

CTE JOURNEYS | HANDBOOKS

# Public Safety, Security, and Law



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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## SECTION 1

# Is This the Field for You?

Are you known for protecting others? Maybe you handle pressure well. Leadership comes naturally. Fairness matters. It is fulfilling to make an impact. Learning about the justice system sounds interesting. Are any of these true? A career in public safety, security, and law could be a good choice.



# Chapter 1 ›

## Inside the Industry

Public safety, security, and law is a career area focused on protecting people. Police watch over cities. Emergency workers save lives. Prison employees keep order. People in legal careers work with laws. These jobs are vital. They keep communities safe.





Careers in this field can be demanding. Many workers interact with the public. Good communication is key. Quick decisions are needed. People assess emergency situations. Who needs the most help? A plan must be made fast. It may have to change in an instant. Workers need to be able to think on their feet. Caring about others matters too. This is called **empathy**.





Think of the lifestyle that you want. How does it fit into this field? Is physical activity important? Are you okay with conflict? Law enforcement could be a good choice. Does rescuing people sound appealing? Consider a job in fire safety. People who enjoy critical thinking might choose the legal field.







## Did You Know?

About five million people work in public safety, security, and law in the U.S.

5,000,000 

Many firefighters start as volunteers. There are nearly 700,000 volunteer firefighters in the U.S.



Around 12 percent of law enforcement officers in the U.S. are female.



12%



Paralegals and legal assistants make up more than 22 percent of all law jobs. These jobs don't require law degrees.

**Paralegals and  
Legal Assistants**  
22%



**Other**  
78%

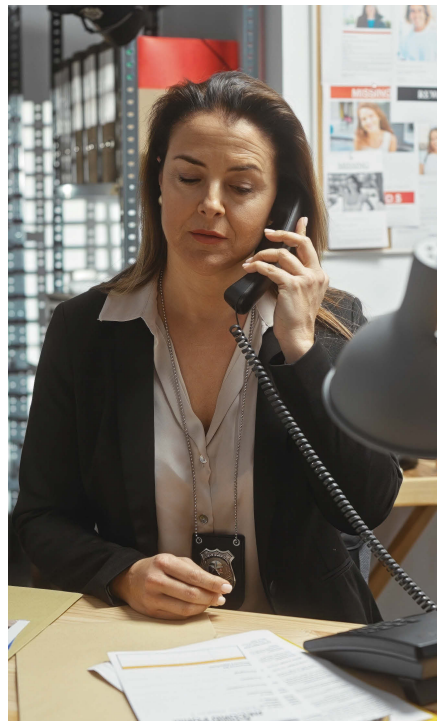




Public safety, security, and law offer a wide range of jobs. They take place in a variety of settings. Each setting requires different roles. Here is a close-up look at a few scenes.

### Scene #1: Police Department

Police stations have many workers. **Police officers** often work out in the community. They enforce laws. **Police aides** help at the station. **Dispatchers** use phones and radios. They tell emergency workers where to go.















## Scene #2: Legal Office

A law office is where **lawyers** do much of their work. There are many roles to support lawyers. **Legal secretaries** prepare documents. **Paralegals** do research. This helps lawyers prepare for **trials**. **Legal records clerks** organize files. Files have information about cases.







### Scene #3: Fire Department

Fire safety workers respond to fires. **Fire chiefs** are in charge. **Fire captains** lead firefighting teams. **Firefighters** put out fires. They help in medical emergencies. Rescuing people who are trapped is part of their job too.







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