TIME FOR KIDS

A Day in the Life of a

FIREFIGHTER



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On the Way!

"RRRrrr RRRrrr!" the fire truck cries as it races down the street. Everyone makes way. The **firefighters** are on their way to put out a fire. They are the heroes of the day.



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Bucket Brigade

The first "fire trucks" in the 1600s were made of tubs on long poles, wheels, or sled runners. Firefighters put out fires using a **bucket brigade**. They lined up, filled buckets from the tub, and passed the buckets along the line. The last person in line threw the water on the fire.



This 1809 bucket brigade is similar to the one described in the text above. But rather than a tub at one end, they used a water pump.

Getting Ready

Firefighters are very busy. They can be called to a fire at any time of day or night. They must be ready at all times in case of an **emergency**.



▲ a controlled-burn training exercise



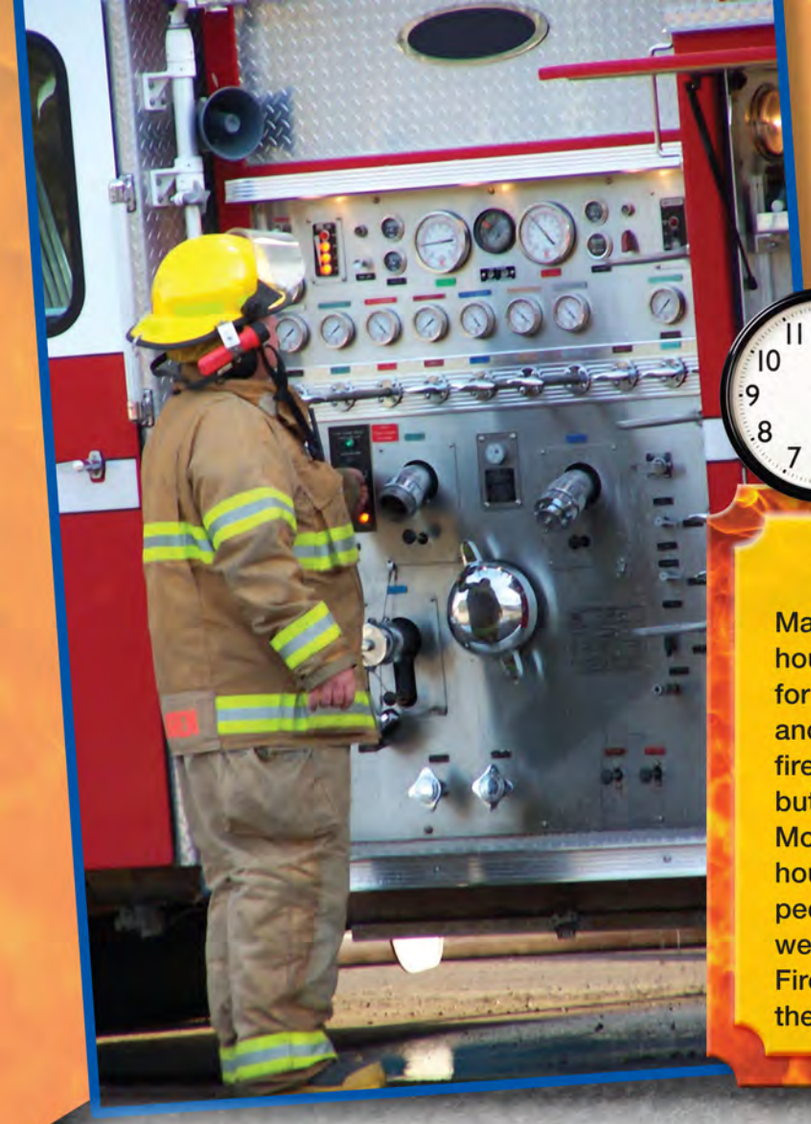
the kitchen ➤ in the fire station

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Some firefighters live part of the time at the fire station. They pack their things, leave their families at home, and go to the fire station. They have beds, bathrooms, and a kitchen there. They also have rooms for relaxing. If there is no fire, they get to sleep at night.

▼ relaxing in the fire station lunchroom





This firefighter is checking the **gauges** on the fire truck.



Hard Work

Many firefighters work for 24 hours at a time. They go home for 48 hours and then back for another 24-hour **shift**. Other firefighters work long hours but sleep at home each night. Most firefighters work more hours each week than other people do. They often work on weekends and holidays, too. Fires can start at any time, so they must be ready.

When the firefighters are settled at the station, they check the **equipment** and the fire trucks. They check the **nozzles** on the hoses to be sure they are clear and working. They check the engine to be sure there is enough gas and oil. They must also make sure there is air in the tires.



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A Firefighter's Day

A firefighter's day might look something like this.

7:00 A.M.	Wake up, eat breakfast, and head to the fire station.
8:00 A.M.	Arrive at the station.
8:30 A.M.	Walk through the station and check the equipment.
11:00 A.M.	Do a safety presentation at an elementary school.
12:00 P.M.	Eat lunch at the station.
1:00 P.M.	Check for fire safety at a local restaurant.
1:30 P.M.	Do training exercises.
3:30 P.M.	The alarm goes off. An emergency can happen at any time!
5:30 P.M.	Go back to the station. Clean and check the equipment.
6:30 P.M.	Take a shower.
7:00 P.M.	Eat dinner and relax.
10:00 P.M.	Go to bed. Be ready if another call comes in.