

# **RETAINED FIREFIGHTER FAQS**

## **At which stations do you have Retained Firefighters?**

Bathgate, Whitburn, Linlithgow, Broxburn, West Calder, Livingston, South Queensferry, Haddington, Tranent, East Linton, North Berwick, Dunbar, Penicuik, Peebles, Innerleithen, West Linton, Duns, Coldstream, Eyemouth, Kelso, Galashiels, Selkirk, Lauder, Jedburgh, Hawick, Newcastleton.

## **How near must I be to the Station?**

When on duty You must be able to attend the station within 5 minutes of receiving a call

## **How many hours will I be asked to work?**

You will need to be available ('on call') for 80-120+ hours per week. You may be called out several times throughout the week and these times can vary each week. You will also be required to attend a weekly training night at your station of work

## **How do I get called out?**

You will be alerted by pager and must respond to the station within a few minutes of a call during your hours of availability.

## **What is the pay structure?**

You get paid a basic retainer, a fee for call outs and an hourly rate for work undertaken. You also get paid for your weekly drill nights..

## **What is the leave entitlement?**

Initially 4 weeks paid annual leave each year, increasing to 5 weeks upon completion of 5 years continuous service.

## **Does my employer need to know?**

Yes, if you are offering availability during the working hours of your full-time employment you should seek permission from your employer before applying for this job. You will be asked to provide written evidence that your employer has agreed to release you for fire calls prior to being offered employment.

**If I apply, what happens next?**

If successful at application, you will be asked to attend an interview, and complete a short written test and two practical aptitude tests. If you pass this stage you will be asked to attend a Practical Assessment, which involves three activities, firstly, wearing breathing apparatus and moving through a confined space, secondly, a ladder climb and, finally, a strength test. If successful you will then attend our Occupational Health department for a medical and fitness test.

**What Training will be provided?**

You will attend a one-day induction session to receive training on basic Manual Handling, Health and Safety, and Equal Opportunities. You will then be required to attend the Scottish Fire Service College in East Lothian for a two week training course which is residential Monday to Friday (accommodation will be provided). Upon completion of this course you will then be able to attend operational incidents in a limited role to obtain experience. You will be required to attend a breathing Apparatus Course over a series of weekends in Edinburgh and thereafter at yearly intervals.

Further training will take place at your retained station on the allocated training night. Further information is available from [www.lbfire.org.uk](http://www.lbfire.org.uk)