

KEY EXPENSES FOR FIREFIGHTERS

A FIREFIGHTERS' PROFESSIONAL FEES & DUES:

Dues paid to professional societies related to your occupation as a firefighter are deductible. However, the cost of initial admission fees paid for membership in certain organizations or social clubs are considered capital expenses.

Deductions are allowed for payments made to a union as a condition of initial or continued membership. Such payments include regular dues, but not those which go toward defraying expenses of a personal nature. However, the part of union dues which goes into a strike fund is deductible.

B UNIFORMS & UPKEEP EXPENSES:

Generally, the costs of your firefighter uniforms are fully deductible. IRS rules specify that work clothing costs and the cost of its maintenance are deductible if: (1) the uniforms are required by your employer, (if you're an employee); and (2) the clothes are not adaptable to ordinary street wear. Normally, the employer's emblem attached to the clothing indicates it is not for street wear. The cost of protective clothing (e.g., safety shoes or goggles) is also deductible.

C TELEPHONE EXPENSES:

The basic local telephone service costs of the first telephone line provided in your residence are not deductible. However, toll calls from that line are deductible if the calls are business related. The costs (basic fee and toll calls) of a second line in your home are also deductible, if used exclusively for business.

D CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Educational expenses are deductible under either of two conditions: (1) Your employer requires the education in order for you to keep your job or rate of pay; or (2) The education maintains or improves skills as a firefighter. Costs of courses that are taken to meet the minimum requirements of a job, or that qualify a person for a new trade or business, are NOT deductible.

E MISCELLANEOUS:

House dues and meal expenses may be deductible. Firefighters are often required to eat their meals at the station house. One court case (Sibla) said that the costs of such meals are nondeductible unless the firefighters: (1) are required to make payments to a common mess fund as a condition of employment, and (2) must pay whether or not they are at the station house to eat the meals. Contact this office for further details on this deduction.

Expenses of looking for new employment in your present line of work are deductible – you do not have to actually obtain a new job in order to deduct the expenses. Out-of-town job seeking expenses are deductible only if the primary purpose of the trip is job-seeking, not pursuing personal activities.

F EQUIPMENT & REPAIRS:

Generally, to be deductible, items must be ordinary and necessary to your job as a firefighter and not reimbursable by your employer. Record separately from other supplies, the costs of business assets which are expected to last longer than one year and cost more than \$100. Normally, the costs of such assets are recovered differently on your tax return than are other recurring, everyday business expenses like flashlights, batteries and other supplies.

G AUTO TRAVEL:

Your auto expense is based on the number of qualified business miles you drive. Expenses for travel between business locations or daily transportation expenses in going between your residence and temporary work locations are deductible; include them as business miles. Your trips between home and work each day or between home and one or more regular places of work are COMMUTING and are NOT deductible.

Document business miles in a record book as follows: (1) Give the date and business purpose of each trip; (2) Note the place to which you traveled; (3) Record the number of business miles; (4) Record your car's odometer reading at both the beginning and end of the tax year. Keep receipts for all car operating expenses – gas, oil, repairs, insurance, etc., and of any reimbursement you received for your expenses.

H TRAVEL - OUT-OF-TOWN:

Expenses of traveling away from "home" overnight on job-related and continuing-education trips are deductible. Your "home" is generally considered to be the entire city or general area where your principal place of employment is located. Out-of-town expenses include transportation, meals, lodging, tips, and miscellaneous items like laundry, valet, etc.

Document away-from-home expenses by noting the date, destination, and business purpose of your trip. Record business miles if you drove to the out-of-town location. In addition, keep a detailed record of your expenses – lodging, public transportation, meals, etc. Always list meals and lodging separately in your records. Receipts must be retained for each lodging expense. However, if any other business expense is less than \$25, a receipt is not necessary if you record all of the information in a diary. You must keep track of the full amount of meal and entertainment expenses even though only a portion of the amount may be deductible.

TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

PROFESSIONAL FEES & DUES

Association Dues	
House Dues	
Union Dues	
Other:	

UNIFORMS & UPKEEP

Alterations	
Boots	
Cleaning	
Emblems	
Gloves	
Hat	
Helmet	
Jacket	
Laundry	
Pants	
Repairs	
Shirts	
Shoes	
Ties	
Whistle	
Other:	

TELEPHONE EXPENSES

Cellular Calls	
Paging Service	
Pay Phone	
Toll Calls	
Other:	

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Correspondence Course Fees	
Materials & Supplies	
Registration	
Seminar Fees	
Supplies	
Text Books	
Training Session	
Other:	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Errors and Omissions Insurance	
Job Seeking	
Legal <i>(Protection & production of taxable income)</i>	
Liability insurance	
Professional Subscriptions	

EQUIPMENT & REPAIRS

Answering Machine	
Batteries	
Beeper	
Binoculars	
Briefcase	
Flashlight	
ID Case	
Key	
Strap	
Map Book	
Note Book	
Pager	
Polish	
Recorder	
Repairs – Equipment	
Safety Equipment	
Tapes – Recording	
Other:	

AUTO TRAVEL

Between 1 st & 2 nd Job	
Between Stations	
Continuing Education	
Out of Town Business Trips	
Purchasing Equipment & supplies	
Uniform Cleaning & Maintenance	
Parking Fees	
Tolls	
Other:	

TRAVEL – OUT OF TOWN

Airfare	
Bridge & Highway Tolls	
Bus & Subway	
Care Rental	
Laundry	
Lodging <i>(do not combine with meals)</i>	
Meals <i>(do not combine with lodging)</i>	
Parking	
Porter, Bell Caption	
Taxi	
Telephone Calls <i>(including home)</i>	
Train	
Other:	