

WHAT IS IT LIKE BEING A FIREFIGHTER?

A firefighter's day is not usually spent rushing from one huge blaze to the next. A firefighter responds to all types of emergencies whether it's a car accident, a cave-in at a construction site, a river rescue, or a spill of hazardous materials. Firefighters are trained to handle all of these, and more.

There is more to a firefighter's job than emergencies. Firefighters conduct safety inspections and public education (teaching adults and children to be fire safe). There are station and apparatus maintenance duties as well.

Firefighters need to maintain a constant level of readiness and physical fitness, so training is a priority. Training may include exercises such as drills with ladders and hoses, as well as classroom training.



SO WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A FIREFIGHTER?

The job of firefighter is attractive for many reasons. The fire department offers competitive pay and benefits, including a great retirement plan, and educational/training incentives.

For many, the work schedule of a firefighter is desirable. The work week is 56 hours and often allows two or more days off in a row.

There are many opportunities for advancement within the City of Stockton Fire Department. Promotional exams are given regularly and fire service employees are encouraged to participate upon meeting established minimum standards.

Good pay, good benefits, and opportunity for promotion are all excellent reasons for choosing the fire service as a career, but it is the thrill of firefighting itself that women firefighters love most about the job.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO FIGHT A FIRE?

It is physically demanding, sometimes frightening, and usually exhilarating. Wearing forty to fifty pounds of protective gear and dragging hose lines or carrying tools, firefighters put all they've learned to the test in an environment that is extremely hot, pitch dark with smoke, usually noisy and often confusing.

The rewards of a job well done are both personal and for the crew as a whole. As part of the firefighting team one has the tremendous satisfaction of having worked successfully together to carry out a difficult and important task.



The City of Stockton is looking for future firefighters. Consider a challenging career in the fire service

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

Some women are drawn to firefighting because they are interested in a physically demanding job. The intensity of active firefighting makes heavy demands on the firefighter's strength, endurance, and aerobic capacity. But firefighting isn't just mindless brute strength. It involves the special challenge of putting one's skills to the test in an emergency, of calling on all one's resources of mind and body to help resolve a crisis.

THERE IS MORE THAN JUST FIREFIGHTING.

The fire service isn't just about firefighting. There are other associated fields in addition to firefighting. You can become a paramedic, trained to bring highly technical lifesaving skills to the scene of a critically ill or injured person. You might wish to join the Hazardous Materials team, or water rescue team, or heavy rescue team.

You can also be trained to be a fire inspector or fire marshal enforcing the fire codes with the fire prevention division, or an arson investigator (an investigator who is trained to determine the cause of suspicious fires).

Women can and do serve in all of these roles, enjoying their work and performing well.

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WHY BECOME A FIREFIGHTER?

Women choose careers in firefighting for a number of reasons. For many, it's because they want a job that makes a difference. Many people would be heroes if given the chance; firefighters get that chance on a routine basis. It's their job to go into situations where people and property are in danger and use their strength, skills and equipment to eliminate that danger. Firefighting can be an exciting and highly rewarding career.



Stockton Fire Department



For more information contact:

City of Stockton

Human Resources Department 937-8233 or
visit us at our website www.stocktongov.com

WOMEN IN THE FIRE SERVICE



WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL DID YOU WANT TO BE A FIREFIGHTER?

A lot of little girls do. But if you answered "NO", it's no surprise. Most women firefighters would give you the same answer. Little girls in the past weren't given many career options.

But the fact is that there are now thousands of women in the United States and Canada who make their living as professional firefighters. In the last twenty years, firefighting has become a new and exciting career option for many women.