



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH

SLIGO FIRE SERVICE
Seirbhís Dóiteáin Shligigh

RETAINED FIREFIGHTER
Applicants Information Pack



**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A RETAINED FIREFIGHTER?**

Sligo Fire Service is currently looking to create a panel for vacancies in the Retained Fire Service.

To work as a Retained Firefighter, you must live and work within a 5-minute mobilisation/response time to the Fire Station and you also must have a reasonable level of fitness.

Your Annual Retainer will be €8,033 - €11,001 per annum plus you will attend 100 hours paid drill training per year, Drill pay rate is €21.19 per hour. You will also be paid per call you attend at the rate outlined below.

| Payments for Call- Outs | | Day Rate 07:00-22:00 (Mon-Fri) | | Night 22:00-07:00 Weekend 22:00(Fri)- 07:00(Mon) | |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | 1 st Hour | Subsequent hours | 1 st Hour | Subsequent hours |
| Attendance at: | Drill | | | | |
| Rate | €21.19 | €42.38 | €21.19 | €84.76 | €42.38 |



All suitable applicants will be required to complete a basic literacy and numeracy competency test. This is followed by a fitness test which includes dexterity/equipment test, a ladder test (extending a fire service ladder and climbing a ladder) & a confined space/claustrophobia test. Applicants will be supplied with Fire kit to carry out these tests. Once these stages are completed you will progress on to the interview stage.

If you are successful at the interview stage, you will be required to undergo a medical assessment before completing a 3 weeks' *QQI Firefighter Skills course. The Firefighting Skills course is intensive but it is here that you learn the basics of firefighting. Once you have successfully completed the Firefighting Skills course, you will go on the "run" with the crew turning out to any incidents that occur in our turn out area.

Within 12 months of completing the Firefighter Skills course, you must complete a 2 weeks' Breathing Apparatus course and a 1 week Compartment Fire Behaviour Training course. Further Training will be required throughout your career as a Firefighter.

The Firefighting Skills, Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour courses are QQI accredited and, on successful completion, learners will achieve Level 6 award under the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

Sligo County Council/Sligo Fire Service is an equal opportunities employer. We look forward to meeting with you.



What is the Role of a Retained Firefighter?

Retained Firefighters are On-Call Firefighters who go about their daily lives like any other member of the community. They are mechanics, electricians, parents, engineers and factory workers. Sligo Fire Service is an equal opportunities employer and is actively working to employ firefighters who are representative of the community we serve.

An electronic alerter will notify them when a 999 call is received by the Regional Control Centre based in Castlebar, County Mayo. When they receive the alert, Firefighters then have a 5 minute timeline to attend the station, quickly change into their Fire Kit and leave the station in a fire appliance. A crew of highly skilled Firefighters will then leave the station ready to tackle whatever emergency awaits them in a speedy and professional manner, saving lives, businesses and communities in your area.

In order to maintain this emergency response we need to recruit more Retained Firefighters. Without Retained Firefighters, we will not be in a position to respond to emergency calls with the speed and proficiency needed to protect the businesses and citizens of Sligo and its surrounding areas. This could have a serious impact on communities and businesses in your area.



What skills will you learn that benefit you outside of the Fire Service

Cardiac First Responder/Emergency First Responder training – Our Firefighters are trained Emergency First Responders including a very high standard in First Aid and CPR.

Fire Extinguisher training – All our Firefighters are trained in the operation and correct use of Fire Extinguishers and hose reels. Our Firefighters are also capable of providing training demonstrations.

HGV driver training – Many of our Firefighters are highly trained drivers with C licence and RSA accredited advance driver training.

Manual Handling training – All our Firefighters are trained in manual handling techniques by approved instructors. This training is recognized as required skill in preventing injuries in the workplace.

Fire Warden training – Fire fighters have advanced training in fire behaviour, requirements for means of escape and most importantly have the ability to remain calm in emergency situations. Firefighters are active in promoting fire safety in the local community.

Health and Safety awareness – Firefighters are provided with extensive health and safety training within the Fire Service.



Leadership & Management skills – Firefighters who do officer training develop leadership and management skills.

Reactive, Committed and Motivated Firefighters, by their very nature, are committed and reliable people who follow rules and instruction even under the most extreme pressures.

A career as a firefighter – Is it really for you?

The position of a Retained Firefighter is very onerous in that a person must be available for calls at all times unless he/she is on a roster system, annual leave or granted permission by their Station Officer. Our objective is to be representative of the community we serve. We strive to be fair to all applicants in our recruitment and selection. The following is a list of questions compiled to help you decide whether being a firefighter is really for you. It will help you to prepare for an interview.

1. Are you able to meet the demands of working in a disciplined uniformed service? Can you take orders from other people? Can you accept the need to keep to rules that tell you what you can and cannot wear and the standard of appearance you must maintain.
2. Do you have the emotional strength to deal with a road traffic accident or other instances where there may be severe injuries or loss of life?
3. Can you work as part of a close knit team? Can you work under pressure without letting the rest of your team down?
4. Do you have the sensitivity to deal with members of the public when they are distressed, confused or being obstructive?
5. Can you take the responsibility for representing the Brigade when you are at work and when you are not?
6. Are you committed to maintaining and developing your skills? Are you prepared to study on top of your normal working day?



7. You should not suffer from aquaphobia (water), claustrophobia or vertigo?
8. Are you committed to maintaining your health and physical fitness? Is regular exercise a part of your everyday life?
9. Are you prepared to be available for call-outs day and night, evenings, weekends and public holidays?
10. Are you a practical person who likes to work with their hands and with equipment? Do you enjoy making things or finding out how things work?
11. Are you someone who can always be relied on to be somewhere on time? Are you someone that others see as dependable?
12. Are you prepared to work outside in all types of weather, even if you are wet and cold and you don't know when a job might finish?
13. Are you someone who can cope with routine, knowing that you may have to do the same things at the same time on most days, with the frustration of sudden interruptions to your routines?
14. If you answered yes to the above questions, you may be required to provide good examples of same during your interview.

