

# Strong together Safe together

The Netherlands Fire Service (Brandweer Nederland) consists of 30,000 fire fighters who are committed to their fellow citizens heart and soul and are working 24/7 for a fire-safe society. They are helpful, decisive and experts at what they do.



No two fire brigades are the same. But there are some topics that are relevant to all brigades, such as response times, reducing the number of false alerts, fighting fires in nature, and general business management. This is something that is dealt with at a national level, while taking regional differences into consideration. Rules, guidelines, methods, equipment, knowledge and quality are also examples of issues that are addressed nationally. The Netherlands Fire Service acts decisively and unanimously and with one common goal: fewer fires, fewer casualties, less damage and loss.

*Fewer fires,  
fewer casualties,  
less damage and loss*

### **One programme, six task areas**

The Netherlands Fire Service is the organisation under which all the Dutch fire brigades work together, headed by the Board of Fire Chiefs (Raad van Brandweercommandanten). This board consists of the 25 fire chiefs of the security regions. The board has an executive committee with a chairman and six programme heads. The various programme

heads are responsible for individual areas of the National Fire Services Programme (Landelijk Programma Brandweezorg):

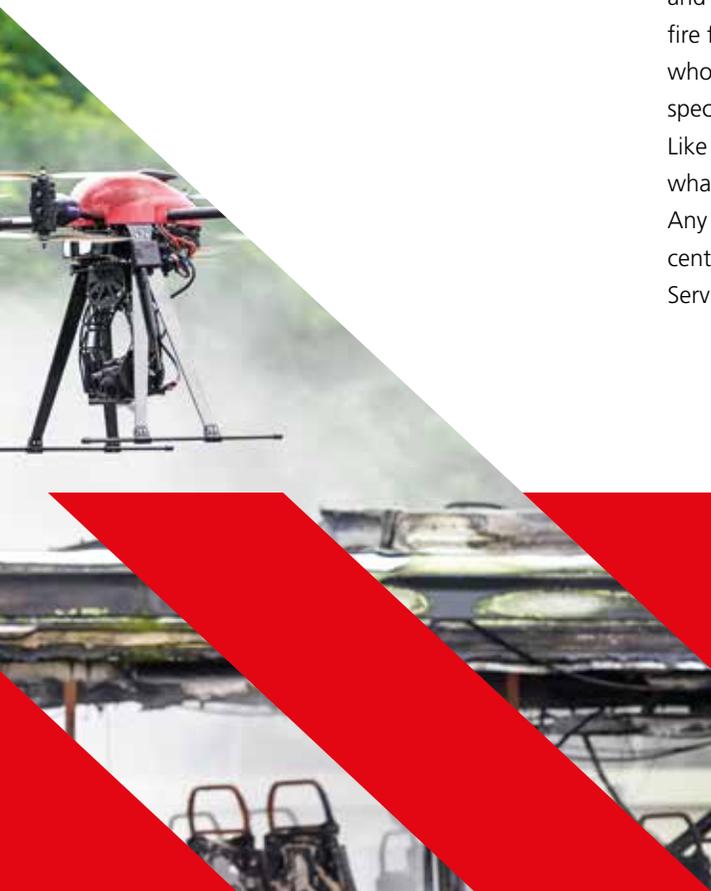
- Risk control and Fire-safe living
- Incident control
- Skills and knowledge
- Crisis management
- Information management
- People and business operations

### **Active and involved**

The work is carried out in networks and research groups that consist of fire fighters from all over the country who each contribute their own specific knowledge or experience. Like no one else, they know exactly what is happening on the work floor. Any support required is given by the central office of the Netherlands Fire Service.

### **Fire service for tomorrow**

The general public have again rated the fire service as the most reliable provider of emergency assistance and this makes us very proud. However, we keep building on our knowledge and we continually prepare ourselves for, and respond to, changes in society. How do we do this and what is our view of the future? We have described this in our book 'De Brandweer over morgen'. Here, the emphasis is on increasing people's ability to get themselves to safety without assistance and on improving fire safety awareness among companies and the general public. To achieve this, we are opting for technical innovations, such as new fire extinguishing agents and equipment, and new equipment to save people. But we also, and specifically, invest in the development of our professionals in order to enable them to continue to do their ever-changing work properly and with passion and pleasure. Because it is our people that are the foundations of the fire services.



## **The Netherlands Fire Service and the Dutch Security Agency**

We work closely together with the Dutch Security Agency (Veiligheidsberaad). The Security Agency is made up of the chairmen of the executive committees of the 25 Dutch Security Regions. The Board of Fire Chiefs advises the Security Agency on all matters regarding fire and fire safety. Together with the Regional Medical

Emergency Preparedness and Planning Organisation (GHOR), the police, the municipalities and colleagues from the security regions, we strive for the optimum level and quality of disaster response and crisis management in the Netherlands. In this way, we contribute to a safer society.

## **The Netherlands Fire Service in figures**

- 139,000 calls for assistance, 87,000 of which are fire reports and 52,000 of which are requests for emergency assistance
- 36,050 fires, 15,023 of which were fires inside buildings, 19,303 were fires outside buildings and 1,724 chimney fires
- 30,000 fire fighters, 21,000 of whom are volunteers
- 900 fire stations
- average turnout time: 4 minutes
- 400 people saved
- dealing with 92 deaths and 700 people injured
- cost: EUR 1.1 billion

*Source: CBS Brandweerstatistiek 2013*



*Every fire brigade, which is headed by its own fire brigade chief, is under the authority of the executive committee of the security region. This executive committee consists of the mayors of the municipalities in the region in question. The chairmen of the 25 executive committees come together at a national level in the Dutch Security Agency. Together, the 25 fire brigade chiefs form the National Board of Fire Chiefs.*

You can find further information on [www.brandweernederland.nl](http://www.brandweernederland.nl)



# BRANDWEER

Nederland

The central office of the Netherlands Fire Service supports the collaboration among the 25 fire brigades and is part of the Netherlands Institute for Safety (Instituut Fysieke Veiligheid).

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