

DAY IN THE LIFE OF

A CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER



ENVIRONMENT

Most Firefighters work for Fire Departments in various capacities, including Driver Engineer, Company Officer, Chief Officer, Fire Inspector, and Specialty Teams. They will be called to provide fire suppression, incident stabilization, property conservation. The ability to work well with others is important as they will work on a team to complete the task at hand.



CHARACTERISTICS

Firefighters must operate with integrity on and off duty. Patients should be confident that in their most vulnerable moments they will not be exploited or mistreated. Departments must trust in the Firefighter's ability to abide by their standard operating procedures and state/national regulations.



KNOWLEDGE

Firefighters must be prepared for any incident. They must maintain up-to-date knowledge of firefighting skills, fire suppression, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, emergency medical rescue treatments and procedure, and usage of computer and technology. Understand the layout of their jurisdiction to respond to calls quickly and properly.



SKILLS

Firefighters must be able to properly operate firefighting equipment, tools, and devices. They must be able to diffuse situations and operate and communicate within a team environment. Completing their tasks may require: running, walking, crawling, climbing, squatting and heavy lifting; all while wearing heavy protective equipment.



RISK AND HAZARDS

The role of a Firefighter is emotionally, mentally, and physically demanding. Firefighters may experience exposure to hazardous materials or bodily fluids, life-threatening conditions; exposure to fire, smoke; physical injury from carrying patients or using large equipment or tools; workplace violence; and exposure to extreme weather. Good physical health is necessary, as well as mental health support before and after traumatic events.