

# CAREER BRIEF

## (Grades 3-5)

### FIREFIGHTER



#### WHAT IS A FIREFIGHTER?

Firefighters put out and help control fires. They also help people during emergencies. Wildland Firefighters help put out wildland fires, which are fires that occur out in forests and other land areas.

#### WHAT DO FIREFIGHTERS DO?

- Put out fires using water hoses, fire extinguishers and water pumps
- Find and rescue victims in fires or during an emergency
- Drive emergency vehicles
- Treat sick/injured people or people having medical emergencies
- Keep their bodies in good shape and participate in exercises
- Clean and take care of firefighting equipment
- Wildland Firefighters use information and maps to predict when and where a wildfire may occur

**Fun Fact:** In 1736, Franklin Benjamin started the first fire company in Philadelphia

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- A high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Attend a fire academy for a few months (time varies by state)
- Pass a physical exam and written exam
- Additional medical training
- Leadership positions sometimes require a Bachelor's Degree and/or Graduate Degree

#### SKILLS

- Communication Skills: must communicate well with other firefighters and victims during an emergency situation
- Compassion: show empathy and calm people that are experiencing an emergency
- Courage: show bravery, but also keep themselves safe
- Problem-Solving Skills/Quick Decision Making: must make quick decisions during dangerous situations
- Physical Strength: must be able to carry heavy equipment or injured victims

***"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." -Nelson Mandela***