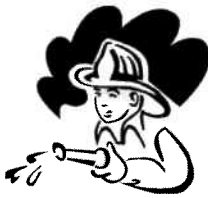


	Current Number of Workers 2006	Projected Number of Workers 2016	% Change to 2016	Average Annual Openings	 Fire Fighters SOC # 33-2011	
Regional	450	550	22.20%	25		
Texas	26,250	31,750	21.00%	1505		
Education/ Training Time	Is License Required?	Wage Rate \$/Hr. 2008 Regionally	Percent Female	Average Age	Job Turnover	Why Most Job Openings Occur
1+ years	Yes + Certificate (EMT)	\$18.51	1.9%	36.8	High	Replacement

JOB DESCRIPTION

Control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk. Duties may include fire prevention, emergency medical service, hazardous material response, search and rescue, and disaster management.

WHERE DO WORKERS FIND JOBS?

Local Government, Except Education
 Other Support Services
 Federal Government, Except Education

RELATED COLLEGE PROGRAMS

CIP 430203 Fire Science/Fire-fighting

IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

* Customer and Personal Service

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

* Education and Training

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

* Mechanical

HEALTH SERVICES

* Medicine and Dentistry

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

* Public Safety and Security

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

* Geography

* Psychology

IMPORTANT SKILLS

CONTENT

* Active Listening

SOCIAL SKILLS

* Coordination

* Service Orientation

SYSTEMS SKILLS

* Judgment and Decision Making

TECHNICAL SKILLS

* Equipment Maintenance

IMPORTANT ABILITIES

CONTROL MOVEMENT ABILITIES

* Multilimb Coordination

IDEA GENERATION AND REASONING ABILITIES

* Deductive Reasoning

* Problem Sensitivity

PERCEPTUAL ABILITIES

* Flexibility of Closure

* Speed of Closure

PHYSICAL STRENGTH ABILITIES

* Static Strength

SPATIAL ABILITIES

* Spatial Orientation

VERBAL ABILITIES

* Oral Comprehension

* Oral Expression

NATURE OF THE WORK: Fire Fighters

Every year, fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars. Fire fighters help protect the public against these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a traffic accident or medical emergency and may be called upon to put out a fire, treat injuries, or perform other vital functions.

During duty hours, fire fighters must be prepared to respond immediately to a fire or any other emergency that arises. Because fighting fires is dangerous and complex, it requires organization and teamwork. At every emergency scene, fire fighters perform specific duties assigned by a superior officer. At fires, they connect hose lines to hydrants, operate a pump to send water to high-pressure hoses, and position ladders to enable them to deliver water to the fire. They also rescue victims, provide emergency medical attention as needed, ventilate smoke-filled areas, and attempt to salvage the contents of buildings. Their duties may change several times while the company is in action. Sometimes they remain at the site of a disaster for days at a time, rescuing trapped survivors and assisting with medical treatment.

Fire fighters work in a variety of settings, including urban and suburban areas, airports, chemical plants, other industrial sites, and rural areas like grasslands and forests. They have also assumed a range of responsibilities, including emergency medical services. In fact, most calls to which fire fighters respond involve medical emergencies, and 65 percent of all fire departments provide emergency medical service. In addition, some fire fighters work in hazardous materials units that are trained for the control, prevention, and cleanup of materials; for example, these fire fighters respond to oil spills. Workers in urban and suburban areas, airports, and industrial sites typically use conventional fire fighting equipment and tactics, while forest fires and major hazardous materials spills call for different methods.

In national forests and parks, forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists spot fires from watchtowers and report their findings to headquarters by telephone or radio. Forest rangers patrol to ensure that travelers and campers comply with fire regulations. When fires break out, crews of fire fighters are brought in to suppress the blaze with heavy equipment, hand tools, and water hoses. Fighting forest fires, like fighting urban fires, is rigorous work. One of the most effective means of battling a blaze is creating fire lines--cutting down trees and digging out grass and all other combustible vegetation in the path of the fire-- to deprive it of fuel. Elite fire fighters called smoke jumpers parachute from airplanes to reach otherwise inaccessible areas. This tactic, however, can be extremely hazardous because the crews have no way to escape if the wind shifts and causes the fire to burn toward them.

Between alarms, fire fighters clean and maintain equipment, conduct practice drills and fire inspections, and participate in physical fitness activities. They also prepare written reports on fire incidents and review fire science literature to keep abreast of technological developments and changing administrative practices and policies.

Most fire departments have a fire prevention division, usually headed by a fire marshal and staffed by fire inspectors. Workers in this division conduct inspections of structures to prevent fires and ensure compliance with fire codes. These fire fighters also work with developers and planners to check and approve plans for new buildings. Fire prevention personnel often speak on these subjects in schools and before public assemblies and civic organizations.

Some fire fighters become fire investigators, who determine the origin and causes of fires. They collect evidence, interview witnesses, and prepare reports on fires in cases where the cause may be arson or criminal negligence. They often are called upon to testify in court.