



**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

RETAINED (ON CALL) FIREFIGHTER

INFORMATION BOOKLET



About us

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has 38 fire stations and four different systems for crewing fire engines. The urban areas of Harrogate, Scarborough and York are mainly served by firefighters who work shifts at the fire station; our larger market towns have firefighters who work day shifts and are on-call from home during the evenings and at night; and our rural villages and smaller towns are served by retained (on call) staff. We also have two volunteer units. The following stations have a retained or volunteer crew:

Acomb, Bedale, Bentham, Boroughbridge, Colburn, Danby, Easingwold, Filey, Grassington, Hawes, Helmsley, Huntington, Kirkbymoorside, Knaresborough, Leyburn, Lythe, Malton, Masham, Northallerton, Pickering, Reeth, Ripon, Robin Hood's Bay, Selby, Settle, Sherburn, Skipton, Stokesley, Summerbridge, Tadcaster, Thirsk, and two volunteer stations at Lofthouse and Goathland.



What is a retained (on call) firefighter?

Retained (on call) firefighters are trained firefighters who, rather than being based at a fire station, provide on-call cover from home and/or their place of work.

They respond to emergencies when their pager alerts them, so must work and/or live within approximately four minutes travel time from the fire station. There is some flexibility within this so if you're outside of this travel time please contact our retained support team on **01609 780150** during office hours, or complete the contact form on the retained recruitment page on our website.



Does a retained (on call) firefighter have to be available 24/7 to respond to emergencies?

Retained (on call) firefighters declare the periods in a week when they are available to respond to emergencies if called upon.

During these times they must remain within approximately four minutes travel time of their fire station to provide a response. However there are circumstances where this time can be extended.

Can a retained (on call) firefighter be unavailable whenever they want during a week?

Retained firefighters have a contract which includes details of the agreed time periods they will be available to respond to incidents.

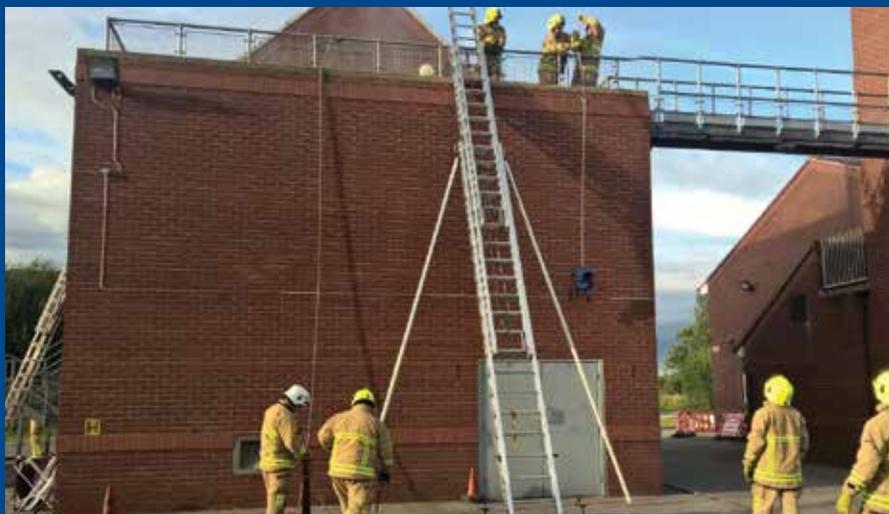
As long as there are sufficient staff to crew the fire engine, it is possible for individuals to book off call.

What is the minimum number of hours a retained (on call) firefighter has to provide per week?

Retained firefighters have a contract which includes details of the agreed time periods they will be available to respond to incidents.

- 120 or more hours of cover per week
- 96 to 119 hours per week
- 48-95 hours per week
- Up to 48 hours per week

Applications are assessed not on the number of hours that can be provided, but whether the hours provided meet the needs of that station.



Does a retained (on call) firefighter get paid?

Yes a retained (on call) firefighter receives payment for various aspects of the work they carry out.

You can find details of the pay on our website under the 'Working For Us' section.

On average retained (on call) firefighters can earn around £5,000 per year depending on the number of incidents and training sessions attended.

Retained (on call) firefighters also receive a paid leave entitlement of up to 28 days per calendar year, increasing to up to 35 days dependent on length of service.



What qualifications do I need to become a retained (on call) firefighter?

You do not need to have any formal qualifications to apply to be a retained (on call) firefighter.



What are the potential rewards of becoming a retained (on call) firefighter?

Below are some of the potential rewards of being a retained (on call) firefighter:

- Payment for work undertaken
- Firefighter diploma qualification
- Training including: firefighting, health & safety, fire safety, manual handling, first aid
- Ability to get LGV licence
- Entrance to staff benefit scheme
- Job satisfaction
- Opportunity to give something back to the local community
- Continual professional development opportunities
- Access to Firefighter Pension Scheme

How do I apply to become a retained (on call) firefighter?

To become a retained (on call) firefighter you must complete an application form which can be downloaded from the 'Working For Us' section of our website www.northyorksfire.gov.uk

As part of the application you need to complete an availability form which sets out the hours you are available to respond to emergencies. This completed form will be reviewed against the station requirements.



If I am successful with my application what happens next?

You will need to take a number of selection tests, which are detailed below:

Written tests

You will be required to undergo a series of written tests designed to assess levels of literacy and numeracy.

You will be exempt from these if you can provide evidence that you have obtained GCSE Grade C or above in Maths and English (or equivalent qualification).

Physical tests

These will be at our Training Centre in Easingwold and you will be tested on your fitness. These tests include a breathing apparatus test, casualty drag test, equipment assembly test, ladder ascent and ladder lift tests and equipment carry test.

Medical

Our Occupational Health and Safety Nurse will carry out your medical.

Interview

An interview with the District Station/Watch Managers.



What happens then?

If you pass all the elements of the recruitment process you will be invited to a two week residential 'Safe to Ride' course at our Training Centre in Easingwold.

During the residential course you will be taught the minimum skills and theory needed to be a firefighter.

The practical training will include: pitching and climbing ladders, pumping water, dealing with basic road traffic collisions, working at height training and much more.

You will be trained alongside other candidates for stations throughout North Yorkshire.

What happens after your two week 'Safe to Ride' course?

If you pass the basic training course, you can then start attending fires and other emergencies with your local station.

You will also be required to attend weekly training nights at the fire station.

What do retained (on call) firefighters say...

“I can be doing everyday normal activities then all of a sudden I can be called into action – I am like any ordinary person but I do an extraordinary job!”

“I feel proud to tell people that I’m a firefighter – it’s such a rewarding job.”

“It’s not as easy as it looks, so look into it first, and if you’re still up for it, then go for it!”

“The hours involved sound huge, but it really is not that bad – I live a normal lifestyle, but every now and then have to leap into action, saving lives and property in my local community.”



“It’s a part time job with a real difference – to come away from an incident knowing I have been part of a team in saving someone’s life or property provides a feeling of immense pride and satisfaction that is impossible to describe in words.”

“The fire service are fully supportive of me as I have three children – it’s good to know they can be flexible.”

“I have fulfilled my childhood dreams of becoming a firefighter – not only do I ride in a fire engine, I also get to drive it!”



“The fire service is like a family, I get to work with my mates and help others in their greatest times of need.”



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like any further information then please visit our website www.northyorksfire.gov.uk and fill in the contact form on the retained recruitment page or call our retained support team on **01609 780150** during office hours.

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