

## THE CAREER

After completing recruit training, new firefighters are assigned to one of the City's 36 engine houses. They work 24-hour shifts, from 8:00 a.m. one day until 8:00 a.m. the next, and then they have two 24-hour shifts off. The shift rotation continues without regard to weekends or holidays, though firefighters often arrange trades so that they may be off on days of particular importance to them.

Current salary range is **\$34,009** (minimum) to **\$57,387** (maximum). Firefighters receive regular pay raises, vacation and sick leave, tuition reimbursement for job related education, a uniform allowance, health and life insurance coverage, and an excellent pension plan. City of Milwaukee residency is required within six months after hire.

## PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As one gains experience, opportunities for advancement open up. Promotion to higher ranks is by competitive examination. Firefighters may become members of a special team, as specialists in dive rescue, technical rescue or hazardous materials emergencies. They may volunteer for paramedic training. They may take promotional examinations for heavy equipment

operator and become the drivers of the engines and ladder trucks and operators of the pumping and aerial equipment. They may take promotional examinations for lieutenant and assume supervisory responsibility for a company. Becoming a lieutenant is the first step in a career ladder, which can lead to captain, battalion chief, deputy chief – possibly all the way to fire chief.

## APPLICATIONS

Although Firefighters are employees of the Milwaukee Fire Department, the hiring agency is the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission. Applications were taken in March 2003. We may take applications again in 2008. Check the web site periodically for updated information.

City of Milwaukee  
Department of Employee  
Relations  
Fire and Police Commission  
200 E Wells St, Room 706  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
414-286-5000  
[www.milwaukee.gov/fpc](http://www.milwaukee.gov/fpc)



*The City of Milwaukee is an equal opportunity employer that values and encourages diversity.*

2007-08

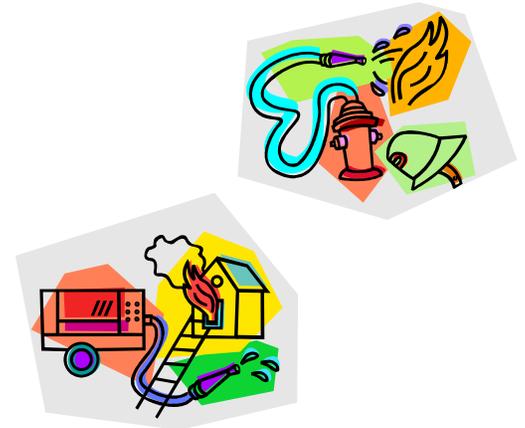
## IS THE FIRE SERVICE THE CAREER FOR YOU?

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*Think about a career as a  
Milwaukee Firefighter!*

*Watch our website for more information  
as the next application period draws near:*

[www.milwaukee.gov/fpc](http://www.milwaukee.gov/fpc)



*Department of  
Employee Relations –  
Fire and Police Commission  
City of Milwaukee*

*A career in the Fire Service can be both challenging and satisfying, but it is not the right choice for everyone. Think carefully about the information in this brochure, and take every opportunity to learn more about the Fire Service. You might wish to stop at a local fire station to talk with firefighters.*

## **FIREFIGHTING OVERVIEW**

Firefighting is a hazardous occupation. In addition to fighting fires, performing rescues and rendering emergency medical assistance, firefighters respond to situations involving chemical spills, building collapses, explosions, floods, tornados and electrical hazards.

Approximately three-quarters of the "runs" are medical. Firefighter recruits are trained and certified as Emergency Medical Technicians, responding when citizens call 911 because of an accident, injury or medical problem. They perform basic life support services, such as taking pulse and blood pressure, stopping bleeding, immobilizing patients, clearing breathing passages, and performing CPR.

As a Firefighter, one must have the ability to work as a team member. Teamwork reduces the potential for injuries and loss of life and increases effectiveness in handling emergency situations. They serve on duty for 24 hours at a time, sharing dormitory space and station house duties such as cooking, washing dishes, cleaning up, and scrubbing floors, as well as cleaning, checking, and testing vehicles and the equipment that they carry.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

Watch our website for more information:

[www.milwaukee.gov/fpc](http://www.milwaukee.gov/fpc)

## **THE SELECTION PROCESS**

The selection process is job related. Watch our website for more information:

[www.milwaukee.gov/fpc](http://www.milwaukee.gov/fpc)



## **RECRUIT TRAINING**

Recruits are Fire Department employees, working a 40-hour week and receiving a salary. One must pass recruit training and the remainder of the 16-month probationary period to become a permanent employee. Many seasoned firefighters will tell you that recruit training was the most exhausting and stressful period of their careers. They do not exaggerate. New recruits should be prepared for 18 weeks of the most strenuous, demanding, and tiring work that they have ever done before. They run, climb, and chop in heavy turnout gear, lift heavy ladders onto roofs, and crawl on their stomachs and backs while struggling with hoselines spewing water. They attend classes and study firefighting tactics and strategy, emergency medical techniques, and department policy.

