

FIREFIGHTERS



Firefighters are always busy. They can be called to a fire at any time of the day or night. They must be ready at all times in case of an emergency. That's why some firefighters live at the fire station part of the time. They have beds, a bathroom and a kitchen there. They also have rooms for relaxing. If there is no fire, they get to sleep at night. When they are at the station, they check the equipment and the fire-engines. They inspect the hose nozzles to make sure they are working. They check to make sure that the vehicles have enough petrol, and that there is enough air in the tyres.

Firefighters take turns performing the duties at the station. Sometimes they give tours of the fire station to students and other community groups. They show the equipment in the station and on the trucks.

Firefighters are busiest when they are called to an emergency. In addition to fires, they rush to help in many different emergencies. Sometimes firefighters are called to help people in medical emergencies. Sometimes they rescue people who are trapped in vehicles after a crash. At other times, they clear areas near fires or other disasters, or pump out flooded basements. They help people after any kind of disaster: earthquakes, major storms and terrorist attacks.

Firefighters keep busy even when there are no emergencies. They teach about fire safety in schools or they spend time practising the best ways to put out various types of fires. Firefighters inspect local businesses to make sure they are safe for both the workers and the customers. They also make sure their training is up to date. They need to be ready no matter what happens.



Literal Questions

- 1 When can firefighters be called to a fire?

- 2 What do firefighters take turns doing?

- 3 When are firefighters busiest? _____
- 4 Why do firefighters inspect local businesses?

Focus: Finding The Main Idea and Supporting Details

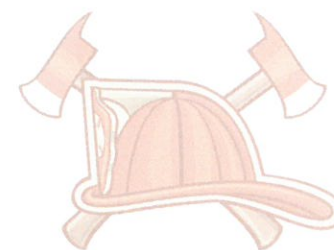
When you read, decide what the text is mostly about. That is the main idea. The main idea is supported by details. Some of the details are important. Others are not as important.

- 5 Read the text. Write the main idea of the text in the blue box.

Details

Some points that back up the main idea.

Main Idea
What is the focus of the text?



- 6 Write four supporting details in the green boxes.

Inference Questions

- 7 The purpose of this text is to inform persuade entertain
- 8 Look at the title. Why do you think it is in yellow and red?

- 9 Would a fire-engine only carry firefighting equipment? Explain.

