

Name: Alan Faulds

Job Title: Local Area Liaison Officer for Stirling, Clackmannanshire & Fife

Company: Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Hometown: Falkirk



Since I was 6 years old and I saw a fire engine putting a fire out I knew I didn't want to do anything else but join the Fire Service. The excitement of the job and the fact I would be helping people is what really appealed. That being said the biggest surprise I was faced with was the reality of the danger. That may sound weird but walking into a building completely engulfed in fire and feeling the heat and anticipation of what could go wrong isn't the same as watching it on TV. 28 years I am still here and I have held many different job roles: Firefighter, Leading Firefighter, Sub Officer, Watch Commander and now Local Area Liaison Officer.

In my current role I am in charge of Community Safety which means putting things in place to reduce fires, accidents, injuries and deaths. I work daily with many partners to target those most at risk from fire and fire related incidents.

Throughout my career I have completed multiple courses starting with a 16 week recruitment course, numerous Health and Safety, and working with people qualifications as well as a degree in working with young people at Dundee University. Because my job changes all the time we do training almost on a weekly basis. Firefighters who are active in the field train every day, and as for the skills we develop, there are too many to list, but some include physical firefighting, RTC skills, building construction and hydraulics driving.

On a personal level I feel people skills like communication, listening and organisational skills are by far the most vital skills I use in my role because of the many partners and individuals I work with on a daily basis.

As a key worker with SFRS I see people at their lowest stage. We do the very best we can to guide and support them through that. Yes this is a 'job' but this job has taught me that no matter what happens people pull together and it's genuinely humbling. Knowing we make a difference, knowing there are people alive because we pulled them from a fire or a car crash makes me proud. However my biggest achievement is 'Safe Drive Stay Alive'. Being a Firefighter with such a supportive employer has allowed me to set up and drive forward this incredibly successful programme and I'm very proud that deaths and injuries in young people have dropped so much since we began the programme.

If I could give young people any advice it is to simply **'go to school and work as hard as you can when there.'** Attendance is hugely important and employers don't want people who won't attend work. Working can open so many future opportunities for progression and amazing experiences for you but attending school is the first step to any of it.

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