



The City of Waukesha Fire Department is a career department with 100 full time Firefighters and Officers. We are a group of professionals, working together to save lives and property. We provide fire suppression, technical rescue, county-wide hazardous material response, emergency medical services (basic [EMT] and advanced life support [paramedic]), as well as public education and inspection services. We respond from five- (5) fire stations, protecting approximately 72,000 citizens in a 23.5 sq. mile radius (approx.).

Firefighters receive approximately 200 hours of basic instruction over a five- (5) week recruit program and an additional 200 hours of education and performance evaluation over an 18-month probationary period. The annual starting pay for the position of firefighter is \$54,031 (2022 - 2024 labor agreement) with excellent fringe benefits that include medical/dental insurance, paid vacations, and a comprehensive pension package.

Career advancement opportunities are available in the areas of fire prevention, administration, suppression, and emergency medical. Firefighters can be promoted to the positions of equipment operator, fire lieutenant, and fire prevention inspector, to name a few.

### ***IS A CAREER IN THE FIRE SERVICE RIGHT FOR YOU?***

Today's firefighters are individuals who provide public safety services to the citizens of Waukesha. These firefighters fight fires, provide emergency medical services, and perform related public safety tasks, which may include the following essential functions:

1. Operating all types of fire and rescue equipment, including fire extinguishers, forcible entry tools, aerial ladder equipment, emergency medical equipment, and hose lines with nozzles.
2. Responding to emergency medical incidents, analyzing patient needs, and administering advanced emergency medical assistance.
3. Responding to a variety of general emergency rescue calls such as auto accidents, gas system leaks, and public assistance (helping the elderly and disabled individuals with a problem).
4. Performing search and rescue of individuals in hazardous environments including fire situations, collapsed buildings, automobile accidents, hazardous materials spills, and confined spaces.

Firefighters report to a Lieutenant who supervises and works alongside his/her Company. Each Company works a 24-hour shift, with rotating days off. Firefighters live at the fire station when they are on duty and perform additional station duties such as vacuuming, cooking, and cleaning. Just as with family members, good communication skills are a must while working in these close quarters.

### ***THE JOB OF A FIREFIGHTER***

Firefighting can be a hazardous occupation and such work can be extremely arduous at times. The tools of the trade are heavy, and firefighters must be able to repeatedly handle those implements over prolonged periods of time. Because fires spread rapidly, firefighters must work quickly. This urgency places a considerable burden on the firefighter's endurance.

Firefighting is always conducted while wearing heavy, protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus (weighing approximately 45 pounds), greatly reducing the body's ability to cool itself. The weight of the protective gear alone increases the difficulty of "routine" tasks by 33 percent, which underscores the importance of strength and stamina. Physical fitness (principally cardio-respiratory fitness) greatly influences how well and how safely firefighters can cope with the potentially dangerous heat stress.

Firefighting is periodically conducted in extremely hot and toxic environments. This greatly increases the physical and mental stress associated with performing otherwise routine firefighting tasks.

The firefighting entrance examination process is designed to ensure that those who are selected for entrance into recruit school possess the physical strength, stamina, and learning ability to successfully complete the weeks of intensive and strenuous training.