

Occupations in Firefighting

Protective Services

- > Battalion Chief
- > Fire Chief's Aide
- > Fire Inspector
- > Fire Marshall
- > Firefighter Supervisor
- > Firefighter Teacher
- > Forest Firefighter

Firefighting Facts

- In 1736, Benjamin Franklin organized the first volunteer fire-fighting society, called the Union Fire Company.¹
- Molly Williams, of New York City, is the first known female volunteer firefighter. In 1818, Molly fought fires wearing a calico dress and checked apron.²
- Judith Livers was hired in 1974 by the Arlington County, Virginia Fire Department, and was the first known female paid firefighter. In 1999, she retired with the rank of battalion chief.²
- According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2007, about 70 percent of fire companies were staffed entirely by volunteer firefighters.
- In 2008, direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$15.5 billion, nationally.³
- In Utah, there are 20 women firefighters in 9 departments, including four captains and one chief. Nationally, the total number of female firefighters and officers is 6,140.³
- Utah's Firefighter of the Year for 2010 was Marci Shaver-Adams, who serves as assistant fire chief in Woodland Hills, Utah.⁴

¹ Fun Facts About Firefighters and Their Gear, by Alexis Bega-Singer, http://www.ehow.com/about_5412324_fun-firefighters-gear.html

² Firefighter Central, http://www.firefightercentral.com/history/first_woman_firefighters.htm

³ Women in Fire Service, <http://www.wfsi.org/status01.html>

⁴ *Deseret News*, June 14, 2010, "Woodland Hills mother named top Utah firefighter"

Break free of the traditions and barriers that limit your choices.
What's stopping you? Be different! Try something new!
Is a nontraditional career in your future?

Talk to your school counselor
about a nontraditional career in STS.

www.UtahCTE.org



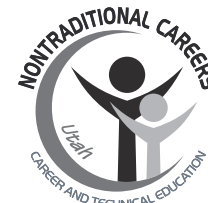
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Firefighting

A NONTRADITIONAL CAREER PATH FOR WOMEN



Break free of the barriers that limit your career choices.



SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES EDUCATION

Nontraditional Careers

Did you know a nontraditional career is any occupation in which women or men comprise 25 percent or less of its total employment?

Women in nontraditional occupations earn more money than those in female-oriented fields.

Choosing a nontraditional career path can mean:

- > Greater job satisfaction.
- > Higher wages and better benefits.
- > Great advancement opportunities.
- > Economic self-sufficiency.
- > Broader job opportunities.
- > Freedom to pursue a career related to your interests and abilities.

BREAK with tradition and explore a nontraditional career!

Firefighting as a Career

Firefighters help protect the public against dangerous situations by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a traffic accident or medical emergency, and may be called upon to put out a fire, treat injuries, or perform other vital functions.

Career and Technical Education Pathways

High school is a great time to try out a wide range of Career Pathways by enrolling in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. As an added bonus, you will be developing work related skills that can be put to immediate and profitable use.

CTE provides courses and Pathways consistent with industry training and certification, thus providing depth and meaning for both visual and hands-on learning and education that can be applied in today's job market.

Through participation in CTE, Skilled and Technical Sciences Education can guide you as you take courses in your chosen Pathway.

By taking an STS course, you will acquire essential technical and leadership skills, and learn how to properly use tools and equipment that will enable you to successfully work in your area of choice. You will also gain an important foundation of knowledge and skills necessary for continuing your education in STS.

Employment

Opportunities for employment are available in fire departments, public safety departments, and ambulance companies for firefighters, driver-operators, EMTs, arson investigators, fire marshals, and fire inspectors. Private industry positions are available for safety officers, fire marshals, fire inspectors, and emergency medical personnel.

In Utah, an entry-level position for a firefighter generally starts at an average hourly wage of \$8.00 or \$16,640 per year.¹ Increases in salary are based upon training and experience.

Working Conditions

Firefighters work in very dangerous conditions, under a high degree of stress. Firefighters work wearing up to 50 pounds of protective gear, including fire-resistant waterproof insulated pants, coat, leather gloves, steel-toed boots, fiberglass helmet, protective pressure mask, air-line and pressure gauge, and air tank. Some firefighters also wear a tool belt to carry additional tools.

4.8 percent of people employed as firefighters are women.²

Outlook

A growing trend of people living in cities has increased the demand for firefighters. As these areas develop and become more densely populated, more emergency personnel will be needed.

In Utah, the annual growth rate in this occupation is expected to be 2.1 percent through the year 2016, with employment totaling 2,380.¹

UtahFutures

Log on to UtahFutures.org to learn more about a career in firefighting. From the home page, click on the "occupations" option to find an occupation that interests you and link to the description for that occupation. (Refer to the sample list of occupations on the back of this page.) Check out employment opportunities, working conditions, outlook, skills and abilities, and wages for your selected occupation.

Is a nontraditional career in your future?



¹ Utah Department of Workforce Services

² Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, Nontraditional Occupations for Women in 2008