

I want to be a...Firefighter

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What do they do?

Firefighters are employed by municipal, provincial, and federal governments (and some are employed by large industrial establishments with internal firefighting services) and perform firefighting, fire prevention duties, and emergency assistance.

How much do they make per year?

In Canada, firefighters typically make between \$26.00 per hour and \$52.50 per hour, with median wage of \$41.21 per hour. This varies depending on the province you work at.

What can I do to become a Firefighter?

In Ontario, to be considered for an employment with a fire department, following is required:

- At least 18 years of age or older
- Legally entitled to work in Canada (i.e. Canadian citizen, landed immigrant)
- No criminal record
- Possess secondary school diploma (or academic equivalency)
- Possess Standard First Aid certificate and CPR level HCP (Health Care Providers) dated not more than 12 months prior to closing date of application (and maintained current within 12 months throughout the recruitment/selection process)
- Be able to speak, read, and write English fluently
- Be able to work under demanding, high-pressure environment
- Be able to work on rotating shifts (including nights, weekends, holidays)

Although qualifications may vary depending on the municipality or fire service, typical additional requirements are:

- Pre-Service Fire Fighter Education & Training Program Certification **OR** NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter I & II certified from an accredited program from a recognized institution, accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) or the Pro Board, **OR** OFM curriculum components 1,2, and 3 with examination certificate.
- Possess valid unrestricted Ontario Class “G” Driver’s Licence (with no more than 2 infractions / with no more than 6 demerit points).
- Some fire services may ask Ontario “D-Z” driver’s licence at time of application or within a timeframe of the hiring date.
- Be able to tread water or swim test.

What are some things I can do to increase my chances of getting hired?

- Volunteer in the community!
- Completion of higher-level first aid or medical training (e.g. first responder certification).
- Work experience in fire suppression, construction, trades, mechanical, emergency medical, large vehicle operation, or fire prevention related experience.
- Able to speak a second language fluently.

Useful Links:

- Ontario Fire Administration: <https://www.ofai.ca/>
- Fire Fighters Association of Ontario: <https://ffao.on.ca/>
- Toronto Fire Services Careers: <https://www.toronto.ca/home/jobs/information-for-applicants/recruitment-initiatives/toronto-fire-services-careers/>
- Ontario Colleges – Pre-Service Firefighting Education and Training: <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/programs/fire-justice-and-security/firefighting-fire-systems>