

Tasks

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The German fire service is an emergency service supported by the state. It is organised by villages and towns and only carries out humanitarian tasks.

These tasks include:

- ➔ Putting out fires
- ➔ Technical help in the case of accidents
- ➔ Helping with accidents involving hazardous goods
- ➔ Saving people and animals
- ➔ Protecting the environment and material assets
- ➔ Help after catastrophes
- ➔ First aid

The fire service helps all people, regardless of their background, religion, gender or appearance. In emergencies, those most in need are helped first. This means that firefighters enjoy a great deal of respect and trust in Germany.



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Marcus Scheidel, Steve Bauerschmidt,
Thüringer Feuerwehrverband

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Telephone: +49 (0) 361 57 3313 126

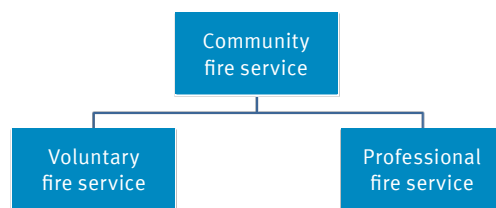
Email:
presse@tmik.thueringen.de

Become a Firefighter in Germany!



Structure of the Fire Service

Thuringia's fire service is set up so that help can be provided on site within 10 minutes of the 112 emergency call. It relies on a broad network of fire stations. In order to facilitate these tasks in all villages and towns, there are:



The **volunteer fire service** is split up into:

- ➔ The youth fire service
- ➔ Deployment service
- ➔ Elderly and honorary service

Volunteer fire fighters provide their service **on a voluntary basis**. They regularly attend practice trainings in their spare time but are only called in **for emergencies**. They have to pass basic training as standard, and may take part in further training.

Prerequisites for Volunteer Fire Fighters

Voluntary membership of the fire service obligates the volunteers to fulfil all tasks assigned to them.

The following conditions must be met in order to become a **voluntary fire fighter**:

For the youth fire service:

- ➔ At least 6 years old

For the deployment service:

- ➔ At least 16 years old
- ➔ Good German skills
- ➔ Physically and mentally capable
- ➔ **Regular involvement**
- ➔ Successful participation in **basic training**
- ➔ 40 hours of training per year
- ➔ Participation in further training

Prerequisites for Professional Fire Fighters

Applicants for **professional fire services** must pass a pre-selection process before embarking on training, which generally lasts **two years**.

The following conditions must be fulfilled by deployment staff in middle fire safety positions in accordance with Thuringian fire service career, training and testing regulations (ThürFwLAPO):

- ➔ Fulfilment of statutory **requirements for taking up a civil service position**
- ➔ No older than 32 on first day
- ➔ High school leaving certificate or equivalent
- ➔ **Suitable vocational training for the fire service**
- ➔ Adequate fitness, as established by a doctor
- ➔ Class B driving licence
- ➔ Successfully passing a suitability test assessing fitness, practical, written and verbal skills

Managerial staff in higher fire safety services are subject to different regulations in accordance with the ThürFwLAPO.

