

## Video – Female firefighters in Cheshire talking about being On-Call Firefighters

**Firefighter Rachel Atkin-Jones:** I saw a banner advertised in the town centre in Tarporley and I contacted the telephone number and it all went from there. No, I never dreamt of becoming a firefighter until I saw it advertised and after I saw it I thought: 'Do you know what? I could do that'. I just sat there literally for five minutes before I called the telephone number and here I am now.

**Firefighter Hannah Remelie:** So I've always thought about it but I've never had the encouragement to go and do it. I've been on call since the end of January.

**Firefighter Rachel Atkin-Jones:** It's a lot easier than I thought it was going to be. I work 21 hours in my primary job, which is quite a demanding job in itself and as for my family life; both of my children are at school so I have time during the day. The manager here encouraged me and said it was easily done and you know what, it is easily done.

**Firefighter Hannah Remelie:** They are a really good bunch here and I get along with all of them really well and they are really encouraging and if I think I can't do something they say 'you can, just try it' and they will help you.

**Firefighter Rachel Atkin-Jones:** It didn't put me off thinking 'its going to be really physical, it's really hard, it's not a woman's job' because it definitely can be and definitely is.

**Firefighter Hannah Remelie:** Drill nights are to keep your training up and each month you will have a different section. It's good because you get to see everyone at the station a lot more and learning the skills together because they are the people you are going to be working with.

**Firefighter Rachel Atkin-Jones:** Initially my family and friends were apprehensive and didn't think I would have enough time to become a firefighter but then they saw how passionate and excited I was at the thought of doing it. It doesn't impact on your family life all that much and what you get out of it: the help, helping people, the adrenaline; it outweighs the hours you do have to put in.