

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

October: Ladder Truck

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

Fire trucks and fire fighters have extremely important jobs. While you may have never seen them in action, you likely *have* seen them rushing toward the scene of a fire.

What are some of the jobs that firefighters must accomplish?

INVESTIGATE.

You'll need:

- Your Firetruck
- Reflective tape
- Strip LED lights
- Small LED flashlight
- String
- Glow-in-the-dark paint
- Glue



Once firefighters get to the fire, their job is only beginning. They must now work to extinguish the fire, find and rescue people from the burning building, and help treat anyone who is injured until an ambulance arrives.

While fire fighters can sometimes enter a building on the ground floor, other times they need to use the firetruck's ladder. The ladder on a firetruck is called an aerial ladder, and it can reach up to 100 feet in the air!

Now imagine that your Firetruck is fighting a fire in the middle of the night...and there aren't any streetlights! Think about what you could add to your Firetruck to make it easier to fight fires in the dark. For example: If you were climbing up or down the ladder, what should you be able to see? Or, if you were standing on the ladder and spraying inside the building, how could light help you?

Review the materials available and think about what you could add to your Firetruck to make it safer and more efficient (i.e. help it put out fires and rescue people more quickly!). As you brainstorm, sketch your new and improved Firetruck features below.

INNOVATE.

Now use these ideas to transform your Firetruck into a 24/7 firefighting vehicle. Think carefully about what features would make sense to add first, second, third, and so on and then get to work. Use your brainstorming to guide you, but also welcome new ideas that pop up as you begin to innovate.

