

# Firefighter Job Security & Work Schedule

## JOB SECURITY

One of the things that we discuss in our seminars and talks to prospective firefighters is the job security the position of a firefighter offers for yourself and your family. Did you know that 99.7% of all firefighters ever hired are never laid off? In today's changing economic situation, how many jobs can boast that statistic? How many people do you know that have been working for a company for 10, 15 or 20 years and suddenly the company is bought out and their job is eliminated? Once you have worked hard to obtain this job, it is yours for a lifetime. You have financial security, medical benefits for you and your family, an early retirement plan – these are all benefits that not many jobs today can offer. The average firefighter salary range is \$50,000- \$65,000 with hospitalization and a retirement plan after 25 years of service or the age of 48. How many people do you know who can retire at the age of 48? Most people have to wait until they are in their 60's before they can think about retiring comfortably. The process of becoming a firefighter involves taking a written examination, physical agility exam, psychological exams, medical and background checks, and oral interview.

## WORK SCHEDULE

The work schedule of a firefighter consists of two 24-hour days per week, for an average of 8 days per month. With this schedule, a firefighter has an average of 5 days off per week. Listed below you will find an average month's schedule for a firefighter, with the days in red being scheduled workdays and the other days representing days you have off during the month.

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Normally every 3 weeks, a firefighter is given an additional day off. We use Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, as an example for this month's schedule.

Because of the many days firefighters normally have off during a month, many firefighters maintain a second job to supplement their income. Many firefighters easily can make as much money on their day off as they do on the job as a firefighter. These second careers consist of salesmen, ambulance drivers, accountants, landscapers, contractors, attorneys – you name it, a firefighter does it on their day off.