Careers in East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Introduction

Every role in East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service helps make our communities safer.

We have a wide range of jobs within the Service - from firefighters, crew and watch managers to control centre staff (mobilising), finance, HR, procurement experts and volunteers.

All of our staff are passionate about serving our communities.

If you want to make East Sussex and Brighton and Hove a safer place to live, work and visit, consider joining us!
Firefighters usually work at our Community Fire Stations, and not only provide an emergency response on fire engines, but carry out work to help prevent emergencies in the first place.

If you want to be a firefighter as well as having another career – you can! We have on-call firefighters in many parts of East Sussex and they work their normal job as well as being on-call to respond to emergencies when they happen. When on duty, the crew need to be within 5 minutes of the fire station.

Burwash Community Fire Station is one example of where this happens. They meet once a week to carry out drills and exercises to make sure they know what to do when the call comes in!
Anne Goldstone
& Verna Lingard
Firefighters

Anne Goldstone changed career to become both a wholetime firefighter and an on-call firefighter.

“I have always liked doing active, physical work. I like a challenge. I like working as part of a team. I like working in my community and being part of the community, so I felt like it was the right time in my life to give it a go and try it. I thought I’d see what happened.”

Verna Lingard - “For me, the best thing about working in the Fire & Rescue Service is all the variety. Not just with day-to-day incidents but in the way that you can progress through promotions and different departments. You can work in areas from training to business safety to fire investigation if you want to. As well as the obvious, being able to help people, I love organising community and charity events and engaging with people about what we do.”
There are also a number of more senior roles – Crew Manager, Watch Manager, Station Manager, Group Manager and Area Manager.

“I joined because I was looking for a career that would provide day-to-day variety and satisfaction, career progression and the opportunity to work as part of a team, as well as developing my leadership skills. I had a background in the fitness industry and the chance to work in an active and dynamic environment was really appealing.

One part of my role is to keep firefighters and crews safe whilst at emergencies and incidents. I also oversee and provide what’s called Operational Learning. My role is to co-ordinate the debriefs and discussions after incidents so we identify what we did well and what we could have done better. This is then shared across our Service.”

Keith Morris
Station Manager

“I joined because I was looking for a career that would provide day-to-day variety and satisfaction”
“I enjoy being part of a team, I enjoy meeting the communities we serve. Every day is different and brings a fresh challenge. I am proud of the Service I work for, the uniform I wear and the heritage of the Fire and Rescue Service in making a difference in challenging situations.

We have a caring and passionate tight group of people working together to make the Service better.

Together we are making a difference to people’s safety, together we find ways to make us more effective, together we are creating a caring team offering support to each other at challenging times. We make a difference to people in times of need.”

Matt Lloyd
Group Manager

“We have a caring and passionate tight group of people working together to make the Service better.”
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service also has Assistant Directors, an Assistant Deputy and Chief Fire Officer.

“I enjoy my job because it is so varied and not only do I work with some great people, I know what we do helps people.

I would recommend a career in the Fire and Rescue Service because you really get an opportunity to make a difference to people and their safety and contribute to such a wide range of community work, as well as dealing with emergencies. There are some fab people, with a real “can do” attitude. It gives me a real sense of fulfilment and has real meaning, it’s more than a job to me.”

Dawn Whittaker
Chief Fire Officer

“It gives me a real sense of fulfilment and has real meaning, it’s more than a job to me.”
You will be on the front line in a different way – dealing with people who are often panicking or worried. You will need to stay calm and get the right information such as where they are and what is happening.

Control Operators ensure that firefighter crews, officers, and their equipment are sent to where they’re needed.

Types of incidents that are dealt with can range from small fires to road traffic collisions and major industrial fires presenting significant threats to life and property.

Operators take an active part in bringing incidents to successful conclusion through the use of specialised call handling techniques. Fire Control Operators must be able to process information, prioritise tasks and identify which of those has the highest level of urgency.

All 999 emergency calls for the Fire & Rescue Service are handled by our Control Centre Operators.
We employ a team of professionals, from ICT specialists to HR and Finance professionals.

“The Fire and Rescue Service is respected and highly regarded by the public. Our primary function is to save lives and make the community safer, which is something I thought was really cool, and I wanted to be part of that.

Aside from all the interesting data I get to analyse and research as part of my role, I think that the work is extremely rewarding - knowing that you contribute to saving people's lives and help the community you live in is a great feeling!

I feel proud when I tell people I work for the Fire and Rescue Service. People always seem genuinely interested in what I do, and they see the value in what I, and the Service do.”

Scott Higgins
Analyst

“Knowing that you contribute to saving people’s lives and help the community you live in is a great feeling!”
Vikki Waters
Executive Assistant

“I enjoy my job because it offers so much variety! From diary management and managing emails to producing high quality documentation and organising events. In my role I get to learn about different areas of the business such as operational decision making, programme management and HR matters. I enjoy being ‘behind the scenes’, helping others perform their roles more effectively and smoothly.

I love working as part of a team where we all support each other and I also get to build relationships with a variety of different people across the Fire and Rescue Service, supporting the ACFO in his local, regional and national roles. There is never a time when I am not busy - every day there is something different and there are always areas that require me to push myself and use my own initiative.”

Vikki Waters provides secretarial and admin support to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer.
“Our communications team delivers a whole range of work – we run the website and intranet, we promote the Service on social media and in newspapers, on radio and television, and we produce posters, leaflets and lots of other graphics. Some of the fun things we’ve done include designing special “wraps” for fire engines and cars – obviously there’s normally a serious message behind it but it’s great to be able to use our imaginations to create something new.

I also lead our Business Services team who support colleagues in numerous ways. They assist with internal communications, manage printing and organise our annual awards ceremony plus so much more!”

“It’s great to be able to use our imaginations to create something new.”

Elizabeth Curtis
Communications and Marketing
“On joining the training team I was initially surprised by the use of new technologies such as virtual reality simulators in developing firefighter skills. Digital solutions and new technology offer all kinds of possibilities for re-inventing training and ensuring their skills are kept up-to-date and able to respond to increasingly complex and unexpected emergency incidents. It’s exciting to be a part of that.

Whilst my role is administrative and not operational, it may seem far removed from emergencies and the Incident Ground. However the Service is a team effort and I know that my work is valued and I am contributing to firefighter safety and ultimately the safety of the public.”
Our Community Volunteers make a vital contribution by helping us provide fire and road safety information and practical support to the local community.

We are looking to encourage more volunteers to support our already successful teams throughout East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove.

Do you have any of these key skills?

- Good interpersonal skills and confidence when talking to individuals on a one-to-one basis
- Ability to work well in pairs and to follow instructions
- Ability to use technology (tablet and mobile phone) to find out information on local services
- Commitment and reliability.

“We’ve got a brilliant team of volunteers. The skills and knowledge I have built up have probably shaped the person I am today.”
Inclusion, Diversity & Values

A workforce which is made up of those from a wide range of communities, localities and backgrounds will enable us to offer the best possible service.

Our Values

“I am PROUD of our Service because we help people every single day and make a difference to people’s lives.” - Dave Thurston, Station Manager.

“To me, being ACCOUNTABLE for our actions means doing the best that we can for our stakeholders.” - Raj Baksi, Training.

“INTEGRITY is important to me because I believe I do the right thing and I am true to myself.” - Julie King, Group Manager.

“We RESPECT one another at work by valuing everyone’s contributions.” - Lucy Birch, HR.