

# What Does a Firefighter Do?

There are many different people who help us in the emergency services. The fire brigade were formed after the Great Fire of London in 1666.

## Great firefighters are...

- brave
- strong
- healthy
- determined
- hardworking
- reliable
- trustworthy



They work long hours and some even work during the night, which keeps us safe while we sleep.

## What job does a firefighter do?

Firefighters are part of the emergency services. Their job is to keep everyone safe by putting out fires or using their equipment to cut strong metal to rescue people who are trapped.

## Where do they work?

Firefighters work in a fire station. Fire stations are all around the country so that they can get to everyone if they need any help. Firefighters travel to emergencies in their fire engine. The fire engine is painted bright red and has blue, flashing sirens so that it is easy to see.

## What do firefighters wear?

Firefighters wear special outfits that protect them from getting injured.

**Strong hat:** to protect their head from falling objects.

**Fireproof clothes:** to stop them from being injured when going into burning buildings.

**A light:** to help them see in the dark, smoky rooms.

**Radio:** to talk to one another and listen to instructions.



# What Does a Firefighter Do? Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. When was the fire brigade formed?

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2. Name two qualities that make a great firefighter.

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3. Why do firefighters have a radio on them?

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4. What time of day do firefighters work?

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5. What has blue, flashing sirens?

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6. Would you like to be a firefighter? Why?

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# What Does a Firefighter Do? **Answers**

1. When was the fire brigade formed?

**The fire brigade was formed after the Great Fire of London in 1666.**

2. Name two qualities that make a great firefighter.

**Firefighters need to be brave, strong, healthy, determined, hardworking, reliable and trustworthy.  
(Accept any two)**

3. Why do firefighters have a radio on them?

**Firefighters have a radio so that they can talk to one another and listen to instructions.**

4. What time of day do firefighters work?

**Firefighters work day and night, even when we are asleep.**

5. What has blue, flashing sirens?

**The fire engines have blue, flashing sirens.**

6. Would you like to be a firefighter? Why?

**Accept pupil's own well-reasoned responses.**

# What Does a Firefighter Do?

There are many different people who help us in the emergency services. The fire brigade work closely with the police force, paramedics and the coastguard to ensure that we are safe all of the time.

## Great firefighters are...

- brave
- strong
- fearless
- determined
- hardworking
- healthy
- reliable
- team players
- trustworthy



Firefighters need to be available 24 hours a day and normally work in 10 hour shifts. There will be firefighters working even when you are asleep at night!

## What roles and responsibilities do firefighters have?

The main role that a firefighter has is to respond to emergency situations and keep people safe. They respond to different emergencies including car accidents, flooding and fires. Firefighters are highly trained and work well as part of a team.

## Where do they work?

Firefighters are based in a fire station where they wait for an emergency call. While they are waiting they practise their skills, rest and clean the fire engines and the equipment. It is really important that all of the equipment is clean and ready to be used in an emergency.



## What do firefighters wear?

Firefighters have two different uniforms. The first is for when they are training and in the fire station. They also need to wear a protective uniform that ensures they are safe in an emergency situation.

Gas mask with oxygen tank to help the firefighter to breathe.

Hard, protective helmet with visor to protect their eyes.

Radio to talk to one another and listen to instructions.

A light to help them see in the dark, smoky rooms.

High visibility jackets and trousers that are non-flammable (do not catch fire).

Steel-reinforced boots to protect their feet.



# What Does a Firefighter Do? Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. If you dialled 999, which emergency services could you ask for?

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2. How long is a normal shift for a firefighter?

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3. What is a firefighter's main role?

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4. Why does a firefighter need a gas mask?

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5. Why is it tricky for firefighters to see in a fire?

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6. Why is it important for the equipment to be clean?

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7. Why do you think it is important for firefighters to work as part of a team?

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8. Would you like to be a firefighter? Why?

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# What Does a Firefighter Do? **Answers**

1. If you dialled 999, which emergency services could you ask for?

**If you dialled 999, you could ask for the fire service, the paramedics, the police force or the coastguard.**

2. How long is a normal shift for a firefighter?

**Firefighters normally work 10 hour shifts.**

3. What is a firefighter's main role?

**The main role that a firefighter has is to respond to emergency situations and keep people safe.**

4. Why does a firefighter need a gas mask?

**A firefighter wears a gas mask with oxygen tank to help the firefighter to breathe.**

5. Why is it tricky for firefighters to see in a fire?

**Fires create black smoke that would make it difficult to see.**

6. Why is it important for the equipment to be clean?

**It is important for the equipment to be clean so that it is ready to use in an emergency.**

7. Why do you think it is important for firefighters to work as part of a team?

**Firefighters need to work as part of a team to keep each other safe, rescue people quickly and minimise injury.**

8. Would you like to be a firefighter? Why?

**Accept pupil's own well-reasoned responses.**



# What Does a Firefighter Do?

Firefighters are extraordinary people, who are incredibly brave and strong. Firefighting is a dangerous and demanding job that calls for total teamwork: it can take several people just to hold a powerful fire hose working at full pressure.

## Vehicles used by the fire service:

The fire service use several different vehicles to respond to emergency calls. The fire engines are most commonly seen in emergencies. The engine can hold 1800 litres of water and carries rescue equipment to help those in trouble. Other vehicles include a motorbike that can easily reach emergencies quickly and a water response unit, which is a boat that can be deployed to reach people trapped in flooding. These amazing vehicles support the firefighters when carrying out their important jobs.



## What roles and responsibilities do firefighters have?

The main duties of a full-time firefighter are to help protect the public in emergency situations. They respond to a wide variety of calls, such as car accidents, chemical spills, flooding, water rescues and general rescues as well as fires.

## Where do they work?

Firefighters are based at a fire station. At the moment there are around 63 fire stations around the U.K. In-between alarms, firefighters must clean and repair their equipment. They practise firefighting skills, and they may perform fire inspections. Firefighting is a strenuous job, so they must exercise to keep fit. Firefighters need to be



able to lift people from a building if they are in danger.

### What do firefighters wear?

Firefighting is dangerous work. During a fire, floors can cave in and walls can topple. Flames and smoke can burn or seriously injure people. Firefighters may come in to contact with poisonous gases or other hazardous materials. To protect themselves, firefighters wear protective clothes that can be heavy and hot. The clothes are non-flammable, which means that they are fire-resistant. Firefighters wear a hard helmet which protects their head from falling objects and steel-reinforced boots so that their feet are safe from injury.

### How do you become a firefighter?

The Fire and Rescue Service requires hardworking and determined individuals. To become a firefighter, you need to pass strict medical and physical tests. You also need to take a written theory test. New firefighters are also encouraged to volunteer at their local fire station in order to gain some experience in the profession. Even when you are fully qualified, firefighters are always being trained in new firefighting techniques to ensure that they are ready for anything.



# What Does a Firefighter Do? Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

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2. Name two vehicles that the fire service use?

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3. How many fire brigades are there in the U.K?

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4. Name three different emergencies that the fire service may be called to.

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5. What do firefighters do whilst they are waiting for an emergency?

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6. Name two things that might be uncomfortable about their uniform.

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7. What does the word 'non-flammable' mean?

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8. What would be the hardest part of being a firefighter?  
Explain your answer.

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# What Does a Firefighter Do? **Answers**

1. How much water does a fire engine hold?

**A fire engine can hold around 1800 litres of water.**

2. Name two vehicles that the fire service use?

**The fire service use fire engines, motorbikes and water response unit boats.**

3. How many fire brigades are there in the U.K?

**There are around 63 fire brigades in the U.K.**

4. Name three different emergencies that the fire service may be called to.

**The fire service may be called to car accidents, chemical spills, flooding, water rescues and general rescues as well as fires.**

5. What do firefighters do whilst they are waiting for an emergency?

**Firefighters practise firefighting skills, and they may perform fire inspections. They also keep themselves fit and healthy.**

6. Name two things that might be uncomfortable about their uniform.

**A firefighter's uniform can be heavy and hot.**

7. What does the word 'non-flammable' mean?

**Non-flammable means it is fire-resistant and does not catch on fire easily.**

8. What would be the hardest part of being a firefighter? Explain your answer.

**Accept pupil's own well-reasoned responses.**