

# Occupational Profile: Fire Fighters

## GENERAL OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION

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 management.

Source: O\*NET online. <http://online.onetcenter.org>

## REQUIRED EDUCATION

As shown in the table to right, 48% of interviewed employers reportedly require a High School diploma or less, and an additional 52% require a two-year degree or the equivalent.

Required Education	
Percent of Employers Requiring HS Diploma or Less	47.79%
Percent of Employers Requiring 2-Year Degree or Equiv	52.21%
Percent of Employers Requiring BS Diploma or More	0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## WAGES

Fire Fighter is considered a medium to high-wage occupation, with moderate to good possibility for wage advancement with experience. Employers in Greater Phoenix generally pay less as compared with the overall United States. Wage information not available for the State of Arizona.

Location	Pay Period	2005				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$9.49	\$13.65	\$18.80	\$24.82	\$30.53
	Yearly	\$19,700	\$28,400	\$39,100	\$51,600	\$63,500
Greater Phoenix	Hourly	\$6.08	\$11.50	\$15.12	\$24.30	\$28.95
	Yearly	\$12,652	\$23,932	\$31,465	\$50,568	\$60,245
Arizona	Hourly	—	—	—	—	—
	Yearly	—	—	—	—	—

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The table to right provides median wages for the top five highest paying States. As shown, New Jersey tops the list with a median hourly wage of \$28.41/hour.

RANK	Location	Median Wage 2005	
		Hourly	Annual
1	New Jersey	\$28.41	\$59,100
2	California	\$26.72	\$55,600
3	Washington	\$24.71	\$51,400
4	Connecticut	\$24.32	\$50,600
5	New York	\$23.93	\$49,800
N/A	ARIZONA	n/a	n/a

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The table below provides a comparison of wages by sub-industry for the Greater Phoenix region (2005). As shown, the main employment sector, "Public Administration" pays more than the other main employment sector.

Wages by Industry: Greater Phoenix MSA (2005)	Rounded Employment	Mean Wage	10th Percentile Wage	25th Percentile Wage	Median Wage	75th Percentile Wage	90th Percentile Wage
Public Administration	2,520	\$21.12	\$6.49	\$16.69	\$22.41	\$26.62	\$31.05
Administrative and Support Services	.	\$13.26	\$5.67	\$6.30	\$7.83	\$21.97	\$26.85

## EMPLOYMENT

As shown in the table below, this occupation has a projected 33% growth rate over 10 years (between 2003 and 2013) for the Greater Phoenix region. There are an average projected 162 job openings each year, comprised of 86 new job and 76 positions vacated by individuals leaving the field (due to retirement, death, career changes, or other reasons).

	10-YEAR CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL		
	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
United States	2004	2014				
Fire fighters	282,100	350,700	24%	15,040	n/a	n/a
Arizona	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
	2004	2014				
Fire fighters	6,490	8,500	31%	390	n/a	n/a
Greater Phoenix	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
	2003	2013				
Fire fighters	2,626	3,485	33%	162	86	76

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*N/A is displayed in cases where data is not available or cannot be published because of federal data privacy standards.

## Comparison of employment projections for top five regions for Fire Fighter

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison reveals the State of Arizona ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of projected 10-year growth for this occupation (31%).

RANK	Location	Employment		Percent Change
		2004	2014	
1	Nevada	1,360	2,060	52%
2	Utah	2,330	3,430	47%
3	Idaho	1,010	1,420	40%
4	Colorado	4,840	6,520	35%
4	Montana	760	1,020	35%
5	Tennessee	6,330	8,390	33%
7	ARIZONA	6,490	8,500	31%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Employment by Industry

The table below shows the industries that most commonly employ Fire Fighter, and the proportion of employment accounted for at the national level. As shown, "Local government, excluding education and hospitals" is the largest employer for this occupation (91.8%).

Percent of Employment Nationally by Industry	
Percent	Industry
91.8%	Local government, excluding education and hospitals
3%	Federal Government, excluding Postal Service
2.3%	State government, excluding education and hospitals

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Geo-Location Overlay of Employers with 5 or More Employees that Potentially Employ Occupation (n = 25)

