



Functional Skills Level 1

ENGLISH

Paper 1 Reading

Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- Source A:** a newspaper report about a wildfire
- Source B:** an extract from a careers podcast
- Source C:** a leaflet about fire safety for tenants

**Please open the Insert fully
to see all three sources**

Source A

Last Day in Paradise: How A Fire Swallowed A Town

This place has a beautiful name but in November 2018 it was nothing like heaven.

Paradise is a quiet rural town in California. On 8th November 2018 it experienced one of the worst wildfires America has ever seen.

Wildfires are rife in Californian forests. Over the past ten years parts of Paradise have had at least four fires. The one in 2008 destroyed more than 200 buildings.

Lack of rain plus global warming have left the forests dry and littered with dead trees. So the fire spread easily and rapidly. The position of the town at the top of a ridge means there is only one main road out of the town. When people were told to leave, they all tried to escape at once. This created a huge traffic jam and the fire was moving more quickly than the vehicles.

Lynn Pitman was beginning her day's lessons but had to leave her classroom quickly, along with her pupils. It was growing dark although it was only 9 am. "Once I got outside, the smoke, the darkness – it looked like midnight," said the teacher. The winds were blowing the smoke into a choking cloud of air.

By now, the fire was raging from building to building. "It was panic," Firefighter Ken Lowe said, "pitch black, trees lighting up like matches all around. It looked like amber snowflakes falling from the sky!"

It took firefighters 17 days to bring the fire under control. Almost 90% of homes in Paradise were destroyed, and 86 people had lost their lives.

Source B

Your Future in Firefighting



Presenter: Hello and welcome to the latest in our series of podcasts about careers. Today we're talking to Helen Carter about working in the Fire Service.

Helen, you've worked as a firefighter for 27 years and now you advise people who want to follow in your footsteps. I understand there are always waiting lists for firefighter vacancies. Is that because the job is so popular?

Helen: That's correct – there's a lot of competition for these jobs. But be warned! You need to be very flexible to cope with the various duties. No two days are the same.

Presenter: Why are people so keen to do a job where they might be killed? Is it the uniform?

Helen: Of course not. Firefighting is a very demanding job. There's a risk of injuries, but the chances of dying are very low. Between 2009 and 2019, only eight firefighters lost their lives. Being a firefighter gives lots of job satisfaction. It's a very secure career with a decent pension when you retire.

Presenter: If it's such a good job, why do people ever leave?

Helen: People may not leave because they don't like firefighting – they just need a change of direction. Some find it difficult working shifts rather than regular hours.

Presenter: OK. After the break, Helen will be explaining how to apply.

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**Open out this page to see
Source B and Source C**

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