

Firefighter Eyesight Requirements

Firefighters need to meet specific eyesight standards to carry out their role safely and effectively. As eyesight can change over time, all applicants must meet the required vision standards when applying to join the fire service as firefighters. If you have any concerns about your eyesight, we recommend booking an appointment with your optician and taking the information below with you for advice.

The vision standards for eyesight are:

Visual Acuity

- The minimum *uncorrected* vision for candidates should be 6/60 monocularly (in each eye)
- *Corrected* visual acuity for candidates should be 6/9 binocularly (with both eyes open), and a minimum of 6/12 in the worse eye
- Upper hypermetropic limit of +8.00
- Candidates should be able to read N12 at 30cm binocularly (with both eyes open). This may be achieved with corrective aids, provided these can be worn safely and reliably with operational PPE, including BA.

Visual Fields

- There are a number of visual field requirements which must be met.

Colour Blindness

- Candidates who believe they have colour blindness may wish to be formally assessed prior to applying. Candidates must undertake the Ishihara test. Those who do not pass the Ishihara, the minimum standard accepted is a pass with the Farnsworth D-15 standard test.

Refractive Surgery

- An assessment on a case-by-case basis will be made for candidates who have had refractive surgery. This assessment will be undertaken by a qualified ophthalmologist and is necessary to ensure the eye has returned to normal and that there is no significant loss of corneal transparency over the pupil area
- Generally, candidates will not be considered until at least 12 months post-surgery and when all medication has ceased.

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