

# So you want to be a firefighter?



Everything you need to know about what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter with Essex Fire & Rescue Services.

## Basic Requirements

As with most jobs, firefighters must meet certain minimum requirements for the position. These include, but are not limited to:

- Valid Driver's License
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Physically able to perform tasks and duties of the job
- Able to commit to training
- Live and/or work near the response area
- No conviction of a criminal offense related to the job duties of a firefighter

## Training

Proper training is crucial to an effective fire service, and all members must be able to commit to a certain amount of training.

## Training Continued

As a new recruit, you will go through a set training and education process.

All new recruits will need to meet the performance objectives of the National Fire Protection Association's 1001 Level 1 Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications.

This training will take place over 12 months, with certification to follow. More details about the first year of training will be provided in the recruitment package if you are a suitable candidate for the position.

After the first year, you will also have the option to attend non-mandatory classes and advanced training workshops.

These include: First Aid, Air Brake, D Licence, Advanced Firefighter Survival, and Rapid Intervention.

## Expectations of a Firefighter

The most common questions we receive from potential firefighters centre on the expectations of the job. While the positions are part-time, firefighters are required to meet a minimum standard of attendance to training sessions and emergency calls. The following are a few statistics on time requirements for firefighters:

**84**

*number of hours in a year devoted to training and equipment maintenance*

**56**

*average number of minutes per emergency incident*

**116**

*average number of emergency calls in 2017 (varies by station)*

**100**

*average number of hours spent responding to incidents in a year*



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## Duties

The main duties of Essex Fire & Rescue Services firefighters include the following:

### Training

While new recruits go through a standard training process, it doesn't end there. Ongoing training is critical to firefighting.

### Fire Suppression

Types of fires can include structures, grass/bush, vehicles, and hazardous materials.

### Equipment Maintenance

Essential to firefighters having the knowledge and skill to safely use both protective and specialized equipment during emergencies.

### Fire Prevention

Fire prevention is the front line defense against the deadly effects of fire. These duties include Ontario Fire Code inspections and enforcement, and the distribution of public fire safety information.

## What's in it for you?

Many of our members enjoy the comradery and service to the community that comes with being a local firefighter. Other benefits of serving with Essex Fire and Rescue Services include:

- Gain valuable on-the-ground work experience, knowledge, and transferable skills.
- Work with new technology and learn about proper equipment maintenance.
- Protect your fellow citizens and be a community role model.
- Help educate young people and the broader community about fire safety and emergency preparedness
- Become a member of your Fire Station's Association, which hosts social functions and fundraising events for projects throughout the community.

## Wages

Firefighters with Essex Fire & Rescue Services are compensated for their time responding to calls and participating in training sessions.

\$55.18 per emergency call  
\$66.88 per training session  
\$65.80 per vehicle maintenance session

## Benefits

24 hour accident policy including off-duty coverage

\$175 uniform allowance

## Next steps

If you've decided that serving with Essex Fire and Rescue Services might be right for you, we invite you to attend one of our open houses or contact our recruitment team at the details below:

**FireRecruits@essex.ca**  
**519-776-7132**

