

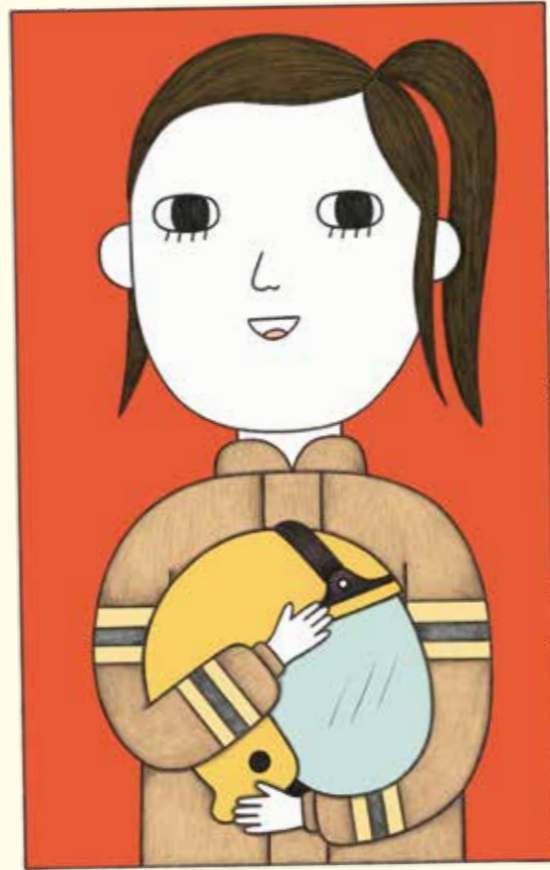
# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A... FIREFIGHTER

Hi, I'm Leonie, and I work for the UK Fire and Rescue Services. My day starts with a uniform parade, while the station officer tells me and the crew our roles for the day. In an emergency, one person might drive the fire engine, another might operate the fire pump and others might enter a building to fight the fire.

Every day we make sure our equipment is working by testing hoses, ladders and water supplies. It's important that our equipment is always ready so we're prepared for an emergency call.

As firefighters, we carry out life-saving work, but it's not all fast-paced. We work with our local community to teach fire safety, in order to increase fire-safety awareness, and prevent fires and accidents happening in the first place. We also take part in fitness training and practice procedures.

However, at some point, our mobile data terminal – a special computer in the fire engine – will light up. Within seconds, we're racing through the streets, blue lights flashing. We could be on our way to fight a fire, rescue someone from deep water or contain a chemical spill. Either way, at the end of my shift, I go home knowing I have made a difference – whether it's making someone safer in their home or rescuing them from a fire.



LEONIE, DERBY, UK



When training in the drill yard, we pitch ladders against tall towers and use breathing equipment to practise entering smoke-filled buildings.



We practise using high-pressure hoses to put out roaring flames, and use a hydraulic spreader-cutter to train for rescuing people trapped in cars.



When an emergency call comes in, we drop what we're doing and race to the scene to put all our training into action!

