

Fire Inspectors

SOC: 33-2020 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$75,480 Median Salary	17,600 Employment	+6.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 20.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

5.4/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.0/10	Investigative	6.4/10
Artistic	4.0/10	Social	7.8/10
Enterprising	6.6/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Critical-thinking skills, Detail oriented, Physical stamina, Physical strength, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Fire Inspectors examine buildings, properties, and systems **to ensure compliance with fire codes, safety regulations, and risk standards**. They evaluate fire hazards, investigate incidents, and provide guidance to prevent fires. Their work is critical in public safety, building compliance, and emergency prevention.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy safety, inspection, and regulatory enforcement.

What Do Fire Inspectors Do?

These professionals conduct inspections, investigate fires, and enforce safety regulations to protect people and property.

Common responsibilities include:

- Inspecting buildings, fire suppression systems, and safety equipment
- Reviewing construction plans and ensuring fire code compliance
- Conducting fire investigations to determine causes and prevent recurrence
- Recommending improvements or corrective actions for fire safety
- Preparing reports and maintaining records of inspections and investigations
- Educating building owners, employees, and the public on fire safety practices
- Coordinating with fire departments, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies

Key Areas of Fire Inspection

Fire inspectors may specialize in specific areas or types of facilities:

- Building and Construction Inspection: Ensuring new structures meet fire codes
- Fire Protection Systems: Evaluating sprinklers, alarms, and suppression systems
- Investigation and Analysis: Determining the cause of fires and incidents
- Public Education and Training: Promoting fire safety awareness and prevention
- Regulatory Compliance: Enforcing local, state, and federal fire safety laws

Skills and Abilities Needed

Fire inspectors combine technical knowledge, analytical skills, and attention to detail.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and specialized training:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic math, science, and communication skills
- Postsecondary or Technical Training (optional): Fire science, safety, or emergency management programs
- On-the-Job Training: Learning inspection procedures, fire codes, and investigative techniques
- Certification or Licensing (varies by state): Fire inspector or safety certifications
- Continuous Learning: Staying updated on fire safety standards, codes, and technology

Where Do Fire Inspectors Work?

They are employed in organizations responsible for fire safety and building compliance:

- Local and State Fire Departments
- Government Regulatory Agencies
- Insurance Companies
- Construction and Property Management Firms

- Private Fire Safety Consulting

Work environments include offices, inspection sites, industrial facilities, and public buildings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires technical knowledge, attention to detail, and strong ethical standards. Inspectors must identify hazards, enforce regulations, and handle investigations with accuracy and responsibility.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Are detail-oriented and observant
- Enjoy enforcing safety standards and regulations
- Can analyze risks and problem-solve effectively
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Want a career protecting people and property from fire hazards

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in fire science, safety, or emergency management
- Volunteer or intern with fire departments or safety organizations
- Develop analytical, observation, and reporting skills
- Learn about fire codes, safety standards, and building regulations
- Stay informed on fire prevention techniques and emergency response practices

Fire inspectors ensure buildings and systems meet safety standards, helping prevent fires, protect property, and safeguard lives.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/fire-inspectors-and-investigators.htm>