



# Realizing Your Firefighter Career

A Pre-Service Guide for  
Your Firefighter Career!

Where duty calls,  
there you will find us.

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# Road to Becoming a Firefighter

The minimum qualification to be a Firefighter is a High School Diploma and California Drivers License, but the following increases your chances of getting hired!

- ✓ EMT Certification
- ✓ Complete an Accredited Fire Academy (recommended)
- ✓ Certificate or Degree in Fire Technology (recommended)
- ✓ Get Experience (ROP, Intern, Volunteer, Apprentice, Seasonal)
- ✓ Firefighter – I Certification
- ✓ Firefighter – II Certification
- ✓ Specialized Training
- ✓ Community Service
- ✓ Paramedic Certification
- ✓ Develop a GREAT Résumé

# Education

## Attend College

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- Meet with a College Counselor
- Develop an Educational Plan
- Complete an Accredited Fire Academy
- Obtain a degree in Fire Technology

## Further Your Education

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- Certificate of Completion
- A.A. Degree
- A.S. Degree
- B.A or B.S Degree
- Master's Degree
- National Fire Academy (EFO)

**To be a competitive candidate you should consider continuing your education.**

# Training

## Attend an Accredited Regional Fire Academy

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A list of Accredited Regional Fire Academies can be found here:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/pdf/ARTP-list.pdf>

## Specialized Skills:

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- Paramedic
- Driver / Operator
- Fire Prevention
- Haz-Mat
- Company Officer
- Fire Investigator
- Fire Instructor
- Technical Rescue
- Water Rescue
- Auto Extrication

**The fire academy provides training in essential firefighting techniques and skills. The fire academy will also introduce you to other areas of specialized training.**



# Experience

## Volunteer For

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- Fire Departments
- Hospital / Nursing Homes
- Communities
- Burn Camp Institutes
- Fire Museums

## Getting Hired

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- Understand all phases of the hiring process
- Prepare yourself for a background investigation
- Start taking entrance exams

**Another great source for career information can be found at:**

**California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee**

<http://www.cffjac.org/go/jac/recruitment1/becoming-a-firefighter/>

# Tips to **Fire** Up Your Focus

- o *Make an appointment to visit a fire station*
- o *Be on time*
- o *Dress appropriately*
- o *Be humble*
- o *Be polite*
- o *Be prepared with questions*
- o *Take notes - leave informed*
- o *Introduce yourself*
- o *Don't joke around*
- o *Speak professionally - no profanity*
- o *Remember names*
- o *Remember you are a guest*
- o *Be positive and enthusiastic*
- o *Plan ahead - don't wait until the last minute*
- o *Address station personnel by their rank and last name, example: Captain Doe*

# Your Firefighter Career Can Lead To . . .

<b>If you have an interest in . . .</b>	<b>You can use this in the fire service!</b>
Working indoors, writing reports, proposals, grants or working with numbers, budgets and forecasts.	<b>Administrative Officer</b>
Working indoors and outdoors, traveling, presenting, interviewing, instructing, print, video, web media, reporting news, and talking to the media.	<b>Community Risk Officer</b>
Working indoors and outdoors conducting construction inspections, plan reviews and code enforcement.	<b>Fire Inspector/Fire Marshal</b>
Working indoors and outdoors, fire history and culture, building stuff, presenting, instructing, and inspiring.	<b>Fire Instructor</b>
Working indoors and outdoors, physical labor, scene investigation, interviews, writing reports, and working within the judicial/justice system.	<b>Fire Investigator</b>
Working indoors and outdoors, biology, anatomy and physiology, kinesiology, patient care, and working with medical professionals.	<b>EMT/Paramedic</b>
Working indoors and outdoors, physical labor, problem solving, using ropes and knots and pulleys, working in challenging environments rescuing people.	<b>Rescue Technician</b>
Working indoors and outdoors, physical labor, manufacturing, chemistry, transportation and energy industries.	<b>Hazardous Materials Technician Industrial Firefighting</b>
Working indoors and outdoors, physical labor, deconstructing buildings, hazardous and challenging environments, saving lives and extinguishing fires.	<b>Firefighter</b>
Working primarily outdoors, physical labor, wilderness areas, and natural environment, hiking, and survival skills.	<b>Wildland Firefighting</b>



Ideas become real  
at the point of action!

