



Working together



“It hasn't infringed on any work commitments”

Rachel Hicks, The Pines Care Home

**Rachel Hicks
(Employer)
The Pines Care Home,
Shropshire**

As Tim Perk's boss, Rachel finds that working with an On-Call Firefighter greatly increases health and safety awareness in her care home. She also feels that having a staff member as part of her local Fire and Rescue Service is highly beneficial for her specific business.

“As a care home working with adults with learning disabilities it's very important that every member of staff has fire safety training” says Rachel. “Having Tim as part of the Fire and Rescue Service means that we have someone with greater expertise who knows the residents and the layout of the home, so if there were an emergency he wouldn't cause undue worry or stress to them”

Rachel allows more flexible arrangements for Tim, and ensures there is always an extra staff member at the home in case he is called out. “Having an employee as part of the Fire and Rescue Service has not infringed on any work commitments” she says.

“Tim doesn't get called out much on shift, and I feel it's very important to have On-Call Firefighters and support our local community. I don't know where we'd be if we didn't have our local firefighters.”

**Tim Perks
(Employee)
Care Worker and On-Call
Firefighter, Shropshire**

“I love being a firefighter” says Tim Perks, whose full-time job sees him employed as a care worker. Although this job is demanding, Tim still finds the time to fit in his extra On-Call work through a combination of dedication and an understanding employer.

“My employer has been exceptional in letting me go off and do my job as a firefighter” says Tim. “There are some shifts where I physically can't leave but the Fire and Rescue Service know about those and they rota for them down the station.”

Besides the adrenalin rush of attending emergencies Tim has made many friends in the Fire and Rescue Service and values the teamwork aspect very highly.

“This is the best job in the world” says Tim.

**ON-CALL
FIREFIGHTERS**

Working together to help
your community





**Stephen Treasure
(Employer)
Treasure & Son Ltd, Shropshire**

Employer Stephen Treasure has several staff members working as On-Call Firefighters, and believes they play a vital part in the local community. In addition, he believes the role keeps his employees fitter, increases their sense of teamwork and confers valuable first aid skills. "It's an important part of our business to benefit the local community and it's important for the community to have On-Call Firefighters" he explains.

**Gwynfor Benjamin
(Employee)
Carpenter and On-Call
Firefighter, Shropshire**

Carpenter Gwynfor had worked for Treasure and Sons for 18 years before

colleagues persuaded him to join the Fire and Rescue Service. Now he teams his carpentry skills with fire fighting, working in an On-Call capacity for his local station.

The role has worked wonders for Gwynfor's confidence, and he feels that his new training has improved his work skills and more besides. "It's helped me deal with life too and all that it throws at you" he explains. "As you answer your pager, you're never sure what the job will be".

Gwynfor finds it easy to strike the right balance between his day job and part-time role. He can choose when he's On-Call, so he's available when it's not busy at work. With an understanding employer on his side, combining the two jobs works well.

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Kate Hudson, Head Teacher

Kate Hudson
(Employer)
Head Teacher, Lincolnshire

“It means she’s up to date on the latest issues and legislation and she can spot things others may miss” explains head teacher Kate Hudson. “She’s the health and safety governor here at the school, so her experience and training feeds well into her job.” By having flexible working policies in place, the school gets real benefits from Kathy’s role as an On-Call Firefighter.

Kathy Dunn
(Employee)
School Caretaker and On-Call Firefighter, Lincolnshire

Kathy joined up after hearing about the role from a friend. He told her that their local Fire and Rescue Service was looking for volunteers to become On-Call Firefighters. She initially intended to work five to ten years, but is now hoping to continue as long as her fitness allows. Her rural location sees

her called out to incidents which include field fires in summer, and road traffic collisions in winter.

In her position as caretaker, Kathy has brought her firefighting skills with her and is also Health & Safety Governor in the school where she works.

Whilst her On-Call work is varied and exciting it’s the teamwork which Kathy finds the most enjoyable aspect of the job. “There’s a sense of well-being from being in the group” she explains. “I’ve made lots of good friends and enjoy the team atmosphere and comradeship.”





“
It was a childhood
dream ”

Justin Lewis,
Self-Employed Electrician

Justin Lewis Self-Employed Electrician and On-Call Firefighter, Gloucestershire

Being a firefighter was a childhood dream for Justin, but it wasn't until he became On-Call that he was able to make it a reality. Working as an electrician, Justin enjoyed his day job but felt he was limited in his opportunity to 'give something back.' So joining the Fire and Rescue Service part-time allowed him to both help his community and fulfil a lifelong ambition. Justin has now worked as an On-Call Firefighter for six and a half years and counting.

“Being a firefighter, people have great respect for me, and the type of person I am” he says. “Helping people as part of my working life gives me enormous job satisfaction.”

Justin gets called out to a range of incidents from house fires and floods, to road traffic accidents. On one

memorable occasion he joined a fleet of eighteen fire engines to extinguish a mammoth blaze in the local ten pin bowling alley which raged for fourteen hours. But not every incident is as dramatic.

“One particular call out was to help someone who had their hand stuck in a letterbox, which was quite amusing!” says Justin.

In addition to varied and exciting call outs Justin also greatly appreciates the opportunity to build on his current working skills. “Training in health and safety, and first aid are also beneficial in my day job” he explains.

Justin thrives in the excitement and uncertainty of his work with the Fire and Rescue Service. He never knows what the next call out will be, but more importantly it gives him the chance to combine a challenging day job with a rewarding role with his Fire and Rescue Service and serving his local community.



“
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Steph Tilling, Dental Nurse

Steph Tilling Dental Nurse and On-Call Firefighter, Gloucestershire

“It's an exhilarating adrenalin buzz with great rewards” says On-Call Firefighter Steph Tilling. Steph works as a dental nurse and is a mother of three, making her role with the Fire and Rescue Service an additional rewarding aspect of her day to day life. “I joined because I wanted a challenge, something exciting and the chance to work with the community” says Steph.

The work hasn't always delivered what she expected. On her first call out she arrived expecting a small kitchen fire only to be confronted with a blazing building. She has rescued people as well as encountered fatalities in the course of her duty, and has been involved in delivering educational fire safety advice within the community.

During her work with the Fire and Rescue Service Steph has learned to use a defibrillator and breathing apparatus in addition to learning casualty care and first-aid skills. “I get to do a lot of interesting things I've never done before” she says. “I've learnt things like CPR which are also of benefit to my employer.” She finds the role works well with being a mother and her full time job and brings an exhilarating element of uncertainty to her day. “Your alerter could go off any time – day or night” she says. “And whenever it does, you don't know what you're being called to. We have road traffic collisions, barn fires, house fires – all sorts. I would recommend this job to anyone who wants an exciting challenge. I think it's fantastic.”

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