

FIREFIGHTERS: A HIGH-RISK PROFESSION

Some professions are considered high risk; that is, the people who perform them can suffer accidents or they may encounter dangerous situations. One of the most common high-risk professions is the firefighter.



The firefighter's main job is putting out fires, but it is not their only task. They are also called when there are floods, traffic accidents, natural disasters, evacuations, rescues, whenever someone needs them.

It is thought that the profession of the firefighter has a long history because remains possibly belonging to this profession have been discovered from the times of Ancient Rome, thousands of years ago. Of course, their techniques and resources are more sophisticated today, but we are thankful that they were already working in this field at that time.

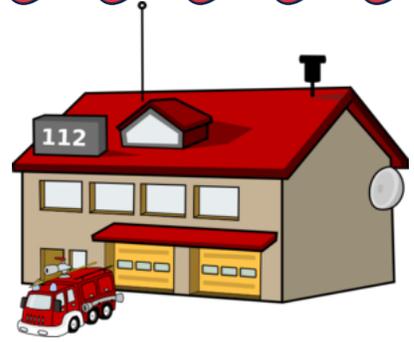


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Volunteer firefighters must also be mentioned. They perform their work without getting any kind of compensation. They, usually, help the neediest without expecting a salary. They are people with big hearts.



Firefighters work in buildings called fire stations. Fire stations are distributed throughout the city, to be able to serve all places equally. Firefighters train and prepare the equipment for any emergency at the fire stations. They park the fire trucks there. The fire trucks should be ready for any circumstance. The trucks are equipped with all the materials and tools needed to help citizens. To drive a fire truck, you must get a special driver's license and be able to drive carefully; since, sometimes, they must move very fast through the streets.



If you want to be a firefighter, you should know that it requires tough preparation. You must be in very good physical shape. This requires hard training in different physical activities, such as climbing up a rope using only your hands, swimming up to 100 meters, or running 2 or 3 kilometers within a specific time. In addition, you must be educated. You



must pass difficult subjects, such as, physics, chemistry, mathematics, as well as other subjects. Finally, firefighters must pass a series of psychological tests and have good social skills. Is it an easy profession?



If you are ever in an emergency, remember that you should call 911. This number is not the same in all countries. For example, in Spain the emergency number is 112, in Colombia it is 119 and in Argentina it is 100. Remember to stay calm and do not lose your temper. The more detailed information you give the better and the easier the rescue





Name _____ Date _____

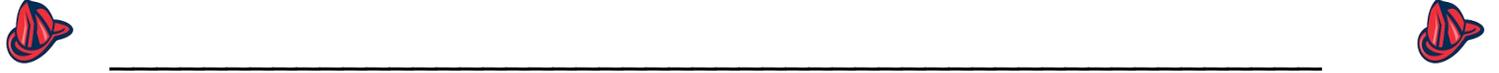
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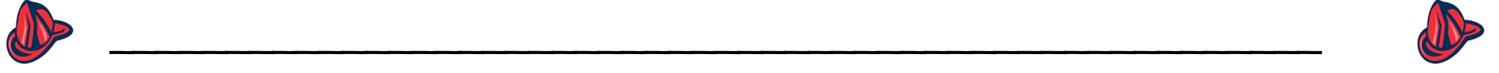
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:



1. If you see smoke and fire, what do you think is happening?



2. What do you have to do in a dangerous situation?



3. Why should we thank the firefighters?



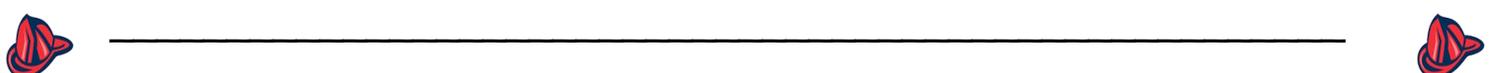
4. Connect the following words with arrows:



- Risk
- Calm
- Hard
- Profession
- Cooperative
- Difficult
- Work
- Together
- Tranquility
- Danger



5. Do you think you would like to be a firefighter? Why?







6. Do you think it is an easy or difficult profession? Why?

7. Why do you think firefighters must prepare so much?

8. Why you must get a special permit to drive a fire truck?

9. If there were no firefighters, what do you think could happen?

10. Reflect. Are there firefighters in all parts of the world? If you don't think so, what solution could you propose?

