

## **Eyesight Requirements**

As we get older our eyesight deteriorates. Firefighters require a certain level of eyesight to enable them to carry out their role. With this natural deterioration, it stands to reason that firefighters must meet the required standard of vision when applying to join the fire service as firefighters.

### **The eyesight standards are as follows:-**

- Uncorrected distance vision no worse than 6/18 in the better eye, and 6/24 in the worse eye.
- Have corrected distance visual of at least 6/9 with both eyes open and reach 6/12 in the weaker eye.
- Near vision – should be able to read N12 at 30 cm with both eyes open unaided.
- Soft contact lenses (SCL) considered safe (minimum monthly replacement)
- Have normal binocular field of vision.
- Have a binocular visual field extending 120° along the horizontal and no points missed within the central 20° visual field as assessed using the Binocular Esterman test
- Have no history of night blindness or any ocular disease that is likely to progress and result in future failure of the visual standards for fire-fighters.
- Have an appropriate level of colour perception. Individuals with either normal colour vision or slightly abnormal green colour vision are suitable for appointment to the fire service. The recommended test procedure uses the Ishihara test as the initial screen, with two additional tests if the applicant fails the screening, to determine the severity and type of colour vision deficiency.
- Applicants who have undergone refractive surgery must wait 12 months following surgery before applying and must undergo additional assessment. Radial keratotomy (RK) is not accepted (but procedure of PRK, LASIK, and LASEX should be allowed).

***If you are unsure whether or not your vision meets the standards above we would recommend that you seek advice from your optician.***