



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Public Service & Safety



Firefighters

Standard Occupational Code 33-2011

What They Do

Control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk. Duties may include fire prevention, emergency medical service, hazardous material response, search and rescue, and disaster assistance.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Work Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Initiative — A tendency to be proactive and take on extra responsibilities and tasks that may fall outside of one's required work role.

Self-Confidence — A tendency to believe in one's work-related capabilities and ability to control one's work-related outcomes.

Adaptability — A tendency to be open to and comfortable with change, new experiences, or ideas at work.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Problem Sensitivity
- Oral Comprehension
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Deductive Reasoning
- Far Vision
- Oral Expression

Work Activities

- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials
- Assisting and Caring for Others

Education & Training

For paid employment as a firefighter, some postsecondary education in fire science or emergency medical services is recommended. Volunteer experience as a firefighter is helpful. Prospective firefighters must pass written and physical tests, complete interviews, and train at a fire academy. Additionally, fire departments may require firefighters to have other credentials, such as emergency medical technician (EMT) certification.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of firefighters are:

- Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals
- Administrative and Support Services
- State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals
- Federal Government
- Self Employment

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,393	1,461	68	4.9%	113	\$48,160	\$51,180

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

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