

FOCUS ON FIREFIGHTERS

1 OF 6

Houston Gulf Coast Region*

A CAREER IN FIREFIGHTING:

For the Courageous and Compassionate

Many of us are taught early in life that wanting to help others in distress is natural and decent, and often requires courage. Fortunately, there are careers for people willing to help others on a regular basis, and firefighting is a prime example of a career requiring a person to always be ready to take on an emergency.

So, what are the benefits of a firefighting career?

- Entry qualifications are fairly easy to meet
- Firefighters typically have a large number of days off in the week, which enables them to pursue many other life interests
- Most large departments offer medical benefits
- Most firefighters are able to retire at an early age

Firefighters must be physically, mentally and emotionally resilient. The work can involve lifting persons, carrying equipment up and down stairs, and long nights with no rest. The Gulf Coast region, with its large and rapidly growing population, employs a large number of firefighters — making it a great career choice.



INDUSTRIAL FIREFIGHTERS

While the largest percentage of firefighters work at municipal and volunteer fire departments, the Gulf Coast region's high concentration of manufacturing plants opens up additional opportunities as industrial firefighters. Industrial firefighters are specialized requiring specific knowledge for the particular plant they protect. They must know what hazardous chemicals they are dealing with, the layout of the plant, as well as how to shut down manufacturing processes and pressure lines.



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Latest data available. May 2011.

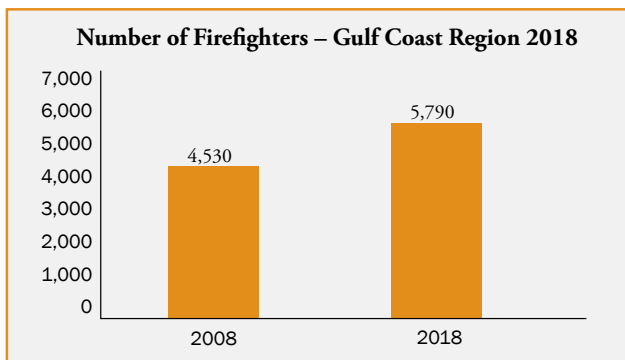
*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.


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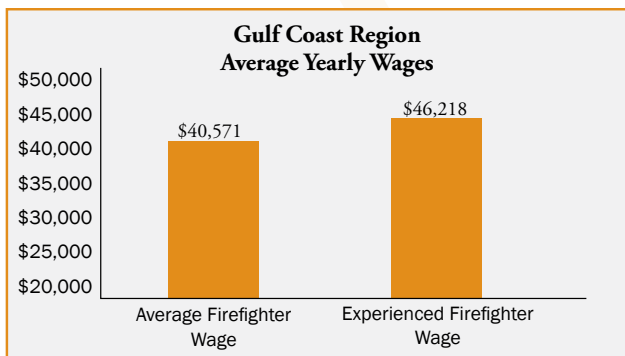
WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

Wildland firefighters are another type of specialty firefighter who protects the forests, plains, piney woods, mountainous and wilderness areas. Wildland firefighters work in extreme conditions for long periods of time and the job requires the individual to be away from home for lengthy periods and be on call. When not fighting fires the job entails preventive measures such as brush disposal and thinning, controlled burns, and many other tasks.

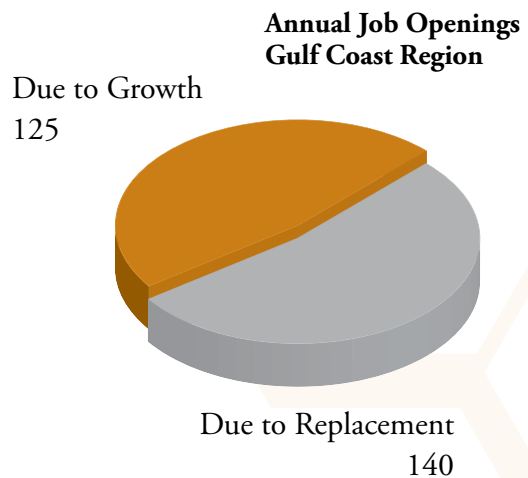
THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS IS EXPECTED TO GROW BY MORE THAN 1,000 FROM 2008 TO 2018 IN THE GULF COAST REGION.



WHILE THE AVERAGE FIREFIGHTER EARNS MORE THAN 40,000 A YEAR, EXPERIENCED FIREFIGHTERS EARN MORE THAN 46,000 PER YEAR.



THE GULF COAST REGION NEEDS TO TRAIN NEARLY 300 NEW FIREFIGHTERS A YEAR, AS MANY ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING RETIREMENT!



PLAN EARLY FOR A FIREFIGHTING CAREER.

The typical firefighting job has an educational requirement ranging from some college to an associate's degree. It is becoming more and more common for successful candidates to have some type of associate's degree. Candidates also have to meet a number of other criteria such as background checks, credit checks, and successful completion of a fire academy, basic firefighter certification, and emergency medical technician (EMT) certification. Anyone seriously interested in the profession must do some homework. Seek additional information early on from federal, state, and local fire departments you are interested in.

Competitions for full-time positions are stiff. Early preparation for a career in firefighting makes your application stand out when applying for a job. High school preparation should encompass mathematics, accounting, and computer applications.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Basic firefighter certification by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, <http://www.tcfp.state.tx.us/>
- Texas EMT (basic paramedic) certification, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/certinfo.shtm>



PREPARING FOR A FIREFIGHTER CAREER*

9th Grade		Suggested Coursework	
	English I	World Geography	Career-Related Electives: Introduction to Criminal Justice or Introduction to Health Science Technology or Fire Science Technology
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Health/PE or Equivalent	
10th Grade		Suggested Coursework	
	English II	World History	Career-Related Electives: Emergency Communications or Health Science Technology or Fire Prevention Services or Fire Service Hydraulics or Firefighter Health and Safety or Technology Systems (Modular Based Lab)
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Chemistry	Technology Applications	
11th Grade		Suggested Coursework	
	English III	United States History	Career-Related Electives: Criminal Investigation or Fundamentals of Criminal Law or Firefighter I or Crime in America
	Algebra II	Communication Applications	
	Physics	PE or Equivalent	
12th Grade		Suggested Coursework	
	English IV	Government/Economics	Career-Related Electives: Energy, Power and Transportation Systems or Courts and Criminal Procedure or Firefighter II
	Precalculus	Fine Arts	
	Environmental Systems		

*Source: AchieveTexas.org

GULF COAST REGION

CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FACILITIES*

- Baytown Fire & Rescue
- College of the Mainland
- Cy-Fair College
- Houston Community College System
- Houston Fire Dept.
- Liberty Fire Dept.
- Little York Fire Dept.
- Lone Star College System
- Pearland Fire Dept.
- San Jacinto College
- Sugar Land Fire Dept.
- Texas A&M University TEEX (Texas Engineering Extension Service)
- The Woodlands Fire Dept.
- Webster Fire Dept.
- West Gulf Maritime Association
- Wharton County Junior College

**Certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection*



COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFERING EMT TRAINING

- Alvin Community College
- Brazosport College
- College of the Mainland
- Galveston College
- Houston Community College System
- Lee College
- Lone Star College System
- San Jacinto College
- Wharton County Junior College

MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

CITY

- City of Angleton
- City of Baytown
- City of Bellaire
- City of Conroe
- City of Freeport
- City of Friendswood
- City of Galena Park
- City of Galveston
- City of Houston
- City of Humble
- City of Lake Jackson
- City of League City
- City of Missouri City
- City of Pasadena
- City of Pearland
- City of Richmond
- City of Rosenberg
- City of Sugar Land
- City of Texas City
- City of Tomball

OTHER EMPLOYERS (SOME MAY REQUIRE RELOCATION)

- National Park Service
- Texas Forest Service
- The Port of Houston Authority
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service



MAJOR MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

- Chevron Phillips
- Conoco Phillips
- Dow Chemical
- Dupont
- Shell Oil
- Valero

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Texas Relay Numbers:

1-800-735-2989(TDD) • 1-800-735-2988(VOICE) • 711

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