

## Kristy Halvorsen

**Job title:** Lieutenant Firefighter Paramedic, North Port Fire Rescue, Florida

### Job description

Provide emergency firefighting, rescue and paramedic level medical care to residents of a community, 24-on 48-off shift schedule

### How did you decide on a career in firefighting? Did you always know you wanted to go down this path?

No, actually I didn't. I never even thought of what a firefighter did everyday. I met a firefighter at a laundromat in college and that was the first time I ever even considered being a firefighter. I don't know if you've ever been to a laundromat, but you just have time to sit there and wait and he was there washing his fire gear so I just struck up a conversation and asked him about his job.



Firefighting is a very physical job and I've always been an athlete and I really liked the fact that you didn't know what your daily job was going to be until it came. I still like that about my job. You don't really know what you're going to do that day until the call comes in.

### Now, do you work with other women or what's your work environment like?

Our fire department is a little over ten percent female, which is a high number nowadays. On my shift we have like 24, 25 firefighters and three of us are female, and I actually have one that I work in the station with. We have three on a fire engine and one on a fire-tanker and the other female drives the engine for me. She's my driver. So I'm the lieutenant, she's the driver and we have another firefighter in the back.

### What kind of advice would you have for someone who might be interested in a firefighting career?

I think this is the kind of job that anybody can do. I've seen some of the tiniest females that can perform just as well as the strongest guy. It's all relative.

But really, anybody can do it. You just have to get in shape and learn. Just like any career, there's a lot of learning involved and it's one of those careers where you never stop learning. Everyday there's new stuff that comes along. So if you're an open-minded, positive person that doesn't mind getting physical, then it's really a job that anybody could do.