



Amanda May
Youth Trainer at
West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
AND on-call firefighter

I'm an on-call firefighter

"Just one person can make a huge difference"

Your local station is recruiting on-call (part-time) firefighters now. Find out what's in it for you and how you could be the person that makes a difference.



We are an equal opportunities employer. We actively encourage applications from all sections of the community. A diverse workforce helps us meet the needs of all the communities we serve.



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

How long have you been an on-call firefighter?

I've been an on-call firefighter for four years.

Why did you want to become an on-call firefighter?

I've always been involved in voluntary work. When I moved to live near an on-call fire station I thought it was a good way to not only help the local community, but to also learn some new skills and be paid for it.

What do you do in a typical week?

I respond to emergency calls and train for on an average four hours a week. This involves training with equipment so I'm operationally competent at all times, and keeping up with all the operational procedures. I test equipment to ensure it's ready when we attend incidents. I also help to keep the station tidy, and the fire engine and the appliance bay clean. During my two year probationary period I committed time to my studies.

What kind of commitment does it involve?

The job requires a lot of commitment, because of the hours that you're required to be available, on-call. You must also be committed to attending training sessions every week and any that take place at a weekend. In the first two years you're required to complete a probationary period, which involves completing a number of courses and assessments. You must also be committed to keeping yourself fit.

Does the requirement to live or work near your station place any limits on you?

Having to be no more than five minutes from your station whilst being on-call can limit what you do with your time. You can lose spontaneity, as life needs to be fairly planned.

What difference do you think on-call firefighters make to your community?

Without people who dedicate themselves to being on-call firefighters, the community wouldn't have a local fire station to respond to emergency calls quickly. This could result in loss of life or greater damage to properties. We also give some of our time to raise money for a range of charities, which helps the local station and firefighters integrate with the community.

Would you recommend this role to someone else and why?

I would recommend this role as it's great being part of a team. You learn practical, first aid and many other transferable skills which you can use in your other job and everyday life. Being in this role has helped me develop my self-confidence and has giving me a great sense of achievement. It helps you to become a respected member of the community.

How did you prepare yourself for the role?

Fitness is very important and mentally preparing yourself for the commitment you will be required to give.

What's the best and worst part of the job?

The best part is responding to emergency calls and being part of a team of dedicated people. The worst part is being tired during the day at work after a call in the middle of the night (but it's worth it).

Do you have any advice for others thinking of becoming an on-call firefighter?

Be prepared to be flexible and for the level of commitment that's needed. Ensure your family is willing to support you and can be flexible too.

Contact your local station to find out more or visit www.westyorksfire.gov.uk/careers

