



# “Disability”



Is it possible to have a career in the fire service.  
A few “**KEYS & NOTES**” from Firefighter’s ABC’s

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**I want to be in the fire service.**



**However, I have a disability.**

**What can I do?**



**Here are 13 keys & notes for your success.**



**Think about the following:  
Yes, it may be possible.**



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**KEY 1**



**Identify your disability.**

**Remember there are many types  
of disabilities.**

# DISABILITIES - EXAMPLES

- **Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)**
- **Autism**
- **Cerebral Palsy**
- **Developmental Disabilities**
- **Diabetes**
- **Epilepsy**
- **Hearing Loss**
- **Intellectual Disabilities**
- **Learning Disabilities**
- **Mental Health Impairments**
- **Migraine Headaches**
- **Mobility Impairments**
- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**
- **Speech-Language Impairments**
- **Stroke**
- **Tourette Syndrome**



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**KEY 2**

**Determine if it is a deal breaker.**

**Some may be a deal breaker.**

**Some may not be a deal breaker.**

## **CONTACT – THE FIRE DEPARTMENT YOU WISH TO JOIN AND DETERMINE IF YOUR DISABILITY IS A DEAL BREAKERS**

- **Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)**
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**Contact their health department.**

**And have their physician and your  
physician determine if your  
disability is  
a deal breaker?**





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**KEY 3**

**As an example – hearing issue.**

**Can you use a hearing device.**

**Depending on the disability.**

**Explore all of the corrective measures possible to allow you to meet the MQ's for the position you are seeking.**



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**KEY 4**

**Different positions require different  
MQ's.**

**Let's explore a few.**

# POSITIONS WITHIN THE FIRE SERVICE

- **Firefighter**
- **Non-Sworn Fire Inspector**
- **Hazardous Materials Inspector**
- **Fire Protection Engineer**
- **Public Information Officer - PIO**
- **Fire Human Relations Division**
- **Public Education Officer**
- **Administrative Support**
- **Company Stores**
- **Fire Repair Shop**
- **Training Division**
- **IT Division**
- **Fire Alarm Division**
- **Fire Dispatch Division**
- **Fiscal Management Division**
- **Other Depending On The Size Of The Agency**



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**KEY 5**

**Prepare to obtain the required education or MQ's for the position you are seeking.**

**Let's explore some examples.**

# EDUCATION SUPPORT - EXAMPLES

- **Firefighter – AS in Fire Science**
- **Non-Sworn Fire Inspector – Courses in Fire Inspections**
- **Hazardous Materials Inspector – Degree in Chemistry**
- **Fire Protection Engineer – Degree in Engineering**
- **Public Information Officer – Degree in Public Speaking**
- **Fire Human Relations Division – Degree in Human Relations**
- **Public Education Officer – Degree in Public Education**
- **Administrative Support – Degree in Business Administration**
- **Company Stores – Coursework in management of supplies**
- **Fire Repair Shop – Courses or Degree in Automotive Repair**
- **Training Division – Background in Fire Ground Training**
- **IT Division – Degree in IT Management**
- **Fire Alarm Division – Coursework in Fire Alarm Installation and Design**
- **Fire Dispatch Division – Required MQ's related to a Dispatch Center**
- **Fiscal Management Division – Degree in Accounting**
- **Other Depending On The Size Of The Agency**



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**KEY 6**



**I want to be a firefighter.**

## **SUGGESTED STEPS – THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY DEPENDING ON YOUR STARTING AGE**

- **Obtain a First Aid Cert**
- **Obtain a Adult, Child and Infant CPR Cert**
- **Obtain a National EMT Cert**
- **Obtain a National Paramedic Cert**
- **Obtain a AS Degree in Fire Science**
- **Obtain a BA or BS Degree in a Fire Related discipline**
- **Obtain a BA or BS Degree in any field**
- **Obtain a Masters in any field**
- **Obtain a Ph.D. in any field**
- **Take additional coursework directly related to the field you seek to be in**
- **You can never have too much education**





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**KEY 7**



**I want to be a dispatcher.**

## **SUGGESTED STEPS – THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY DEPENDING ON YOUR STARTING AGE**

- **Keep your background clean**
- **Maintain a typing cert of at least 50 words**
- **Maintain great computer skills**
- **Hopefully learn a second language – needed for your area**
- **Be a great speller**
- **Know the ins and outs of the EMS field**
- **Know the ins and outs of the public safety field**
- **Obtain your P.O.S.T. cert**



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**KEY 8**



**Sample items you can do to support your goal of being part of the fire service.**

## **SUGGESTED SUPPORT ITEMS – THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY DEPENDING ON YOUR STARTING AGE**

- **Join the Firefighter's ABC's Online Internship Program**
- **Become a volunteer for your local fire agency**
- **Become part of your local CERT**
- **What does CERT mean?**
- **Citizen**
- **Emergency**
- **Response**
- **Team**

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**KEY 9**



**I want to be in the fire service.**

**Am I in great physical shape?**

## **THIS ONE IS EASY**

- **Do join a gym**
- **Do consult with your doctor**
- **Don't smoke**
- **Don't take drugs**
- **Don't vape**
- **Do watch what you eat**
- **Etc.**



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**KEY 10**



**Start working on your paperwork.**

## **WHAT PAPERWORK**

- **Have a professional workup your resume**
- **Keep your credit history clean**
- **Be mindful of your social media accounts**
- **Conduct your own background check**
- **Take you own physical exam – including eyes**
- **Make sure you have a clean DMV record**
- **Etc.**



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KEY 11



**F/F = Family / Friends**

## **FAMILY / FRIENDS**

- **Let everyone know you are seeking this career**
- **They will be contacted during the background process**
- **You don't want family to answer your phone with the wrong tone**
- **Maybe re-think who your friends are**
- **Etc.**

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KEY 12



Email

## **EMAIL ADDRESS**

- **Obtain a professional email address**
- **Check you email often**
- **Produce all of your documents in a PDF format for emailing**
- **Reply to all emails promptly**
- **Etc.**



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**KEY 13**

**These are just a few keys & notes  
to your success as it relates to  
having a disability or not.**

**Be proactive and think outside  
the box leave no stone unturned.**

# Three Keys & Notes from Firefighter's ABC's



## Key #1

- **Note:** Join our Online Internship Program

## Key #2

- **Note:** Complete your task each month

## Key #3

- **Note:** No matter what – Don't give up

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