

LEVELED BOOK • M

Firefighters

Written by Katie Knight

**Multi
level
F•J•M**

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Introduction

Can you hear
the loud siren?
It is the sound
of firefighters
rushing to fight
a fire in their
bright red fire



A fire truck races to a fire.

truck. Firefighters put out fires and save people
whose lives are in danger. They also help to **prevent**
fires from starting. They **inspect** buildings, and they
educate people about fire safety.

Types of Fires

Firefighters fight many different kinds of fires.

They put out house, shop, and factory fires.

They fight fires in **skyscrapers** and other

buildings. They also

fight forest fires. Firefighters must be ready to respond quickly to many kinds of fires and other dangerous situations.



Firefighters battle a fire in a large factory.

Firefighting Equipment

Firefighters use many different tools to fight fires. They use large hoses to spray water or special foam on fires. They use ladders to reach high places. They chop holes in doors, roofs, and walls with axes to reach places safely.



ax



hose



ladder

Smoke masks and air tanks protect firefighters from smoke. Firefighters use large fans to remove smoke from rooms. They also use fire extinguishers to put out small fires.



Firefighting Machines

The fire truck is an important firefighting machine.

There are four major

kinds of fire trucks. The most common is the pumper truck. It carries long hoses and a pump to spray water over long distances.



This pumper truck carries a water pump.



Ladder trucks have steering wheels in the front and back.

Other kinds of fire trucks include ladder trucks, tanker trucks, and rescue trucks. Ladder trucks carry ladders of many different sizes. Big ladder trucks have a ladder that can reach up to eight **stories** high. Tanker trucks carry water to fight fires in places without water. Rescue trucks carry equipment to help rescue people who are trapped.



Fireboats can spray seawater.

There are other kinds of firefighting machines, too. Fireboats fight fires on other boats that are in the water. They pump water from under the boat and spray it on the fire.



A plane dumps chemicals on a forest fire.

Helicopters dump water on fires in places that trucks cannot reach. Large planes help fight forest fires. Sometimes planes dump **fire-retardant** chemicals instead of water to slow the spread of a forest fire.



Men and women train to become firefighters.

Becoming a Firefighter

You must be at least 18 years old to be a firefighter. Before you can become a firefighter, you must pass a fitness test. You must be in very good shape to fight fires. You also must pass a written test.

Firefighters go to firefighting school for training. They learn how to fight different kinds of fires. They also learn how to rescue people and how to treat injuries.



Firefighters ride high in bucket ladders.

Summary

Every year, fires destroy thousands of buildings. Fires also take many lives and destroy large areas of forest. Long ago, fires burned down entire cities

because there was no way to stop fires from spreading. But today, we have brave firefighters to put out fires and help to keep us safe.



Fire can damage buildings very quickly.

Glossary

fire-retardant (*adj.*) helping to slow down fire (p. 11)

inspect (*v.*) to check closely for problems
(p. 4)

prevent (*v.*) to stop something from
happening (p. 4)

skyscrapers (*n.*) very tall buildings (p. 5)

stories (*n.*) the spaces between each floor
and ceiling in a building (p. 9)

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