



Do I want to be a firefighter?



Being a firefighter is often the dream of children. However, when it comes time to pick a career, many young adults are uneducated about the career field and the attributes that make a successful fire service career.

Reasons to be a firefighter:

- Extremely rewarding career both personally and professionally
- Opportunity to save lives and protect property in the community
- Ability to serve as a positive role model in the community - especially for children
- 20 and 30 years retirement packages
- Health, dental and life insurance through the city
- Competitive pay with great opportunity for additional income during your career and after retirement
- Life long friendship and bond with co-workers that cannot be found in any other career

Drawbacks to being a firefighter:

- Platoon style work schedule (24hrs on / 48 hrs off) with working holidays often necessary
- Exposure to high hazards including heat, smoke, dust, blood borne pathogens, hazardous materials, etc
- Potential decrease in life expectancy due to high impact and intense nature of the job when compared to other occupations
- Exposure to all types of weather and working conditions
- Exposure to emergency scenes with morbid content, sometimes involving small children
- Mentally and physically demanding
- Extremely competitive hiring process, usually approximately 100 applicants for every one position available (Tulsa Metropolitan Average)

If firefighting is the career I've chosen, how do I best prepare myself for the competitive hiring process?

- 1. Complete high school and maintain high academic standards**
- 2. Keep your traffic and criminal record clean**
- 3. Stay physically fit and set yearly goals to maintain your physical standards**
- 4. Obtain your Emergency Medical Technician – Basic License**
 - a. Tulsa Technology Center, 918-828-5000
www.tulsatech.com**
 - b. Rogers State University, 918-343-7777
www.rsu.edu**
 - c. Central Technology Center, 918-224-9300
www.ctechok.org**
- 5. Explore opportunities with local volunteer fire departments for experience and training**
- 6. Complete a college degree in fire protection**
 - a. Tulsa Community College, 918-595-7700
www.tulsacc.edu**
 - b. Oklahoma State University, 405-744-5000
www.okstate.edu**
 - c. Northeastern State University, 918-456-5511
www.nsuok.edu**