

L3 APPRENTICESHIP

OPERATIONAL FIREFIGHTER

Overview

Firefighters tackle a wide range of emergency situations where problem solving and initiative is vital to resolve incidents quickly and calmly. These situations vary from tackling fires, searching, rescuing and protecting people and animals, by sustaining/preserving their life to protecting life and the environment from the effects of fire, natural and human disasters and hazardous materials. (Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives). They also respond to incidents involving planes, trains, road traffic collisions and marine emergencies. When in attendance, they must adopt a sensitive approach to dealing with members of the public and casualties who may be distressed and confused.

Firefighters engage with the community to provide information, advice and guidance to individuals and groups around health, safety and well-being.

The working day could include theoretical and practical training along with testing and maintaining equipment to ensure operational preparedness. It is essential a firefighter is prepared and ready to respond at all times when on duty. Firefighters must be able to carry out physically demanding work; at height, in enclosed spaces, and outdoors - working in all weather and environmental conditions. They could be called upon to treat injured casualties and deal with fatalities.

Entry requirements

Employers may have a number of entry requirements to protect individuals and the community that may also restrict individual applicants. These could include geographical location (Response times); legal safeguards (e.g. Disclosure and Barring Service checks); age, medical and physical fitness including eyesight. A good level of aerobic and muscular endurance is needed. The age restriction is a minimum of 17 and half to submit applications. These requirements and selection tests will vary between organisations and may be subject to change and the decision to accept applicants will be made by the individual employer.

Who is the course for?

Firefighters could be employed in any of the fire services across England, the Armed Forces, Civil Aviation or within small private sector fire services that may be incorporated in other organisations such as manufacturers and engineering.

KEY INFORMATION

Typical Duration:
24 months + 3 months EPA

Taught Days:
Every other week in college,
alternate weeks work based
assessment

Delivery Location:
Truro

Funding value:
£12,000

(£600 employer contribution if
required)

Programme content

Knowledge

The Operational Firefighter will know and understand:

- How to engage with Communities to increase community safety and prevention awareness to prevent incidents from occurring and improve their health and wellbeing.
- The risks within their community and the methods that can be used to mitigate those risks.
- Appropriate methods of resolving fire and rescue emergency incidents using various fire extinguishing media (water, foam/chemical) and various rescue and extrication techniques (E.g. rope rescue, water rescue, rescue from height, confined spaces) etc.
- Fire science and behaviour, ventilation, hydraulics and principles of thermodynamics.
- Environmental protection by limiting the impact of an incident using a variety of techniques such as applying neutralising or absorbent agents and physical barriers.
- Using personal and respiratory protective equipment in hazardous environments.
- How to prepare, use and maintain specialist equipment and resources.
- Hazards and control measures across a range of emergencies.
- The principles of multi-agency working with stakeholders such as police and ambulance service in emergency situations
- How to operate specialist information communication and technology systems, e.g. mobile data terminals, radios.
- How to carry out emergency pre-hospital medical treatment and support (Non-medical professionals).
- The importance of maintaining their physical and mental wellbeing.

Skills

The Operational Firefighter will be able to:

- Carry out safe working practices in accordance with legal requirements as detailed within the knowledge section.
- Operate safely and effectively in emergency situations.
- Operate within an appropriate command and control system.
- Operate in hazardous environments using Breathing Apparatus.
- Safely resolve incidents involving hazardous materials, such as chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive substances. These will be resolved by stopping further harm and then removal of/clearing up the substance.
- Safely work at height.
- Safely work in, on or around water e.g. to conduct rescues or extract water for firefighting purposes.
- Extricate casualties from situations of entrapment.
- Interact with and influence community members and business to reduce risks.
- Take responsibility for effective performance within their role.
- Support the development of their colleagues.
- Use and maintain specialist equipment e.g. breathing apparatus, cutting equipment, aerial platforms.
- Extinguish fires safely and effectively in buildings, vehicles, wild land environments and following chemical spillages.
- Maintain physical fitness and mental wellbeing to ensure operational readiness.
- Solve problems by understanding, recalling, applying and adapting relevant information in an organised, safe and systematic way.
- Communicate effectively, through listening, writing, speaking and presenting information.



Behaviours

The Operational Firefighter should demonstrate the following behaviours, personal qualities and attributes:

- A commitment to integrity and diversity, understanding and adopting a fair and ethical approach and treating others with courtesy and respect.
- Embrace and promote the values of the organisation.
- Confidence and resilience within the role in highly challenging and changing situations, demonstrating reliability, adaptability, responsibility and accountability to the organisation.
- Commitment to development, both within oneself and others.
- Situational awareness by maintaining an active awareness of the working environment to ensure a safe, secure and compliant working culture.
- Commitment to excellence, by adopting a conscientious and proactive approach to work to achieve and maintain excellent standards with a motivation to succeed.
- Work collaboratively with others, both internally and externally.
- Have a positive attitude to carrying out of their own role, exercising self-discipline and working with others and the community.

Gateway

The Apprentice will move through the assessment gateway to the EPA (End Point Assessment) when they have completed all on programme training. The EPA will take place in the last 3 months of the apprenticeship. The employer, will formally review, agree and sign off that the Apprentice has met the minimum requirements of the knowledge, skills and behaviours within the standard and confirm that the Apprentice is ready to progress to the EPA. Achieve Level 2 in Maths and English if not already achieved.

End point assessment

EPA methods

- Knowledge test
- A practical observation
- A professional discussion/structured interview based on the content of the portfolio

Contact information

For further information, please call our Business Relations Team on 01872 242711 or email apprenticeships@truro-penwith.ac.uk



* A guide to GCSE grading and Functional Skills

Department for Education

GCSE Grading	
New Grading Structure	Old Grading Structure
9	A*
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

Standard Pass → 4

Functional Skills are equivalent to GCSE's, the table below shows the comparison

Entry Level 1	GCSE below G or Level 1
Level 1	GCSE D-G or level 1-3
Level 2	GCSE A* - C or level 4-9