

# Female firefighters



Firefighting is a rewarding and challenging career for everyone. Historically firefighting has been viewed as a career for males only, but increasingly there is a greater representation from females in fire services' globally. We actively encourage females to consider a career in the MFS and you may find the following information helpful when determining if a career as a firefighter is suitable for you.

## More than just fires

Firefighters attend fires, road crash rescue, Hazmat, vertical rescue, first aid, natural disasters, and other emergency call outs. Firefighters also attend educational visits at schools, complete building inspections, and participate in community events.

## Keeping fit

Physical fitness plays a large part in the life of a firefighter. Women and men must reach the same standard of fitness to be employed as a firefighter. Women and men are expected to respond to all emergencies and both must be capable of performing any task required of them. Although a strong level of fitness is required to be a firefighter, this level is not unattainable. Whilst on shift, firefighters are allocated time to maintain their required fitness levels in the station gym.

## Family life

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is important in any career. At metropolitan MFS stations firefighters work two, 10 hour days followed by two, 14 hour nights, followed by four days off. In Port Pirie firefighters work a 24 hour shift followed by 3 days off, and in Mount Gambier firefighters work four day shifts followed by four days off. All firefighters have to be prepared to work weekends and public holidays. There are limited positions available in our Operational Training Relief (OTR) crews. OTR firefighters work four days per week without nightshift and are not required to work weekends.

Firefighters are entitled to up to 18 weeks paid Maternity Leave and up to 12 months leave after having a child. After this they can return to their previous role as a firefighter. Whilst pregnant, firefighters are offered a range of non-hazardous duties. Paternity leave is also available for four days for eligible firefighters.

## At the station

Privacy is offered at all stations. All shower and toileting areas have lockable doors and privacy is available in changing areas. Most suburban stations have individual sleeping quarters, although Adelaide station has dorm style accommodation with privacy screens.

## The culture

The MFS is encouraging and accepting of diversity. Like any organisation, firefighters are expected to display the highest standards of behaviour and treat each other with respect and tolerance.

For information on eligibility and the recruitment process please visit the MFS website [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)



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