

Photo

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

## Advice for applicants:

- It's not just fires – there are lots of opportunities to make a difference

Most of my family have been in the navy, so I initially wanted to do that. I did my exams and induction and had got in. But unfortunately, due to a medical condition, I wasn't able to join immediately. I was told that in the meantime I should consider becoming a firefighter. I got in and have stayed ever since.

The recruitment process was difficult as I struggle with exams. The fitness tests were hard too but I got on better with the physical aspect. Once I had passed, the new recruits course was very well run. The instructors were great and really approachable. It really helped that it was residential as you could speak to other people in the same situation if you were struggling.

The best thing about my job is the variety. If you're willing to move around and experience different sides to the service you'll gain a lot back. The people who work for South Yorkshire fire and rescue service are brilliant – always supportive and there to give help when you need it. There are so many more great days than there are bad.

My job is very busy, but that's the way I like it. My family sometimes worry about me but that's natural and they know I have a great team around me.

I tell people it's not just fires – there are lots of opportunities to make a difference.

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**You need to be comfortable working in the community and able to communicate with all kinds of people. I make the effort to get to know each person I visit.**

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