



Volunteering

with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Ignite your passion

Help us by volunteering for
one of our exciting roles.

save lives | change lives | protect lives

For further information or an application form
call **01606 868654** or visit **cheshirefire.gov.uk/jobs/volunteer**



Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service

We are proud of all our volunteers. They bring a wealth of experience and key skills, which are essential for the success of a modern fire and rescue service.

Our established team of dedicated volunteers give their valuable time to support our vision, which is a Cheshire with zero deaths, injuries and damage from fires and other emergencies.

Together we really do make a difference to the lives of people living and working in Cheshire.

As a thank you to our volunteers we host an annual awards event to recognise the contributions they have made during the year, plus our volunteers can develop their own skills, meet new people and get the chance to give something back to their community.

Being a volunteer with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service can fit into any lifestyle and there are various exciting and interesting roles available.

Do you think you could help us make a difference?

This booklet contains all the volunteer information you need to become part of the team.

Cheshire Fire Cadets

Volunteering as a cadet leader requires you to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. We'd also need you to be available one evening per week, from 6pm - 9pm to support our cadet training nights, with the possibility of attending weekend and cadet holiday events.

No firefighting experience is required for this role.

A typical cadet unit hosts up to 20 young people aged between 12 - 17 years of age, from varied and diverse backgrounds, who are supervised by four volunteer cadet staff.

As a Cadet Leader we would need you to support our cadets by encouraging them to develop personally, socially and with self discipline.

In a team environment, cadet leaders promote physical, mental and emotional well-being by organising structured activities which develop cadets to take informed decisions regarding their future career and life opportunities.

The commitment to attend the weekly drill night at a designated station and on a regular basis, is vital to this role. We do have roles within the cadet scheme that do not require involvement with drill yard activities, if you feel you are able to offer skills such as administration, events and activity support please do get in touch.

The duration of the drill night is normally 3 hours and will take place on the same evening each week (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday dependent on station).





Safety Central Ranger

A DBS check will be required for this role.

We need volunteers Monday to Thursday, 9.15am to 2.30pm / 2.30pm to 5pm / 6.30pm to 8.30pm and Saturdays, 9.30am to 12.30pm (on some Saturdays during the year).

Safety Central is based in Lymm. It's an interactive life skills education centre which opened in 2017 as part of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's work to keep our community safe. The ground-breaking centre houses four immersive learning zones and activity space which will be used to educate visitors about staying safe, keeping healthy and being happy.

We need volunteer Rangers, who will guide people of all ages around the centre, running simple activities that enable them to think about how they can avoid coming to harm in a range of life-like situations.

Duties will include:

- Greeting and welcoming visitors, who will range from primary school children to older adults
- Escorting visitors around the centre, delivering and reinforcing key safety messages
- Answering questions from the visitors during the tour
- Assisting with set up and set down of activity equipment if necessary

Post Fire Support Team (PFST)

A DBS check will be required for this role.

We need volunteers on a 24/7 rota, summer and winter.

The Post Fire Support Team help people cope in the aftermath of a minor domestic emergency, providing practical help, advice and support.

PFST work in teams of two or three and are based out of HQ in Winsford, where the bespoke vehicle is housed.

The team will attend minor domestic incidents on the request of the Officer in Charge to listen, support and advise individuals and families of fire safety, clean the affected area, remove excess water and ensure that the occupants are able to continue to utilise the affected area safely.





Heritage Team

A DBS check will be required for this role.

We need volunteers for weekends in the summer, 6am - 6pm, and weekdays in the winter for sporadic events.

The Service are proud to have a fleet of vintage fire appliances including an 1870's Shand Mason steamer, four fire engines dating from 1938 - 1955, along with an original horse drawn manual fire engine and a V8 Safari Land Rover.

As a heritage team volunteer you get to drive and display all of these machines (dependent on licence limitations), you don't necessarily have to hold an LGV licence although it would be great if you have one.

Other duties include maintenance, polishing (there's lots of brass) and restoration. We do all this to conserve these vehicles for future generations to enjoy.

The heritage team and vehicles represent Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in promotional campaigns and have appeared in television drama productions such as BBC's WPC 56 and ITV's Grantchester. Volunteer uniform is provided along with travel expenses.



Fire Bike Rider

We need volunteers for weekends in the summer, 8am - 6pm, and weekdays in the winter, 9am - 5pm. We also need volunteers in the evening, 6pm - 10pm.

The fire bike team consists of experienced and trained motorcycle riders. Their role is to engage with motorcycle and scooter riders throughout Cheshire. The riders deliver road safety messages, specifically for these vehicles, discuss the importance of correct clothing and promote enhanced rider courses.

Biker down

Biker Down is a rider skills – rider response course that is for bikers, delivered by bikers. The course consists of three parts and is delivered by the fire bike riders.

The course consists of input on:

- The science of being seen
- Casualty care
- Incident scene management



Events Team

A DBS check will be required for this role.

We need volunteers Monday - Sunday, 7.30am - 7pm.

The Service attends a range of shows, fairs and other events throughout the year to promote important safety messages and engage with communities about its plans. The support of volunteers who enjoy talking to members of the public as well as being willing and able to drive and set up one of our exhibition vehicles is crucial.

This is a varied and exciting role which could see you guiding groups through our interactive kitchen safety unit one week, handing out materials at the Cheshire Show the next or helping out at one of our award evenings on another occasion.

You will receive a full induction, provided with a volunteer uniform and ID and, if your driving licence allows, tested to drive some of our non-operational vehicles.



Garden Support

A DBS check will be required for this role.

We need volunteers for this role during the week, throughout summer and winter.

Our volunteer gardeners assist and guide youth groups who work with or in partnership with The Service and local schools. These gardeners will support the groups to establish and maintain the communal gardens at selected fire stations throughout Cheshire.

The gardens, dependent on size, can include a picnic seating area, vegetable and flower beds, wildlife areas, compost heap and pond.

These projects will be staffed by CFRS volunteers with the support of CFRS staff members and the schools and youth groups we invite on educational visits.

A passion for gardening, plus knowledge and experience of planting, growing and pruning flowers and vegetables is essential for this role. Tools and equipment will be provided along with volunteer uniform and overalls.





Prevention Safety Team

By volunteering for this role, you will be supporting a team that proactively delivers consistent safety messages to members of the Cheshire community.

Our Prevention Safety Team are required to work alongside us all year round at events, in colleges or schools and can be asked to attend initiatives or local fire station open days throughout the year.

They support the delivery of key messages for local and national campaigns, which helps keep everyone safe at home, outdoors or on the road.

Going out into the community to relay our targeted messaging to highlight road safety dangers, providing advice to help prevent people from drowning or helping us to reduce the number of deliberate fires we attend through proactive promotion is key to the role.



Role play

Our Training Department runs major rescue scenario training sessions for trainee, on-call and wholetime firefighters. This department invites volunteers to play minor roles, by giving a brief before the exercise and a de-brief following the exercise. It is essential that you understand and comply with all instructions given to you.

See below for a sample of scenarios volunteers may be involved in.

1. Placed on the first platform of a ladder tower, acting having a broken leg - although they will play the live part, a simulated casualty will be used for removal from the tower.
2. Run from the entrance of the smoke house (using synthetic smoke) acting as a family member with relations still trapped inside.
3. On location as a bystander or walking wounded to a Road Traffic Collision, they may also be asked to reenact the part of a casualty trapped in the vehicle requiring rescue.
4. Standing by a simulated casualty inside the smoke house (using synthetic smoke) so that the searching fire team can pick up the position using heat seeking detection equipment. A simulated casualty will be used for removal from the smoke house.

Other volunteering opportunities

Driving opportunities

A DBS check will be required.

We need volunteers for this role during the week, throughout the year.

Use your driving skills to support our Youth Teams. Transport them to a number of different locations, including residentials, graduations at the Service Headquarters and site visits, for example, Bentley or Fujitsu.

You will be helping young people on our Prince's Trust courses to build confidence, motivation, and skills to help unemployed young people return to education, training or secure employment.

Here's what some of our volunteers have to say

“ Having spent 14 years as a volunteer Special Constable in Cheshire I wanted to prevent some of the accidents I had attended, so volunteering for the road safety team is ideal for this.

Simon Dixon, Road Safety Volunteer

“ Being a cadet leader gives me the opportunity to support young people to gain lifelong skills. I enjoy helping them learn new skills and get involved in such things as the cadet drill night and work together as a team. I hope with my support they grow into exceptional individuals and make a difference themselves in the future.

Ella McKenna Maddock, Cadet Leader

“ While on a tour of Safety Central I was impressed by the facility and the attitude from everybody, both staff and rangers. It just made me want to become part of something great and help deliver vital safety messages to our visitors.

John Hind, Safety Ranger

Application process

On receipt of a completed application form that meets our volunteer standard, applicant details are logged onto the volunteer database and the interview paperwork is prepared. This is sent to the line manager of the applicant's chosen volunteer role. The line manager will contact the applicant to arrange an interview. If successful at interview, the applicant will be asked to complete a Disclosure and Barring Privacy Policy (DBS) and provide three forms of ID (role dependent).

Once all of this paperwork is received, references are requested and on return of these and the DBS check, volunteer agreements are sent to the applicant's home address. When returned, the line manager will be informed that the volunteer has been successful in their application.

At this point the volunteer and line manager can discuss availability and forthcoming opportunities.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

You will be informed of the type of DBS check your role requires at the interview stage.

Your application will NOT be automatically rejected if the check is returned disclosing convictions or police cautions. However, you will be invited to meet with a panel to discuss these disclosures. The panel will decide on your suitability for a Fire and Rescue Service volunteer role.

DBS checks must be refreshed every three years, however, there is no cost involved for the volunteer.

If you are engaged as a volunteer in a role that carries a Standard DBS check, but then decide to apply to volunteer for one of the roles that carries an Enhanced DBS check, then you will be required to complete another check.

All volunteers must declare to Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service any convictions or cautions they receive while active as a volunteer. This information must be securely forwarded to the Service's Volunteer Lead in the Prevention Department.

Mileage expense claims

Mileage expenses will be reimbursed for travel in personal vehicles to and from the location of the volunteering opportunity within Cheshire, if there is no alternative, cheaper form of transport available. Any distance covered outside of Cheshire will need prior permission from the department lead officer. Volunteers will need to complete a “Mileage Claim Form”, which is available from the volunteer lead.

On the first claim, volunteers will need to include a witnessed copy of their driver’s licence and insurance policy along with a current MOT certificate. Please note, it is the responsibility of the volunteer to ensure that they are legally covered by their insurance company, they must contact their insurers to check that they are covered before using their vehicle for volunteering duties. To find out more, visit <https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/choosing-the-right-insurance/motor-insurance/volunteer-drivers/>

Volunteer achievement certificates

In return for your volunteer commitment, we have introduced long service certificates.

We will celebrate your successes at an annual Volunteer Celebration in February.

These certificates can be included in your skills portfolio or CV to add merit.



The Fire Fighters Charity

If you are a volunteer with us you will also be able to access The Fire Fighters Charity, which provides confidential, personalised support to the whole of the fire service community, delivering mental health, physical health, and social wellbeing services at its centres, remotely, online and in communities around the UK.



Our pledge to you

We pledge to do everything to ensure that your volunteering experience is both stimulating and rewarding.

We will hold Volunteer meetings, where Volunteers will be able to socially interact, complete training and find out about future volunteering opportunities.

You will be assigned a key point of contact for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and they will contact you on a monthly basis.

We will hold an event each year to recognise and celebrate our valued contributions and achievements.

We will issue each volunteer with a uniform which is to be worn only whilst representing Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

If you decide to stop volunteering with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, we will contact you for your views, so we can learn from your experience and make sure we are treating everyone equally.

You will be treated with respect and dignity and in the same manner as all Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service employees.

Caring for and working with volunteers



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