

LEVELED BOOK • M

My Uncle Is a Firefighter



MULTI
level
J•M•P

Written by Tillie Douglas

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Uncle Jason

Tillie

My name is Tillie, and my uncle is a firefighter. Today I get to visit him at the fire station.



I shake hands with Captain Chuck Williams. He's been a firefighter for 31 years!

Uncle Jason gives me a tour. Just like my house, the fire station has a kitchen, but this kitchen has three refrigerators! That's because firefighters work in twenty-four hour shifts, and each shift has its own refrigerator.

Next stop on the tour is Uncle Jason's bedroom. It has a television, couch, and bed. After sleeping, he puts fresh sheets on the bed for the next firefighter.





Next, Uncle Jason shows me the day room. This is where the firefighters hang out after chores are done. I climb into one of the big chairs and watch television with the guys. Most of the time, though, they're busy helping people and making sure their **equipment** is ready.

Next, we go to the most exciting part of the fire station—the garage. Two fire trucks are waiting, ready to handle any **emergency**.



Uncle Jason lets me try out the headphones.



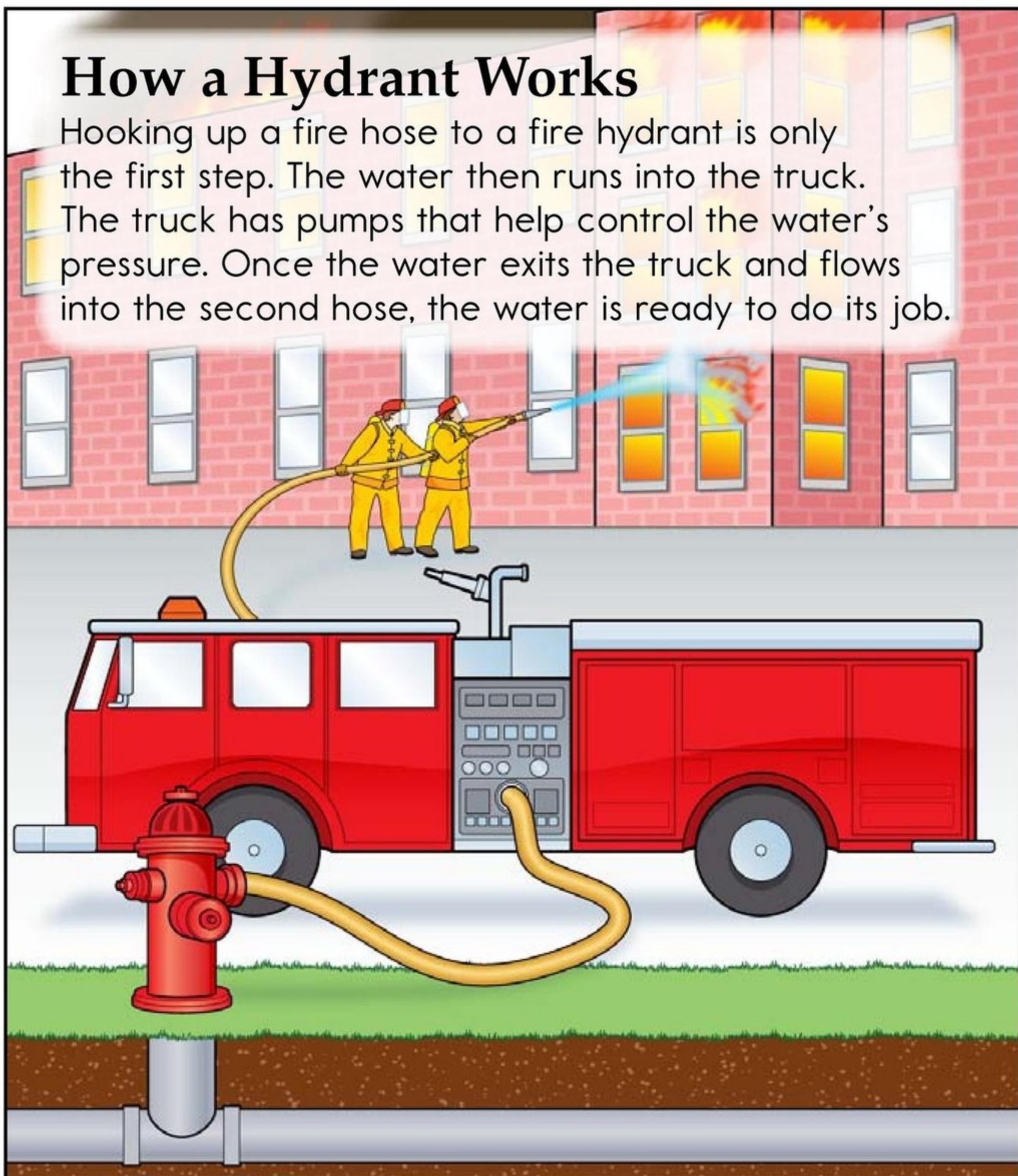
I learn how to use a fire hose.

Uncle Jason usually drives the water truck. Its tank holds two thousand gallons of water! Firefighters can use one thousand gallons of water in a minute. They use the water in the truck whenever no fire hydrant is nearby.

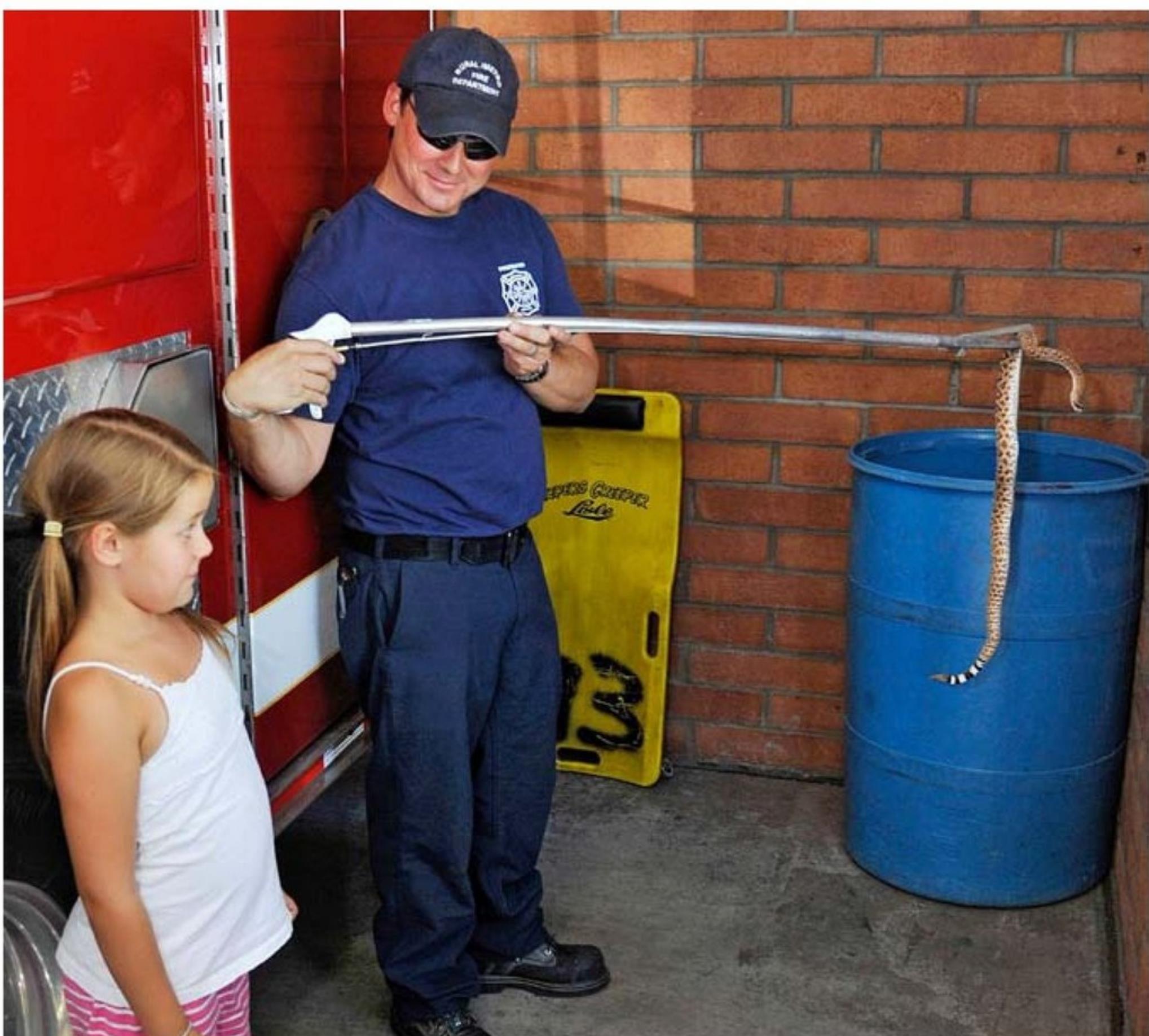
On the truck is the equipment that firefighters need, including medical supplies and a snake box! In the desert, the fire station gets calls from people with snakes in their yards.

How a Hydrant Works

Hooking up a fire hose to a fire hydrant is only the first step. The water then runs into the truck. The truck has pumps that help control the water's pressure. Once the water exits the truck and flows into the second hose, the water is ready to do its job.



If the snakes are dangerous, firefighters capture them with a metal pole called a snake grabber. The snakes are locked safely in the box. They're let go later, far from any houses or businesses. Uncle Jason shows me a rattlesnake. It gives me the creeps, but it's cool, too.



The firefighters show me the gear they wear in a fire, and I get to put it on. There's a special coat, pants, a helmet, and an air tank. It's like wearing a winter coat in the summer—heavy and hot!



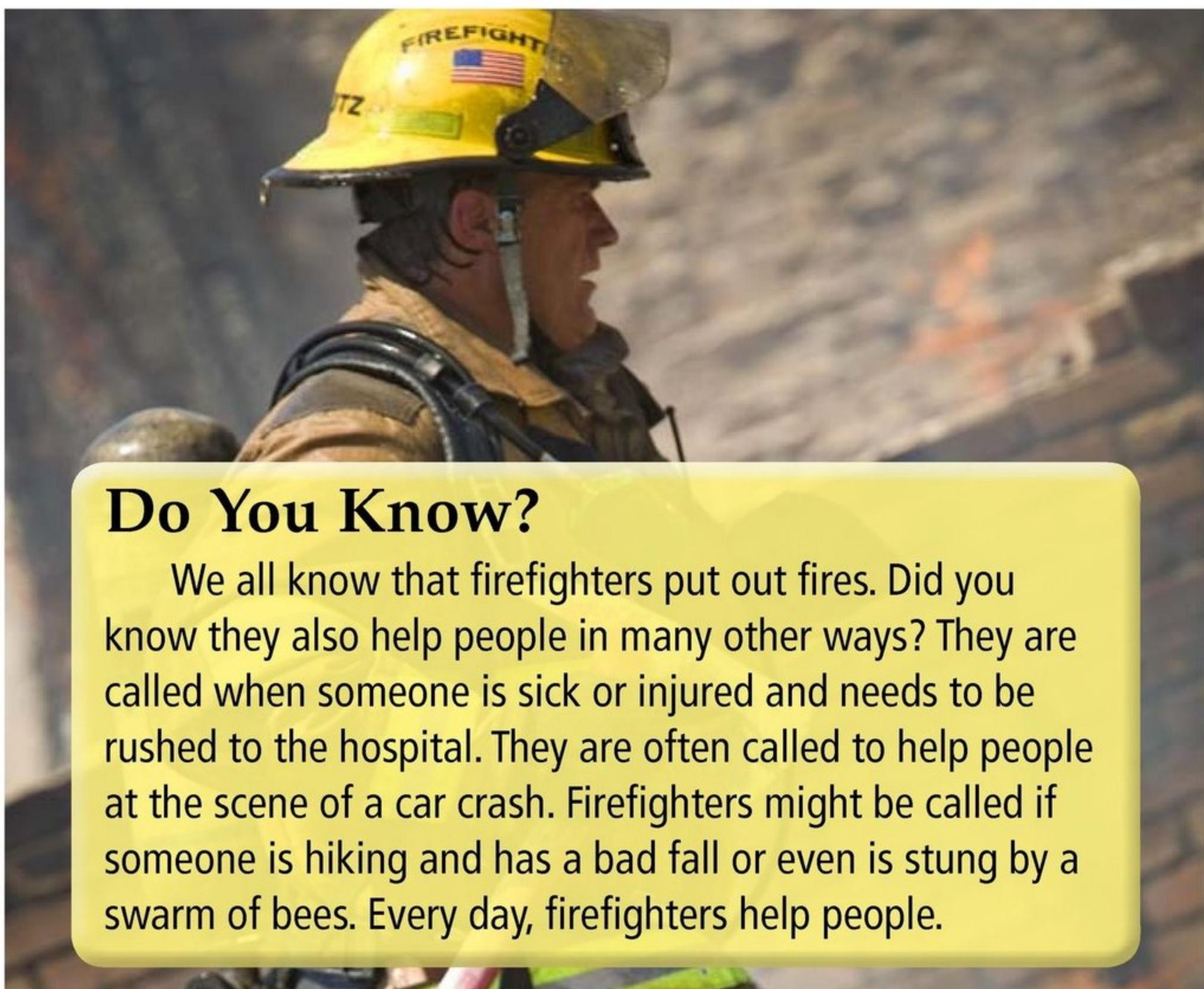
If there's ever a fire at home, Uncle Jason warns me never to hide under my bed or behind my curtains. That would make it hard for firefighters to find me.



Suddenly, there's a call—it's a fire!
The firefighters grab their gear and
they're off, with their sirens blaring.
I stay at the station with my dad
while they fight the fire.

When they return, tired and dirty,
Uncle Jason tells me all about the
call. A man was working on his car
in his garage when a fire started. He
and his wife and daughter escaped
to the sidewalk, but their poodle
was stuck inside.

The firefighters pulled out their hoses and went to work. Uncle Jason searched the house and found the poodle hiding under a bed. He also found a fishbowl and two parakeets in a cage. They **rescued** the pets and put out the fire. Uncle Jason and the other firefighters saved the day!



Do You Know?

We all know that firefighters put out fires. Did you know they also help people in many other ways? They are called when someone is sick or injured and needs to be rushed to the hospital. They are often called to help people at the scene of a car crash. Firefighters might be called if someone is hiking and has a bad fall or even is stung by a swarm of bees. Every day, firefighters help people.



It's time for me to go home for dinner. The firefighters start cooking their dinner, too.



They're like one big family!

Glossary

emergency (*n.*) a sudden and very serious situation that requires immediate action (p. 7)

equipment (*n.*) tools used in work or play (p. 6)

firefighter (*n.*) a person whose work is putting out fires (p. 3)

rescued (*v.*) saved from danger (p. 13)

shifts (*n.*) scheduled periods of time when a person or group of people work together; the workers on a job during a period of time (p. 4)

tour (*n.*) a trip through a place to learn more about it (p. 4)

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Author's Note: Tillie would like to thank Gabrielle Fimbres for help
in writing this book.

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