



Firefighting Tools

Learn about the tools that firefighters use to do their jobs and help people.

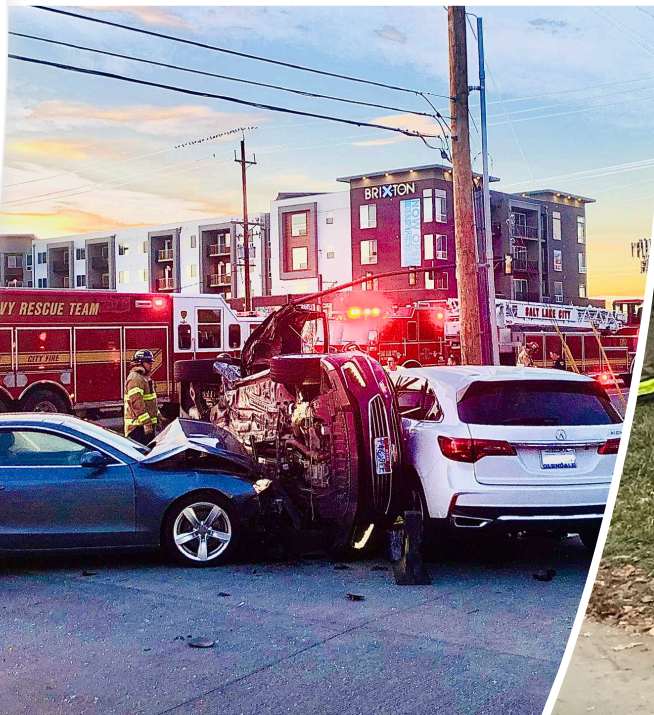


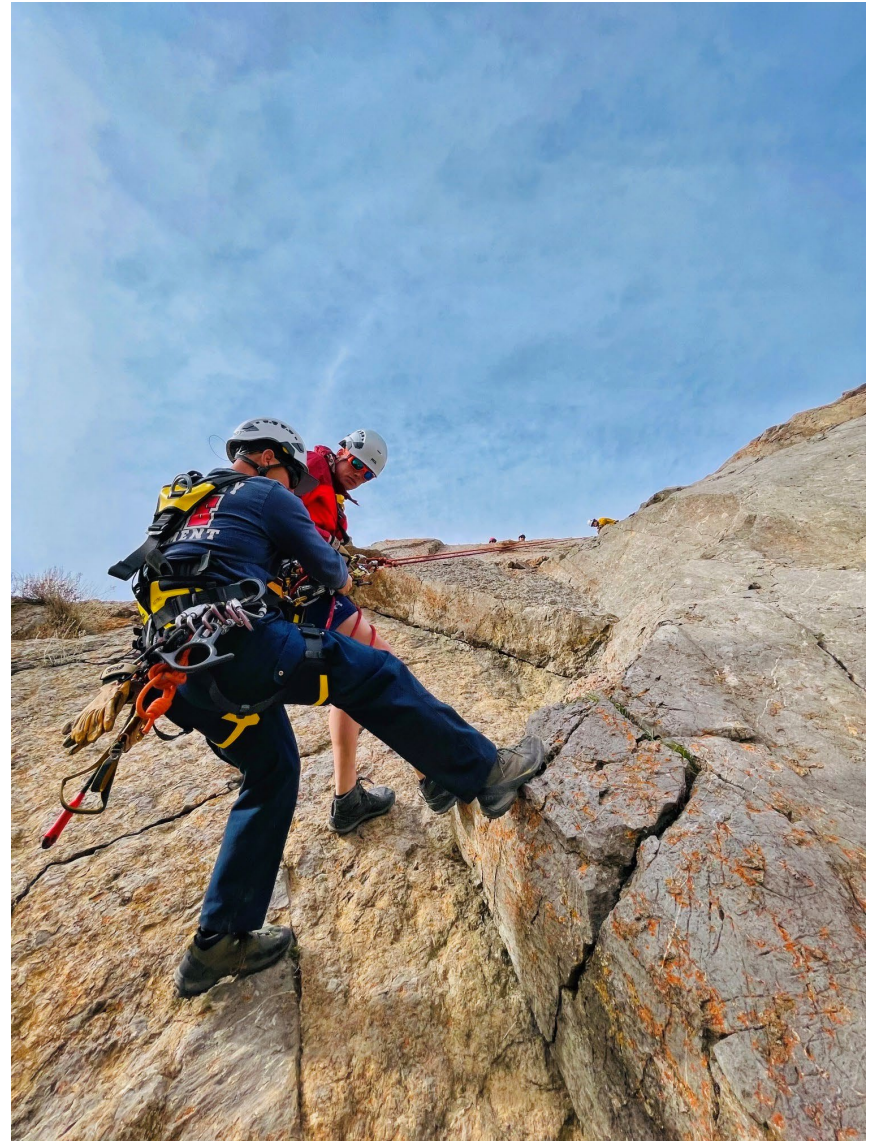
Prepare • Respond • Impact



- Have you heard the question: What is the best tool?
- Answer: The one needed for the job at hand.
- Firefighters need many tools to assist with the variety of ways they help people in need.

- Firefighters have tools to help fight fires, rescue people from car accidents, provide medical assistance, aid with water rescue as well as search and rescue.





When people need help, firefighters respond.





Let's take a look at some of the tools firefighters use to do their jobs.

Put the wet stuff on the red stuff.

Firefighters use
water and fire apparatus
to fight fire.





A fire engine holds 500 gallons of water. Water is also obtained from hydrants. Water is critical in fighting fires.



- Water and apparatus are critical in helping fight fires. Also important is PPE. Firefighters wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on the job. The turn-out gear protects them in a fire and this gear includes gloves, boots, pants, coat, helmet, head stocking and a Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).





Firefighters are protected from the dangers of heat and toxins wearing this gear.

- This firefighting gear was developed from years of fighting fires and learning how it affected the people doing this work. It is tested and impressive in its ability to protect.





- Watch SLC Fire Junior on the Job video to see Firefighter Alley put on the gear described.

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<https://www.slc.gov/fire/educational-videos/>



Firefighters have other tools in addition to PPE, water and apparatus.



Here is some other equipment firefighters use to assist them with their jobs.



A fire engine is also called a toolbox by firefighters. That's because they keep a lot of tools in it.

Hand Tools

- Rubbish hook
- Axes: flat head and pick head
- Halligan
- Sledgehammer
- Bolt cutters
- Closet hook

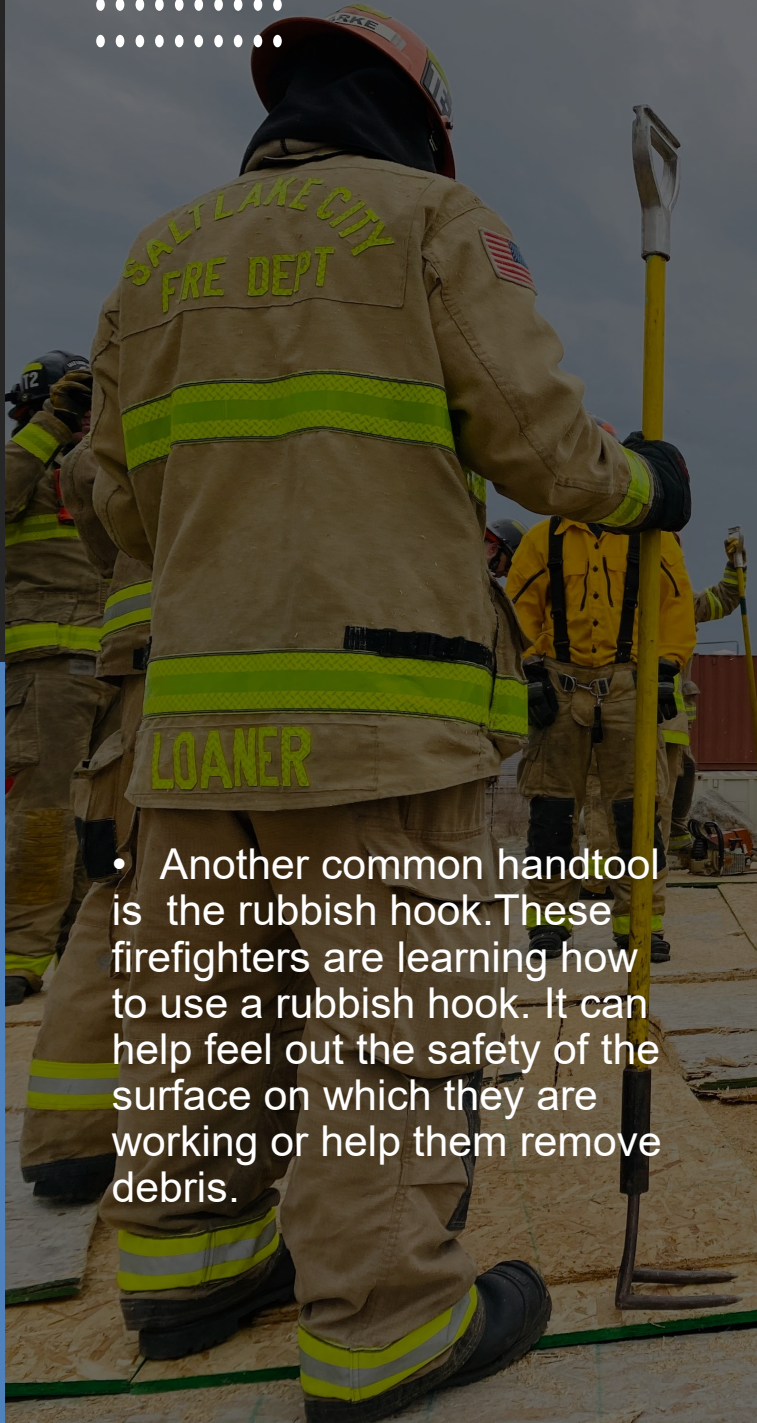




- Hand tools like axes are stored in side panels on the fire apparatus and have multiple uses. Axes can be used to gain entry, release gases, and clear debris, among others.

- A Halligan tool and ax, “the irons”, are often used to open locked doors when firefighters need to get in to handle a fire.





- Another common handtool is the rubbish hook. These firefighters are learning how to use a rubbish hook. It can help feel out the safety of the surface on which they are working or help them remove debris.



Other important tools |
are hoses and nozzles.



Water is delivered to the fight by hoses and nozzles.



There are different sizes of hoses and nozzles. This helps control the water flow when fighting fires.





Hose is stored primarily in the bed of the engine.

- Fire hose is heavy. This roll of 5-inch hose weighs 55 lbs.
- Hose is flexible, watertight, and smooth rubber or neoprene lining covered by a durable jacket.



Hose diameter is the most important factor in determining volume of water delivered.





This hose is attached to a valve on the engine which fills up the engine.





Ladders help firefighters.



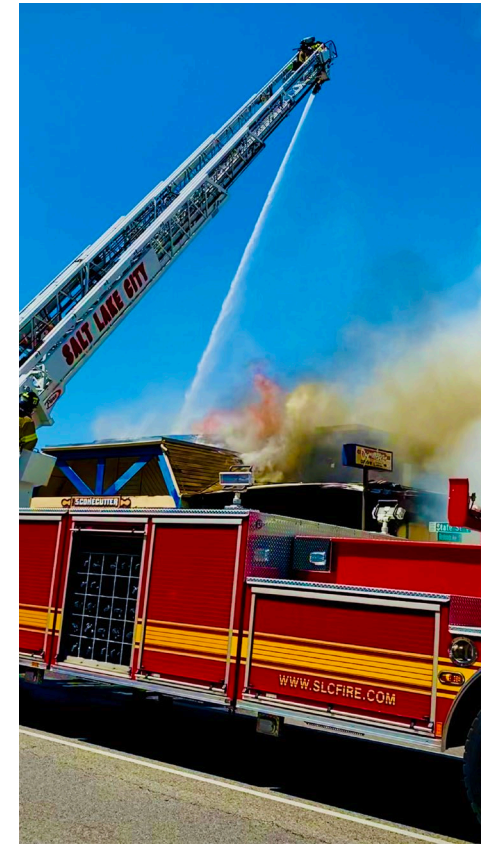
- A variety of sizes of ladders are stored on the apparatus, accessed through the rear panel.
- There is also the truck ladder that raises 110 feet in the air for even higher access.

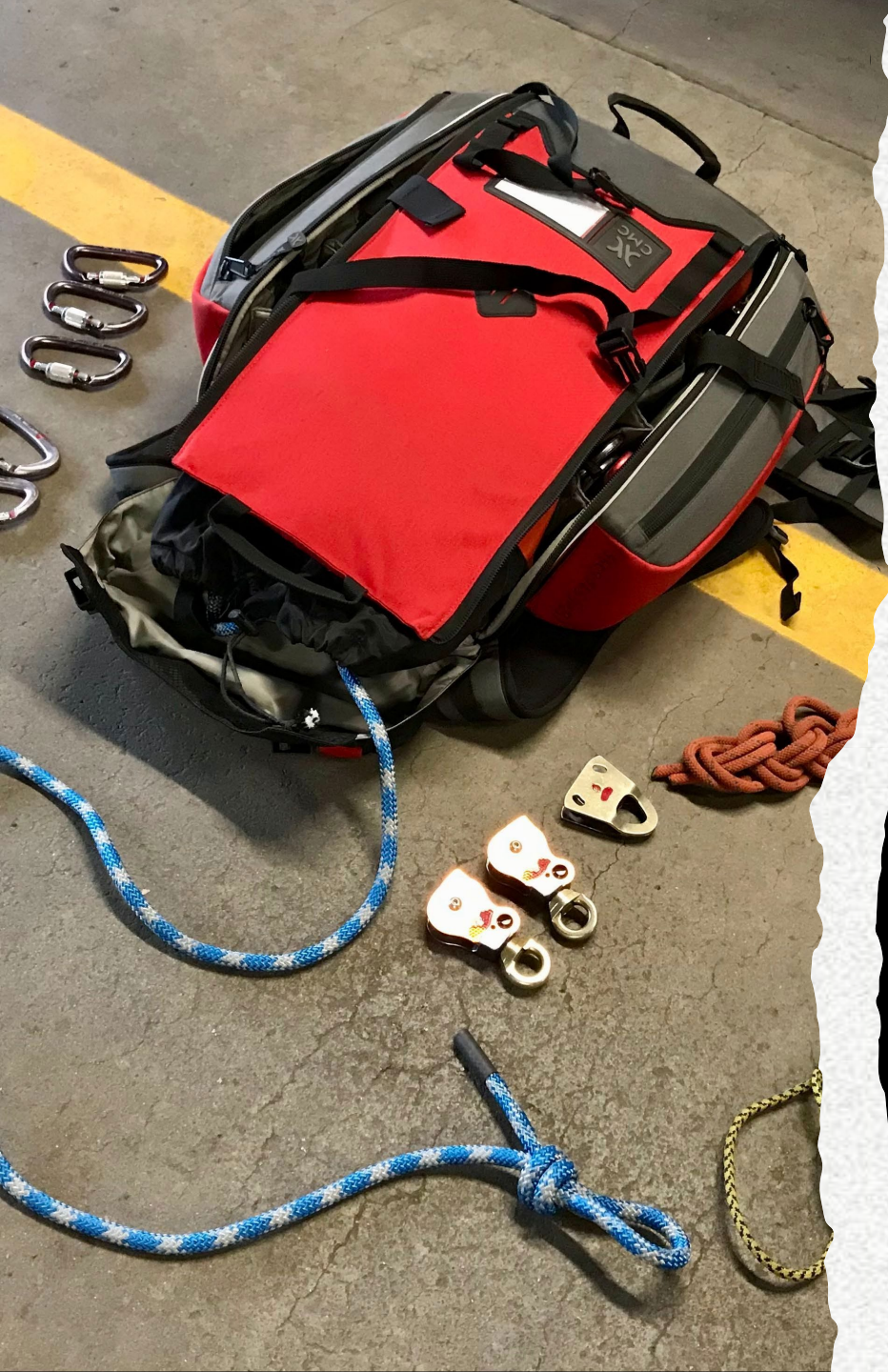


Extension ladders can become longer with the pull of a rope.

- A roof ladder can be hooked over the peak of the roof to provide extra footing on a steep or slippery surface.
- This firefighter is standing on the roof ladder using his rubbish hook to “sound the roof”.

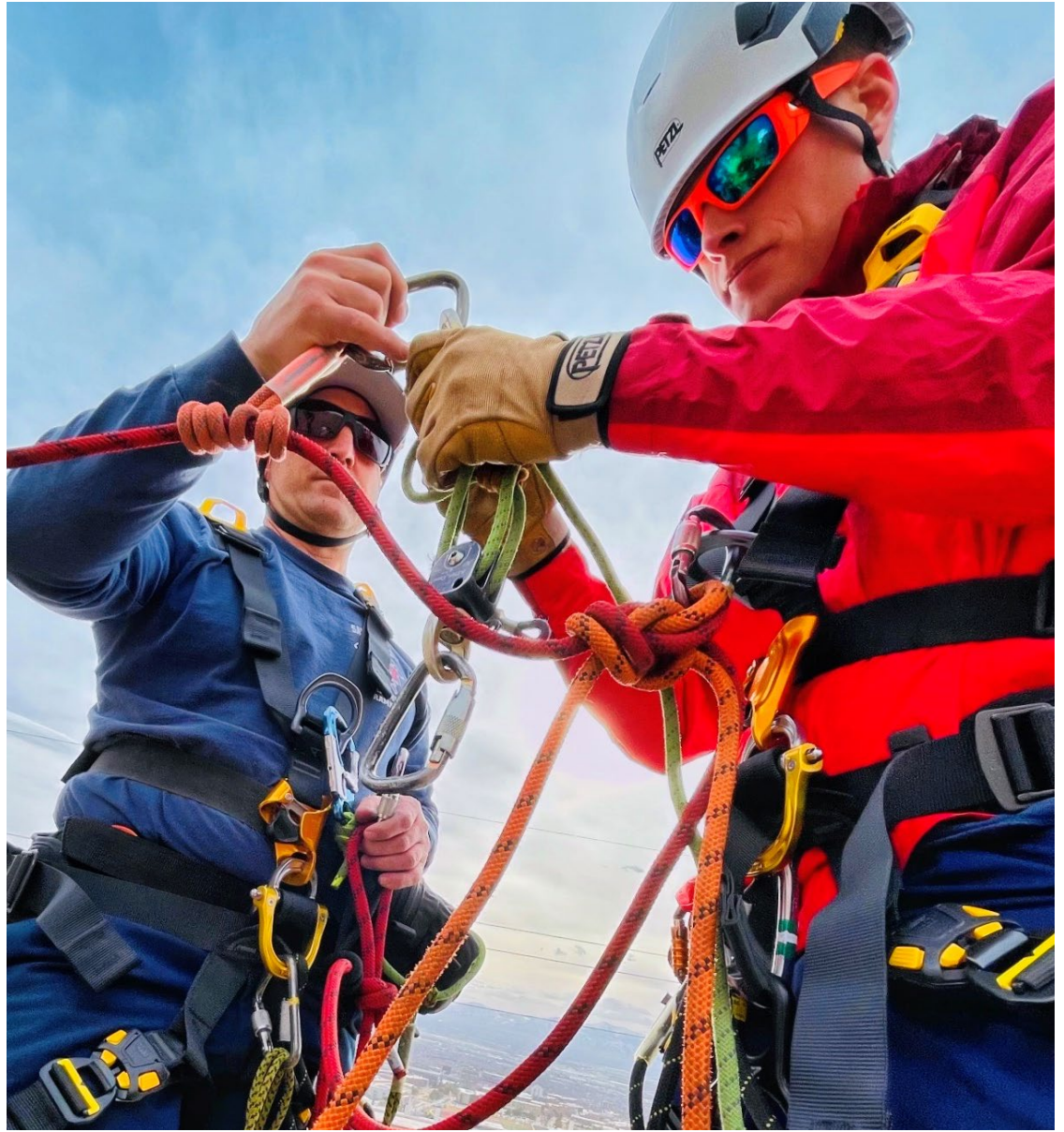
A firefighter can direct the water with a joystick at the top of the ladder.





- The ropes kit helps firefighters access hard to reach areas for purposes of rescuing people or animals in need.







The medical boxes have equipment to provide basic life support such as tools to control bleeding, provide oxygen, or delivering various medicines.



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- The Big Easy kit helps firefighters open a locked vehicle without damaging the vehicle. This kit can rescue pets or children from locked cars.





The extrication tool has the power to spread or cut cars or other materials to remove trapped people.



A ventilation fan and an extrication tool.



A firefighter using an extrication tool to cut into a car.

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- Firefighters use circular saws and chain saws in their job.
 - Chain saws are used to cut wood such as roofs or doors.
 - Circular saws are used to cut metal such as garage doors or metal roofs.





Storing saws in side panel of truck after a fire.



Training with a circular saw to cut a metal door.



Training with chain saws.



Cutting through a roof with a chain saw.



- Firefighters use a wrench to open and close water hydrants.
- Firefighters inspect and test hydrants to make sure they are working properly.

Firefighters using a wrench to close a hydrant.





Do you know what tool this firefighter is using to help the family pet?

- If you said oxygen, you're right.



- Firefighters have breathing air in the tank on their backs to provide them with a clean air sources when fighting fires. They can use this to help others too.



Can you think how dogs are considered valuable tools for firefighters?



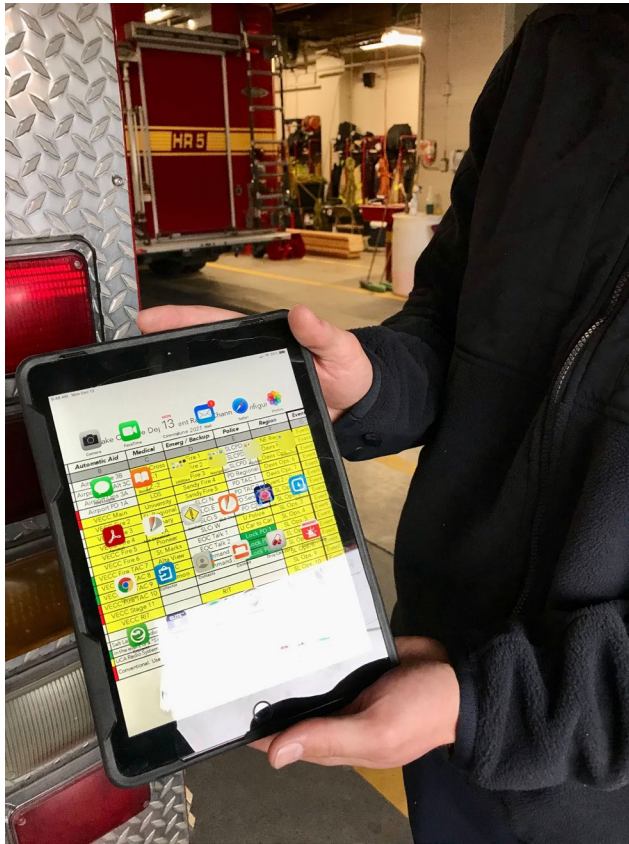


If you answered dogs are a valuable help to firefighters by assisting in search and rescue, you're correct.

Radios are used to communicate important safety messages and orders on a fire scene.



Each crew has two iPads. They use these to file reports about medical, fire and inspection incidents.







Firefighter Martinez
Gear, med box, ax:
270 lbs.



Firefighter Martinez
Gear, chain saw:
255 lbs.



Firefighter Martinez
Gear, extrication tool:
275 lbs.



Firefighter Martinez
Gear, irons:
253 lbs.



Firefighters are trained on these tools and ready to use them to help.



Of all the tools that help firefighters do their jobs, the most valuable are the firefighters themselves. They know the tools to use to solve the problem and help.

- Thanks to SLC Fire crew 5B and Cpt. Buhler for helping demonstrate many of the tools that firefighters use to do their jobs.
- Thanks to SLC Fire crew 13C and Cpt. Hill for showing how much weight firefighters wear to do their jobs carrying certain tools.

