



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?

More than 20 years.

What do you do when you're not working for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service?

I work for a plastics company as a team leader.

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

I spent a lot of time at the local on-call station when I was a child. I didn't realise you were paid to do the job. I thought it was something people did because they enjoyed it.

That's why I joined - for the love of it. Getting paid was a bonus. I like the way the fire and rescue service works. I like the discipline, it keeps me fit and I still get a buzz when the bleeper goes off. But I never wanted to become a wholetime firefighter because I like the variety of doing a different job too.

What do you do in a typical week?

We do four hours training and other tasks such as looking after the fire engine and checking fire kit. I make myself available to be on call in between shifts on my other job. I average around 42 hours a week in my other job and around 100 hours on call. But that's my choice - others make it work around them and their lives.

What kind of commitment does it involve?

It's a big commitment for you and your family. We are very lucky that we work well as a team and we work the on-call hours out between ourselves. But it's essential that you have an understanding family.

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

It can do, but you are getting paid for what you do. You have to be the sort of person who is committed.

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

They are a vital part of the community. I would hate to think the fire service was unavailable in my community because we couldn't find cover. The fire engine is there to serve the community and surrounding area. Just one person can make a huge difference.

Would you recommend this role to someone else and why?

Yes, I would not hesitate to recommend it. It is very rewarding and there's nothing better than knowing you have saved someone's life.

How did you prepare yourself for the role?

I have always been a very practical and hands-on person, so I was well suited to the job.

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

Making a difference to people's lives and the camaraderie among the people you work with. There's a great work ethic between all crews. The worst is dealing with incidents when people are involved, either fatalities or when people are hurt. Unfortunately, they do still occur, but thankfully not as much.

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

Don't take the decision lightly. It's a commitment to your community and it's a commitment for your family. But it's definitely worth it.

Contact your local station to find out more or visit

www.westyorksfire.gov.uk/careers