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# Personal Frustrations of a Full-Time Firefighting Career

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# Research & Scholarship SYMPOSIUM

## **Personal Frustrations of a Full-Time Firefighting Career**

In this phenomenological qualitative study, we explored the professional and personal frustrations of being a full-time male firefighter. Themes emerged through analyzing the transcripts of the 26 semi-structured interviews that we conducted. Questions specifically focused on the stress and experiences encountered while on the job and the potential effects that their job has on their personal life, including hobbies, health, and personality. Themes included perceived verbal and physical abuse by the community of the fire service and its services, firefighters' increased awareness of the environment and how this affects their daily life and the negative/positive implications of the media portrayal of firefighters. We relate the findings of the present study to research on other service-providing professions. Implications of the study include increased awareness and respect for the struggles firefighters endure.