The Tools Firefighters Use

Vehicles
Firefighters use different kinds of vehicles to bring tools and equipment to a fire or an emergency. Three common vehicles are:

- fire engines,
- ladder trucks, and
- rescue trucks or ambulances.

The firefighters that work together and ride on these vehicles are called a company. Every member of the company has a specific job to do to help keep the community safe.

Fire Engine
Fire engines carry water and equipment like hoses, water pumps, axes and fire extinguishers to a fire. The firefighters that ride on the fire engine are responsible for getting water and putting out the fire.

Ladder Truck
Ladder trucks carry ladders that can be raised high in the air so firefighters can get into higher levels of a building. They also carry other tools. The firefighters that ride on this truck can put out the fire and may have to rescue people who are trapped above the second level of the building.

Rescue Truck/Ambulance
Rescue trucks or ambulances carry medicines and medical supplies to a fire or other emergency. The firefighters that ride on the rescue truck or ambulance are trained to care for people who are sick or injured. They can check your breathing, your heart, your blood pressure and your pulse. Sometimes they have to take people to the hospital.
The Tools Firefighters Use

Equipment

Ladders
Firefighters use ladders to reach the outside of a building above the first or second level.

- Sometimes they have to cut a hole in the roof of the building to let out gases and smoke.
- Sometimes they go up on the ladder to spray the top of the building with water to put out the fire or to keep it from spreading.
- Sometimes they use the ladder to rescue people who are trapped in a building.

Fire Hose
Firefighters use large hoses to carry water to a fire and put it out. Fire hoses are very heavy and spray water with a lot of force. When the water is turned on, it takes two or more firefighters to carry and aim the hose. The hoses are stored on the fire engine.

Jaws of Life
Firefighters use the Jaws of Life when they need to rescue people from a motor vehicle crash. These are cutting and spreading tools. They can cut through metal and make wide openings so people can be rescued and receive medical care if they are hurt.

Halligan Tool
Firefighters use a Halligan tool to break down doors, windows, or walls to get to a fire or to rescue a trapped person.

Axe
Firefighters sometimes use axes to break down doors or to break through windows, walls, or roofs.

Fire Extinguisher
Firefighters use a fire extinguisher to put out some types of small fires. Fire extinguishers do less damage than the water from a fire hose. They are also easier to move, so it may be faster for the firefighters to get to a fire and put it out with a fire extinguisher.
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Turnout Gear
Firefighters wear special gear to keep them safe when they are working. It is called turnout gear.

Turnout gear is waterproof, heatproof, and sturdy. It protects firefighters from smoke, fire, and other dangerous materials.

Turnout gear includes boots, a helmet, a coat and pants, a hood, suspenders, and gloves.

Mask and Air Tank
Firefighters wear a mask and an air tank to help them breathe when there is smoke in the air.

Fire Hydrant
In many places, firefighters get the water they need to put out a fire from a fire hydrant.

If there is a fire hydrant near your home, make sure the path to it is clear. It should never be blocked by snow, plants, or other objects. If the firefighters can get to the fire hydrant easily, they can start putting out the fire right away.

If you see a blocked fire hydrant, clear a path to it. If you cannot clear the path on your own, call the fire department’s non-emergency phone number and tell the person who answers about the hydrant.
Word Scramble – Firefighter’s Tools

Instructions: Unscramble the letters below to make words about the tools firefighters use. Write the words on the blank lines.

1. mkas _________________________________
2. krtcu _________________________________
3. grae _________________________________
4. rdtnhya _________________________________
5. nneegi _________________________________
6. esoh _________________________________
7. dladre _________________________________
8. giaHllna _________________________________
9. rai ntak (2 words) _________________________________
10. exquishtiner _________________________________

Find the answers on page 5.
Label the Pictures

Directions: Write the letter for the correct label on the line next to each picture.

A. axe     B. ladder     C. Halligan tool     D. fire hydrant     E. fire extinguisher

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________
4. __________________________
5. __________________________

Find the answers on page 4.