

An Interview with Firefighters



In the afternoon of a Monday in March we visited the fire station of Eger with 14 of my classmates accompanied by two of our teachers. When we arrived we got in the middle of an alert: we could see them head out. In the lobby Lieutenant Péter Kormos and Attila Keskeny awaited us and guided us through the station, end even answered our uncountable questions with big patience. They told us that there are 3 trucks in the garage currently, but soon their number will be reduced to two, because they'll take one of them to another station.



Supervisor Péter Kormos introduced us to the job of firemen, their ranks: we got to know that they perform 24 hours of service then they get a 2-day break, and so it repeats. There are service rooms, where they wait, rest before a mission. We were shown the kitchen, the dining room and the gym. We would've liked to try sliding down the pole too, but unfortunately the rule forbids it.

Attila Keskeny was talking about how and who can become a fire-fighter. Proper stamina and mental outfit is needed for this job, some courage and risk-taking, also practical training, which they end with a test after three months. Today women can't be firemen in our country, the Hungarian laws don't allow it yet, but there's a lot of female candidates.

One of our mates asked what kind of tasks firemen did, and they told us, that they didn't only deal with fire extinguishing – it's only a part of their job – but they help with accidents as well, take part in saving animals, averting storm damages, and they got technical rescues.

Our teachers were asking eagerly as well: they also were interested in the topic very much. They even asked how often the alerts are. It turned out from the answer of our guides that it's completely various on daily basis, it depends more on the seasons. In spring there are lots of grass- and bushfires, accidents are more typical during winter.

Someone was curious about how often false alerts happens. We got to know that they are in great numbers, but 90% of it can be filtered out.



It was asked how important is to keep together in this profession. It turned out that the role of community is not only important in the job, but it's also determinative in the everyday life. They know each other very well in their personal lives too, friends in the same team often plan group activities, too. Getting used to each other is a big virtue in work, and the power of fellowship is a big help to process a tragedy.

We asked how typical is that people appreciate their work. We got the answer that it rarely happens, but if sometimes they thank them it makes them feel very good.

We thought that the everyday heroes deserve our inquiring about their job, our looking a little bit inside of them, and our thanking them for what they do for us every day. Fortunately heroes are not only characters in films and comics. The real heroes walk among us, do their work, often facing danger, all this in silence, modestly, because it's natural for them. Do not let it be natural for us! Thanks for their existence!

