

A DAY WITH FIREMAN BILL

A Motion Picture Study Guide



FILM ASSOCIATES OF CALIFORNIA

Presents an Argus Film Production

FILM FACTS:	grade level:	primary, middle elementary
	subject area:	social studies, language arts
	length:	one reel
	price:	black and white, \$60; color, \$110



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: **A DAY WITH FIREMAN BILL** was photographed with the cooperation of the Santa Monica City Fire Department.

SYNOPSIS: The film follows Fireman Bill Pritchard from the time he says goodbye to his family early in the morning until his return home from the fire station 24 hours later. It gives a behind-the-scenes look at the daily routine of the fire crew, including caring for the equipment and keeping the station clean.

EDITED NARRATION:

FIREMAN BILL: Many people wonder what it's like to be a fireman. I used to wonder, too, until I began training for a fireman's job. My name is Bill Pritchard. I start for the fire station early in the morning.

THE FIRE STATION: The men at the station have been on duty a day and a night. They are getting ready to go home now while my team lines up to take over their jobs. Tomorrow morning our teams will change again. At the lineup Captain Stone gives each man his job for the day: I am to clean the hose; Steve will help me. Harry: check the fire engine. Bob: clean our dormitory. And John: cook the meals. John collects the money to buy our food. We eat and sleep at the fire station. Firemen must be ready at all times.

EQUIPMENT: Our equipment, too, must be ready and in perfect working order. As soon as the engine comes back from a fire, we clean the hose. As soon as we unload the used and dirty hose, the engine moves in to get fresh hose. Then we scrub the dirty hose. When the hose is clean, we dry it in the hose tower. Steve lowers a rope to me. I pull up the hose, and he hangs it to dry. Once the equipment is taken care of, we get to the housework.

LIVING QUARTERS: The fire station is our second home, and waxing the floor is just one of the jobs we do to keep it neat and clean. After cleaning up, we change to fresh uniforms. Jim lets me try on his dress shirt, even though I'm not a regular fireman. Some day, when my training period is over, I'll have my own uniform . . . and badge, too.

STUDY SESSION: Part of my training is to learn how to put out fires. Today we are studying a hotel building. Then we visit the building to see what we have studied. Another of our jobs is to prevent fires from starting. We warn people that piles of rubbish can be dangerous. They often catch fire. We learn how to fight fires by going on practice drills. We pretend there is a fire, and we do everything we would do at a real fire.

DRILL PRACTICE: Today, we practice putting out an imaginary fire on the roof of our drill tower. We must have perfect teamwork if we are to put a fire out quickly. Each man must do his job exactly right. When the water goes from the hydrant into the fire engine, the engineer works the pumps,



forcing the water into the hose. My job is to lay the hose on the aerial ladder. Another man raises the ladder. Then I get ready to climb the ladder to direct the hose. I reach the top and hook on my safety belt. The water is ready to go.

EVENING ACTIVITIES: Once the day's work is over, I'm ready for one of John's good meals. After dinner some of the men play games or watch television, but they never leave the station. Some of us spend our evenings studying. To become a good fireman there are many things to learn. I learn how to handle a heavy ladder by myself. I learn how to use the resuscitator to save people who can't breathe. I learn where every piece of equipment belongs on the fire truck, so I can find it instantly. And I learn how to send and receive emergency messages. If I learn enough, I will become a regular fireman. It's 10 o'clock—time to go to bed!

The next morning, our Fire Chief has breakfast with us. And here's the reason. It's a wonderful feeling when the Chief pins on my badge. Now I'm a regular fireman! My family is proud of my new badge.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is it important for firemen to have good teamwork?
2. What are some ways to prevent fires from starting? How can we help?
3. Why is it important for the firemen to take good care of their equipment?
4. Why do firemen work in shifts? Why do they stay at the station all day and all night?
5. Why do firemen go on practice drills?
6. What are some of the things Fireman Bill has to learn to become a good fireman?
7. How do firemen take care of a fire hose?
8. Why can't Bill wear a badge and a regular fireman's uniform? What is a rookie fireman?

WORDS TO LEARN

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| 1. rookie | 9. pump |
| 2. line-up | 10. dispatcher |
| 3. fire engine | 11. dress blues |
| 4. fire truck | 12. fire prevention |
| 5. hose tower | 13. practice drill |
| 6. dormitory | 14. aerial ladder |
| 7. fire hydrant | 15. safety belt |
| 8. resuscitator | 16. shift |

PREVIEW PRINTS UPON REQUEST



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