

WISE Pathways

Women in Sustainable Employment

Building awareness of careers in construction, energy & utilities, public safety, and manufacturing for women.



Public Safety Industry

A background image of a female scientist in a white lab coat and safety goggles. She is holding a pipette and looking intently at a piece of laboratory glassware. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

What is Public Safety?

The public safety industry's goal is to provide services and products that ensure the safety of people and property. The industry can be divided into two primary segments:

- Government Agencies
(police force, sheriff's department, fire department, homeland security, FBI, etc.)
- Commercial Agencies
(primarily specialized in security of individuals or businesses)

Facts About the Public Safety Industry

- The most prevalent jobs in public safety are related to the police force. Firefighters, EMT workers, and highway patrol officers are another large group of workers.
- The private public protection is estimated to be between \$100 billion and \$120 billion worldwide, with the United States claiming the majority of this revenue. The OECD estimates that this segment of the industry is growing somewhere between 7-8% per year.

*According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Did you know...

- The National Center for Women & Policing states that 13% of the policing workforce is women.
- According to the National Fire Protection Association, 7 % of all firefighters are women.
- According to the Women's Bureau, women make up 31.7% of the EMT/paramedics workforce

Public Safety Top Five Careers

- Police Officer (median salary: \$29.35 hour)
- Criminal Investigator/Special Agent (median salary: \$38.45 hour)
- Firefighter (median salary: \$23.60 hour)
- EMT/Paramedic (median salary: \$16.05 hour)
- Police, Fire & Ambulance Dispatcher (median salary: \$19.06 hour)

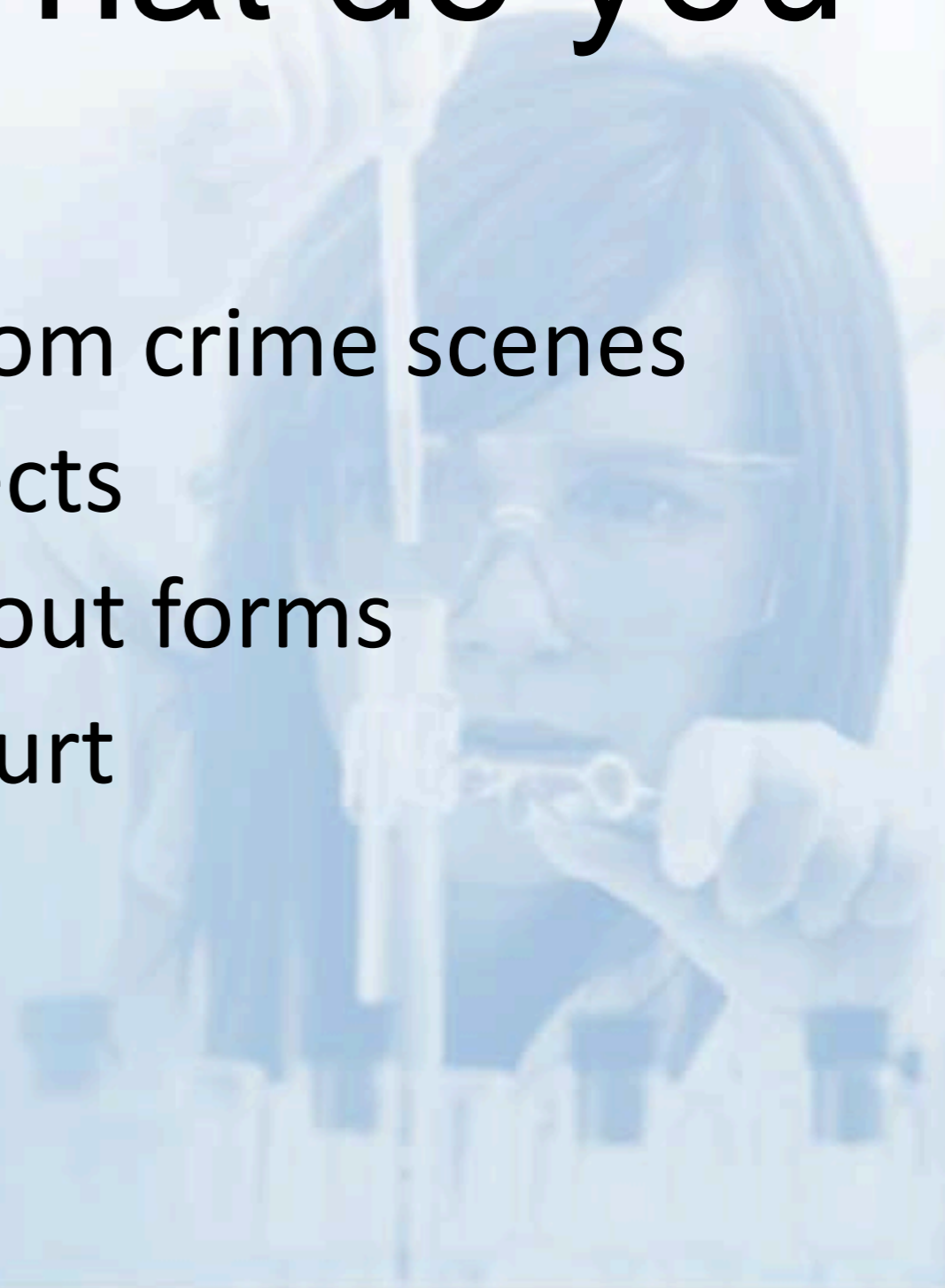
*Source: O*NET 2018

Police Officer: What do you do?

- Respond to emergency and nonemergency calls
- Patrol assigned areas
- Conduct traffic stops and issue citations
- Search for vehicle records and warrants using computers in the field
- Obtain warrants and arrest suspects

Police Officer: What do you do?

- Collect and secure evidence from crime scenes
- Observe the activities of suspects
- Write detailed reports and fill out forms
- Prepare cases and testify in court



Criminal Investigator/Special Agent: What do you do?

- Prepare reports that detail investigation findings
- Obtain and verify evidence by interviewing and observing suspects and witnesses or by analyzing records
- Obtain and use search and arrest warrants
- Testify before grand juries concerning criminal activity investigations
- Search for and collect evidence, such as fingerprints, using investigative equipment

Criminal Investigator/Special Agent: What do you do?

- Perform undercover assignments and maintain surveillance, including monitoring authorized wiretaps
- Manage security programs designed to protect personnel, facilities, and information
- Provide protection for individuals, such as government leaders, political candidates, and visiting foreign dignitaries

Firefighter: What do you do?

- Search burning buildings to locate fire victims
- Rescue victims from burning buildings, accident sites, and water hazards
- Administer first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation to injured persons
- Move toward the source of a fire, using knowledge of types of fires, construction design, building materials, and physical layout of properties

Firefighter: What do you do?

- Drive and operate fire fighting vehicles and equipment
- Inspect fire sites after flames have been extinguished to ensure that there is no further danger
- Position and climb ladders to gain access to upper levels of buildings, or to rescue individuals from burning structures
- Participate in physical training activities to maintain a high level of physical fitness

EMT/Paramedic: What do you do?

- Administer first aid treatment or life support care to sick or injured persons in prehospital settings
- Observe, record, and report to physician the patient's condition or injury, the treatment provided, and reactions to drugs or treatment
- Assess nature and extent of illness or injury to establish and prioritize medical procedures
- Drive mobile intensive care unit to specified location, following instructions from emergency medical dispatcher

EMT/Paramedic: What do you do?

- Coordinate work with other emergency medical team members or police or fire department personnel
- Comfort and reassure patients
- Attend training classes to maintain certification licensure, keep abreast of new developments in the field, or maintain existing knowledge

Police, Fire & Ambulance Dispatcher: What do you do?

- Question callers to determine their locations, and the nature of their problems to determine type of response needed
- Determine response requirements and relative priorities of situations, and dispatch units in accordance with established procedures
- Receive incoming telephone or alarm system calls regarding emergency and non-emergency police and fire service, emergency ambulance service, information, and after-hours calls for departments within a city

Police, Fire & Ambulance Dispatcher: What do you do?

- Relay information and messages to and from emergency sites, to law enforcement agencies, and to all other individuals or groups requiring notification
- Maintain access to, and security of, highly sensitive materials
- Provide emergency medical instructions to callers
- Operate and maintain mobile dispatch vehicles and equipment

Public Safety Industry Education/Credentials

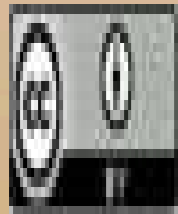
- All careers: high school diploma or GED
- Police Officer: attend police academy; associate or bachelor degree desirable
- Criminal Investigators/Special Agents: state licensure; associate or bachelor degree desirable
- Firefighter: attend fire academy; apprenticeship; may need EMT certification
- EMT/Paramedic: postsecondary certificate or associate degree; certification and state licensure
- Police, Fire & Ambulance Dispatcher: on the job training; certification

Resources

- International Association of Women Police:
<https://iawppublic.wildapricot.org/>
- US Immigration & Customs Women:
<https://www.ice.gov/features/women-ice>
- Career Preparation for Private Investigators:
<https://privateinvestigatoredu.org/>
- International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services: <https://www.i-women.org/>
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians:
[https://www.ems1.com/partners/National-Association-of-Emergency-Medical-Technicians-\(NAEMT\)/](https://www.ems1.com/partners/National-Association-of-Emergency-Medical-Technicians-(NAEMT)/)

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