

Firefighters

Description

Firefighters carry out firefighting and fire prevention activities, and assist in other emergencies. They are employed by municipal, provincial and federal governments and by large industrial establishments that have internal firefighting services.

Duties:

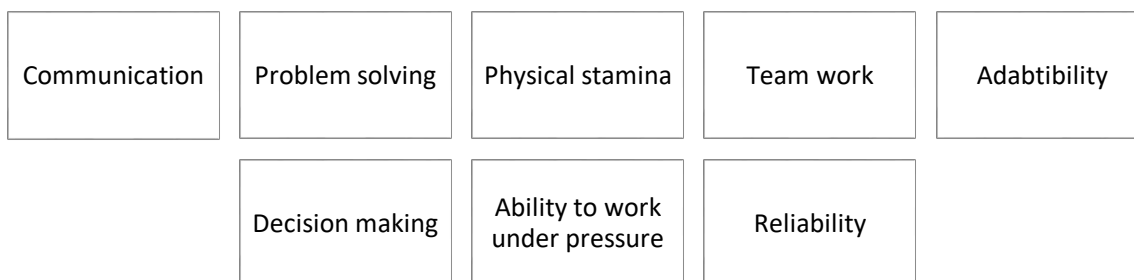
- Respond to fire alarms and other calls for assistance, such as automobile and industrial accidents, bomb threats and other emergencies
- Rescue victims from burning buildings and accident sites
- Control and extinguish fires using manual and power equipment, such as axes, water hoses, aerial ladders and hydraulic equipment and various firefighting chemicals
- Administer first aid and other assistance
- Ensure proper operation and maintenance of firefighting equipment
- Prepare written reports on fire incidents
- Inform and educate the public on fire prevention
- Train to maintain high level of physical fitness
- Assist the public, the police and emergency organizations during times of major disasters
- May participate as members of a trauma or emergency response team and provide paramedical aid to accident victims or ill persons
- May supervise and co-ordinate the work of other firefighters
- May conduct building inspections to ensure compliance with fire code.

Other titles:

- airport firefighter
- fire captain
- shipboard firefighter
- industrial firefighter
- firefighter lieutenant

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

Skills



Education/Training Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Most college/university programs in Ontario require an OSSD or Mature Student Status

Post-secondary diploma/degree

- Completion of a college program in fire protection technology, fire science or a related field and a period of supervised practical training is usually required
- Firefighting and emergency medical care training courses are provided and vary in length depending on the requirements of different fire departments or services.

Certification

- Certification for firefighters is compulsory
- Physical agility, strength, fitness and vision requirements must be met.
- Several years of experience are required for senior firefighters, such as lieutenants and captains.

Potential Earnings in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed as firefighters are as follows. Place of Residence (POR) is defined as individuals who reside within the Durham Region. Place of Work (POW) is defined as individuals who are employed within the Durham Region.

Median Wages and Salaries (POR)	Average Wages and Salaries (POR)	Median Wages and Salaries (POW)	Average Wages and Salaries (POW)
\$89,308	\$87,393	\$91,297	\$90,163

Employment Prospects

Industry (NAICS)	Jobs in Durham Region (POW)	Durham Region Residents Employed (POR)
9130 Local, municipal and regional public administration	555	1275

(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development 2016 data in Durham Workforce Authority's 2017 Sector Report)

Additional Resources

- Ontario Fire Administration: <https://www.ofai.ca/>