



# FIRE FIGHTER

**There are many important jobs at East Midlands Airport but the airport would not be allowed to operate without a Fire and Rescue Service on site.**

The European Aviation Safety Agency states that all airports and aerodromes must have a fire and rescue service that:

- Is proportionate to the aircraft operations and other activities taking place at the aerodrome
- Provides for the coordination of appropriate organisations to respond to an emergency at the aerodrome or in its surroundings
- Contains procedures for testing the adequacy of the plan, and for reviewing the results in order to improve its effectiveness.

The Fire and Rescue Service at East Midlands Airport is made up of men and women who work on 'Watches'. Each Watch has a Watch Manager. They work two days on, two nights on and four days off. Fire Fighters work eleven-hour days (6.30 am to 5.30 pm) and thirteen-hour nights (5.30 pm to 6.30 am).

Fire Fighters' main job is aircraft safety. If the alarm sounds, Fire Fighters must

get to any emergency on the airfield within two minutes. The Fire Engines at the airport are either yellow or red but reach high speeds very quickly so they can meet the target time to deal with incidents. One Fire Fighter described these huge trucks as having the acceleration of a Formula One car.

In addition to dealing with emergencies on the airfield, Fire Fighters will also provide support to the Airfield Operations team by de-icing the runway in wintry weather. Fire Fighters will deal with any fires anywhere on the airport site. Importantly Fire Fighters are First Responders so will be called to help with medical emergencies anywhere on site, too.

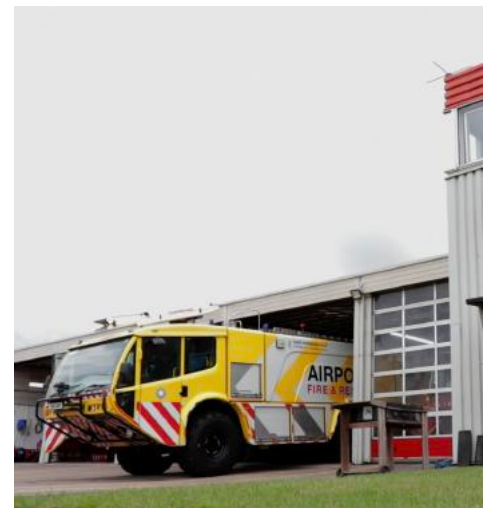
Training is a big part of a Fire Fighter's role. There is a training rig on the airport site that simulates the conditions of an aircraft fire. Fire Fighters take part in many training sessions to make sure their skills and expertise don't 'decay'. There is also a gym because physical fitness is essential to this role.

Fire Fighters spend large amounts of time together. They eat together, and so each Fire Fighter takes it in turn to cook.

## You'll be

- Physically fit.
- Have appropriate maths and English skills to enable you to do your job. English skills are particularly important for passing on clear instructions or information in an emergency situation.
- You'll be a great team player and a good communicator.

- You'll want to help people and at interview it will be useful to have examples of where you have done this through volunteering, supporting friends and family or taking part in a community event.
- You may be in highly stressful situations, so you will be able to follow procedures and work as a team.
- You must also be aware of the sensitivities of for example, medical situations and act appropriately.
- You'll be a person your colleagues can trust, absolutely.



**The Fire Station at East Midlands Airport**

# TO WORK AS AN AVIATION FIRE FIGHTER

## You'll have

- The ability to understand and follow procedures to the letter.
- Resilience. This can be a pressured environment.
- Determination.
- Sense of humour, there's a lot of banter.

## You'll need

Most of the Fire Fighters at East Midlands Airport were qualified (or had their ticket) when recruited. Some came from local Fire Stations, others from the RAF.

This is a highly competitive field. Make sure this is the career for you by asking for work experience at a local fire station.

## You'll earn

- As a trainee Fire Fighter, you'll earn around £22,000.
- As a Crew Manager you'll earn over £31,000.
- Station Managers can earn £37,000 to £41,000.