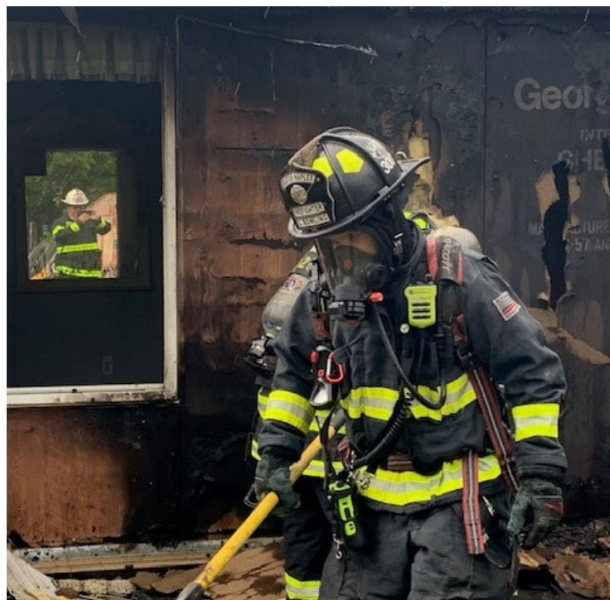# Becoming a Greater Naples Firefighter
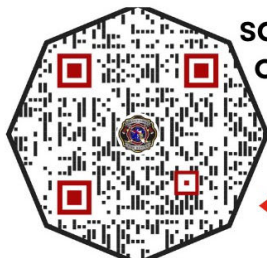
SO YOU WANT TO BE A FIREFIGHTER?

FIRST THINGS FIRST

- MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD
- MUST HAVE A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
- HAVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED
- BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION
- STAY OUT OF TROUBLE
- KEEP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA CLEAN
- GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY
- CHECK OUT THE FL FIREFIGHTER MINIMUM STANDARDS CERTIFICATION
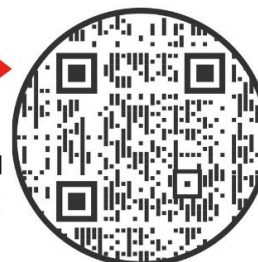
THINK YOU'RE READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

- ATTEND FIRE ACADEMY & EMT SCHOOL
- PASS A WRITTEN EXAM
- PREPARE FOR A PSYCH EVALUATION
- BE SMOKE-FREE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR
- CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO ON THE GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

SCAN HERE FOR INFO ON FLORIDA'S FIREFIGHTER MINIMUM STANDARDS CERTIFICATION

Examples of agencies/facilities that provide the Firefighter Minimum Standards training/classes to become a Certified Florida State Firefighter – list is NOT all inclusive nor an endorsement for any particular institution

Florida State Fire College:

https://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfst/standards/fire-certifications/certification---florida-firefighter

https://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfst/standards

Florida Southwestern State College:

https://www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/certfireacademy

Valencia College:

https://valenciacollege.edu/locations/school-of-public-safety/fire-rescue-institute/academy-fire-fighter-minimum-standards-course.php

Palm Beach State College:

https://www.palmbeachstate.edu/career-pathways/pathway-public-safety/default.aspx

Marion Technical College:

https://mariontc.edu/program/firefighter/

Miami Dade College:

https://www.mdc.edu/justice/fire-science/fire-fighter-certification.aspx

How To Become a Firefighter in Florida: A Step-By-Step Guide

Firefighters respond to fires and other emergency situations to protect people and property. If you live in Florida and plan to pursue this career path, you may want to learn about the steps you can take to become a firefighter and find employment in the state. Learning more about the training and certification requirements for becoming a firefighter in Florida can help you determine if this career path aligns with your professional goals.

In this brochure, we explain how to become a firefighter in Florida, list some helpful skills to develop and answer other frequently asked questions to help you make a decision about your future career.

How to become a firefighter in Florida

Here are some steps to follow to become a firefighter in Florida:

1. Meet community requirements

Each community in Florida might have slightly different minimum requirements for aspiring firefighters. Many require candidates to be 18 years old and have their high school diploma or GED equivalent. Florida also requires that candidates pass a background check before pursuing firefighter training. Research fire departments in areas of Florida where you want to work and make sure you meet their requirements. Some other qualifications to pursue this career may include:

- Possessing a valid Florida driver's license

- Maintaining a current CPR or Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certification

- Passing a physical examination

2. Fulfill training requirements

The state of Florida requires aspiring firefighters to complete coursework to prepare for certification. Known as the Firefighter Minimum Standards Course, it consists of two parts that help educate you about different firefighter functions. The first part takes 206 hours, known as contact hours, to complete. It includes education about:

- Fire service safety

- Building construction

- Protective clothing

- Building search

- Forcible entry tools

- Public fire education

The second part of the training program consists of 192 contact hours that educate you about incident management, rescue tools, vehicle extrication, hydrant flow, foam fire systems and incident reports. After completing the training program, you can demonstrate your knowledge of fire department procedures, tools and equipment.

3. Complete firefighter certification

Upon completion of all coursework, you can take the exam to receive your firefighter certification in Florida. If you already have a firefighter certification from another state, you may be eligible for certification in Florida. At a minimum you will need to apply to challenge the State of Florida Minimum Standards test. The state exam tests individuals on firefighter safety, training and Florida state standards. The testing process consists of a 100 question written exam as a practical exam.

4. Obtain an EMT certification

Fire agencies in Florida often prefer to hire firefighters with basic EMT certification. This certification can help you respond to medical emergencies and provide comprehensive care to individuals until other medical providers arrive at an incident. Earning this certification can also help reinforce concepts from your training programs, such as incident management, victim removal and special victim rescue techniques. Requirements to complete this certification program may include:

- Being 18 years or older

- Completing a state-recognized training program

- Obtaining and maintaining CPR certification

- Passing the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination

Firefighter skills

Developing a variety of firefighter skills can help you improve your capabilities and gain the attention of potential employers. Here are some skills that many firefighters use regularly:

Reliability

The community and employers rely on firefighters to be available for medical or fire emergencies. Being reliable can also boost your professional reputation and enable you to better meet the needs of the community. Some ways to improve your reliability include:

- Managing your commitments

- Developing your time management skills

- Refining your communication skills

- Remaining honest and truthful

- Respecting your and others' time

Team collaboration

Firefighters work together to assess fires, safety and building integrity. This teamwork involves communicating effectively and respecting the input from others about a situation. Team collaboration can improve your effectiveness as an individual and as a team, which can have a positive effect on the community's safety.

Compassion

Firefighters often care for others in fire or medical emergencies, and they consider the needs of others before their own. Having compassion during these situations can help victims remain calm and enable firefighters to perform their duties or provide effective medical care. Some ways to develop your capacity for compassion include:

- Exhibiting kindness to others
- Listening to others
- Envisioning yourself in another's situation
- Practicing self-compassion

Dedication

Being dedicated allows you to stay motivated to complete training and certification programs over several months. With dedication, you can achieve your ultimate goal of becoming a firefighter in Florida. After you've completed your firefighter certification, this skill can also help you provide compassionate care to victims and support effective firefighting services in the community.

Physical stamina

Physical stamina is an important attribute to develop because this career is often physically demanding in its responsibilities. Many firefighters work long shifts or respond to labor-intensive incidents that require physical stamina. Some ways to further develop your stamina include:

- Exercising regularly
- Sustaining a healthy diet
- Maintaining a regular work-rest cycle

Frequently asked questions

What does a firefighter do in Florida?

Firefighters in Florida perform a variety of duties daily to help them maintain firefighting equipment and respond to emergencies within their communities. In recent years, the majority of calls to firefighters have become medical in nature due to improved building materials and

effective public education about fire danger. Firefighters often provide medical assistance by assisting paramedics or acting as [first responders](#).

While a firefighter's exact duties can vary, here are some tasks they perform regularly:

- Extinguishing fires

- Providing medical aid to citizens

- Evaluating building safety

- Conducting facility inspections

- Preventing fire damage

- Responding to emergency incidents

How much do firefighters earn in Florida?

The average base salary for firefighters in Florida is [$44,819 per year](#). The salary you earn as a firefighter in Florida can vary based on the city where you work, your experience level and your individual certifications. As a firefighter, you may receive employment benefits that contribute to your compensation, such as:

- Dental insurance

- Flexible schedules

- Health insurance

- Paid time off

What's the job outlook for firefighters in Florida?

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a job outlook of [4 % growth](#) for firefighters by 2031, which is the average outlook for most occupations in that time period. Currently, Florida has the [third-highest level](#) of firefighter employment among all states in the country, according to BLS data. Firefighters in Florida may continue to find employment as others exit the workforce or transition to other career fields.

How To Become an EMT in Florida (Steps and Certifications)

Emergency medical technicians or EMTs are essential workers who provide lifesaving care to patients in emergency situations. Becoming an EMT is often a rewarding career path for driven individuals who want a job that allows them to make a difference. If you live in Florida and want to become an EMT, it might be helpful to learn more about the steps required.

In this article, we discuss the role of EMTs, how to become an EMT in Florida, certifications for this position and tips for success.

What do EMTs do?

EMTs are responsible for providing emergency medical care for patients. This usually happens on the scene of an injury or in an ambulance on the way to a hospital. EMTs receive training that allows them to stabilize patients until they can receive care from a physician or surgeon. These are some common duties for EMTs:

- Administering CPR
- Controlling hemorrhage
- Assisting with emergency childbirth
- Administering emergency and intravenous medications
- Assessing patients at the scene of an incident
- Providing stabilizing care
- Collaborating with doctors, nurses and first responders
- Transporting patients safely to medical centers

How to become an EMT in Florida

EMTs provide life-saving care, and it's important for them to receive excellent training. The state of Florida has several distinct requirements for becoming an EMT, including:

1. Enroll in an approved training course

The first step to becoming an EMT in Florida is completing an EMT training course. These programs generally last a few months and teach future emergency medical personnel the skills they need to provide effective patient care. Courses vary by course but generally include things like anatomy, pharmacology, airway management, CPR and resuscitation, hemorrhage control, bandaging and splinting, patient assessment, behavioral and psychiatric emergencies, head and spine injuries and pregnancy and neonatal care.

Before you enroll in a course, make sure that it is properly accredited and approved by the Florida Department of Health. EMTs also need a CPR certification, which they may earn during their EMT training or before. The state of Florida accepts American Red Cross and American Heart Association CPR licenses for healthcare providers, as well as some equivalent certifications from other organizations.

2. Pass the EMT written exam

After you complete your EMT training, you're eligible to apply for the EMT licensing exam. In Florida, candidates are required to pass a test administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). This is a written test that includes around 70 to 120 questions, and students have two hours to complete it. If you don't pass, you can retake the test after 15 days, and candidates are allowed to attempt the exam six times before they require extra training.

When you're ready to apply for testing, go to the NREMT website and set up an account. You can then fill out the online application and pay the application fee. Once the NREMT verifies your training and eligibility, you can schedule and complete the test online.

3. Complete a physical and cognitive exam

Aside from the written exam, candidates in Florida also take a psychomotor or practical exam. This is a hands-on test that measures a candidate's ability to apply their skills in the real world. While this test is required by the NREMT, Florida is responsible for administering these tests to its EMT candidates. The psychomotor exam tests skills like splinting, oxygen administration, bleeding control, fracture and dislocation immobilization and ventilation.

4. Apply for a license

Once you pass the required exams, you can apply for your state EMT license. Start by going to the Florida Health website and creating an account. To apply for your license, you need a copy of your NREMT certificate, a copy of your EMT course completion certificate and your CPR license. Since EMTs work with vulnerable populations, it's important for them to have clean criminal records. Before you can apply for a license, complete a background check through your EMT training [program coordinator](#).

Once your background check clears, you can log back into the Florida Health website using your account details. You can then complete the application using the available portal. In most cases, candidates receive their licenses in around 10 to 13 days. Note that there is a $35 fee that candidates have to submit before they can send their applications.

5. Renew your license

Like other medical licenses, EMT certifications expire every two years. Florida requires EMTs to complete a 30-hour education course before every renewal. This ensures that EMTs maintain a high level of expertise and learn about recent developments in emergency care. Once the education course is complete, candidates can apply for license renewal through Florida Health.

Certifications for EMTs in Florida

All EMTs in Florida are required to have both a state-issued EMT license and a CPR certification. Additionally, individuals with a paramedic license in the state can work as EMTs if they choose. Here is an overview of these three certifications:

State EMT certification

The state EMT license is the standard credential for EMTs in Florida. The Florida Department of Health manages the application and licensing process and provides eligibility guidelines for aspiring EMTs. Earning this certification involves completing an EMT training course, passing a background check, earning a CPR certification, passing written and psychomotor examinations and submitting an application.

State paramedic certification

Paramedics have a higher standard of training than EMTs, although many of their duties are similar. Because of this, Florida allows individuals with a state paramedic license to work as EMTs. Like the EMT certification, paramedics earn their credentials through the Florida Department of Health. To earn this certification, candidates have to complete an approved paramedic training course, pass the NREMT written exam, complete a practical examination, have a clean criminal record and submit an application through Florida Health.

CPR certification

Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is an important, life-saving skill for emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Because of this, earning a CPR certification is an important part of EMT training. Many organizations offer CPR licenses, including the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross. It's important to understand that there are different types of CPR certifications, and EMTs require a CPR certification for medical service providers.

Tips for becoming an EMT in Florida

Becoming an EMT is a rewarding career path, but can pose some challenges. Here are a few tips to help you succeed in your journey:

- **Choose a reputable program:** Before you choose a training program, be sure to check the Florida Health website and see if it's approved by the state. It might also be helpful to speak with other medical providers and ask them whether your chosen program has a solid reputation and good training outcomes.

- **Find a mentor:** EMT training can be challenging, and finding a mentor may make the process easier for new candidates. If possible, get to know a licensed EMT or paramedic and seek advice on completing the training course and finding a job.

- **Continue your education:** Medical technology evolves quickly, and it's important to be aware of developments in your field. Continuing your education can also make it easier to renew your license when it expires.

- **Consider becoming a paramedic:** If you're interested in continuing your medical education and taking on greater responsibilities, you can go on to become a paramedic. Many individuals work as EMTs for several years to gain experience before undergoing the additional training required to change careers.

Salary and job outlook for EMTs in Florida

As an EMT in Florida, there are a wide variety of factors that could affect your salary, including your location, experience level and employer. According to Indeed, EMTs in the state of Florida earn an average salary of [$41,148 per year](#)

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), EMTs are part of a growing industry. The BLS predicts an increase of 7% in demand for EMTs and Paramedics between 2021 and 2031, which is faster than the average rate across all industries.