims' injuries with emergency medical services
- Prepare written reports on fire or emergency incidents
- Clean and maintain equipment
- Conduct drills and training in fire-fighting techniques
- Provide public education on fire safety

When responding to an emergency, firefighters do tasks assigned by a superior officer. They might be responsible for connecting hoses to hydrants, operating pumps to power the hoses, climbing ladders, or using tools to break through debris. Other firefighters might be responsible for providing medical attention.

Most calls firefighters respond to are medical, not fire, emergencies.

Firefighters' duties may change several times while they are at the scene of an emergency. In some cases, they might remain at disaster scenes for days, rescuing trapped survivors and assisting with medical treatment.

Firefighters may specialize in responding to forest fires or hazardous materials incidents.

Forest firefighters use heavy equipment and water hoses to control forest fires. They also frequently create fire lines—a swathe of cut-down trees and dug-up grass in the path of a fire—to deprive a fire of fuel. Some elite forest firefighters, known as smoke jumpers, parachute from airplanes to reach otherwise inaccessible areas.

Some firefighters work in hazardous materials units and are specially trained to control, prevent, and clean up hazardous materials, such as oil spills and chemical accidents. For more information, see the profile on [hazardous materials removal workers](#).



SALARY INFORMATION

Location	2018				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
California	\$42,110	\$59,500	\$77,320	\$108,060	\$139,110

*Pay period based on yearly amount.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

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Stable growth rate is estimated to be

5%

💼

2,110

estimated annual job openings

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Municipal Fire Fighting and Prevention Supervisors
- Forest Fire Fighting and Prevention Supervisors
- Forest Firefighters ☀️
- Fire Inspectors
- Forest Fire Inspectors and Prevention Specialists
- Fish and Game Wardens 🌿
- Transit and Railroad Police
- Security Guards ☀️
- Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational
- Protective Service Workers

