

Just the Job Information Sheet

Job title Firefighter – New Zealand Fire Service

Job description

A firefighter's main role is to actively and competently contribute to the overall objectives of their team, including:

- **Risk reduction (mitigation)** – To participate in implementing fire prevention and fire loss reduction strategies.
- **Readiness** – To be familiar with district tactical plans, maintain personal readiness for response, and assist to maintain the readiness of the station.
- **Response** – Undertake all required activities at an emergency incident, and as directed by the Officer in Charge.
- **Recovery** – Assist with recovery, provide care for members of the public injured or distressed, and assist to ensure the emergency situation and incident ground is safe.

A competent firefighter will be able to demonstrate the following:

Attributes

- Shows enthusiasm and a desire to get on with the job.
- Manages own time well and delivers on commitments.
- Maintains a high level of personal fitness appropriate to the requirements of the position.
- Demonstrates integrity in both words and actions and takes pride in their contribution.
- Shows unwavering commitment to fire prevention strategies.
- Is committed to full cooperation with, and assistance of Volunteer Brigades and individual Volunteer Firefighters.
- Demonstrates a professional courteous attitude to the role and is fully committed to serving the local community.
- Accepts their role within the team and contributes fully to the team's success.
- Appreciates the different cultures within the community and respects their needs.

Qualifications required

While there are no mandatory qualifications required, it is useful to have:

- A heavy rigid driving licence
- Working in confined spaces certificates
- First Aid certificates

General requirements

The New Zealand Fire Service is a 24 hour, seven day-a-week emergency service. To maintain a professional level of service to the community we operate a roster system that includes various shift patterns, some fixed, some rotating and some with on-call arrangements to ensure availability of staff when required.

The operational roster is made up of coloured watches which operate on a continually rotating basis of four days on four days off. The four days on are made up of two day shifts from 0800 to 1800, followed by two night shifts from 1800 to 0800 the next day.

Over a period of eight weeks, the weekly hours average out at no more than 42 a week.

Training costs

N/A – recruits are paid during training (see salary range).

Career path

Although most roles at the New Zealand Fire Service are held by volunteers, there are about 1700 career firefighter roles stationed in urban centres.

Both volunteer and paid firefighters have a career progression path. For career firefighters, becoming a qualified or senior firefighter would take about two years. Candidates can progress up the ranks to become a station officer, then an area manager. They may have the opportunity to work across the organisation on special projects, such as becoming involved in the recruitment and training of staff.

Salary range (current as of 1 July 2012)

During their recruit course training, paid/career trainee firefighters' earn a total weekly wage of \$749.36 (gross). Once posted to a station firefighters' earnings increase to \$826.14 (gross) a week. This is a base wage which may be improved by working additional shifts on overtime rates.

Additional increases in wages occur as firefighters progress in rank through the Training and Progression System (TAPS), and by acquiring specialist skills recognised within the New Zealand Fire Service.

Total weekly wage for:

Recruit firefighter - \$749.36

Firefighter (on graduation) - \$826.14

Qualified firefighter - \$1045.49

Senior firefighter - \$1086.17

Station officer - \$1185.70

Senior station officer - \$1231.54

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

To increase the chances of being selected during the recruitment process, candidates should research the industry and have a full understanding of what the role entails.

Visit www.fire.org/Jobs for security check requirements and medical requirements, as you will be unable to proceed unless you meet Fire Service standards.

Any previous volunteer or community work experience would be good, as would experience working with a wide range of people with diverse backgrounds and cultures, as a firefighter liaises with people from all walks of life while on the job.

Maintaining a high level of fitness, demonstrating excellent team player attributes and a dedication to personal improvement are desirable. You will also need to be comfortable working at heights, in confined spaces and have good old fashioned common sense so you can cope with the varied situations you will find yourself in.

Other places to source information about this job

www.fire.org.nz/Jobs