



How to become a **FIREFIGHTER**

The following lists the most encountered requirements to become a Firefighter. There are many variables and the requirements can differ from one fire department to the next. Today's Firefighters are also trained at a minimum as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), while some fire departments require Firefighters to also be Paramedics.

Minimum basic requirements:

- Age: 21-35 years
- Minimum Education: High School Diploma or High School Equivalency Certificate
- No Felony Criminal Convictions

Additional requirements utilized by some fire departments:

- EMT or Paramedic License
- Associate Degree or Bachelor Degree
- Certified with the Illinois State Fire Marshall as a Firefighter

Once the testing process for the Fire Department is complete, candidates are able to receive preference points. These points improve a candidate's position on an eligibility roster in the hiring process. Some examples of preference points that a fire department may award include:

- EMT and/or Paramedic license
- Certified with the Illinois State Fire Marshall as a Firefighter
- Associate Degree or a Bachelor Degree
- Functioning as a "Paid on Call", Part-Time, or Volunteer Firefighter
- Residency in Community

Recommendations:

- Complete your Associate Degree in Fire Science
- Become a Licensed EMT
- Become a Volunteer or "Paid on Call" Firefighter
- Consider Advancing Your Training by Becoming a Paramedic and Completing a Bachelor Degree

For more information, please call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3653.

