

## ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGES OF THE FIREFIGHTER PROFESSION IN SINGARAJA REGENCY

I Nyoman Kariawan<sup>1)\*</sup>, Ni Putu Tirka Widanti<sup>2)</sup>, Ida Ayu Putu Sri Widnyani<sup>3)</sup>

*Universitas Ngurah Rai Bali, Indonesia<sup>1)\*</sup>*

*Email: kariawan83@gmail.com<sup>1)\*</sup>*

### Article History

Received: 05 November 2024

Accepted: 18 November 2024

Published: 23 December 2024

### Abstract

The development of urban areas has brought significant challenges, such as the rapid flow of population migration from rural to urban areas and the expansion of various zones, including residential, industrial, and commercial areas. Ironically, this situation also brings its own logical consequences, such as the threat of fire hazards. Based on the background of the issues outlined above, the author formulates the following problem: How can the characteristics and challenges of the firefighting profession in Singaraja Regency be analyzed? The analysis of the characteristics and challenges of the firefighting profession in Singaraja Regency reveals that the firefighting profession entails high risks to the safety of both the firefighters themselves and others. Therefore, to apply for a position as a firefighter, one must possess strong physical abilities and extensive knowledge of disaster management and victim rescue procedures.

**Keywords:** Characteristic, Challengers, Firefighters

### A. INTRODUCTION

In the implementation of labor development, workers hold a very important role and position as both the actors and the objectives of development. Similarly, in a company, there is often an adage that emphasizes, "workers are the backbone of the company." This adage may seem ordinary, as if it carries no significant meaning. However, upon closer examination, its truth becomes evident. Workers are referred to as the backbone because of their crucial role. Without workers, it would be impossible for a company to operate effectively and contribute to development. In line with the role and position of workers, labor development is necessary to improve the quality of workers and their participation in development, as well as to enhance the protection of workers and their families in accordance with human dignity and values. Recognizing the importance of workers for companies, governments, and society, it is imperative to develop strategies to ensure workers can maintain their safety while performing their jobs (Zaeni A, 2008).

The development of urban areas has brought a number of significant issues, such as the rapid migration of people from rural to urban areas and the expansion of various zones, including residential, industrial, and commercial areas. Ironically, this situation also entails its own logical consequences, such as the threat of fire hazards (Shafwani R, 2012). The institution responsible for addressing fires is the fire department (Ridley J, 2008).

Functional Position of Firefighters Firefighters, as Functional Officials, are Civil Servants (ASN) who are assigned duties, responsibilities, authority, and rights in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, as well as Government Regulation No. 50 of 2018 on the Implementation of Welfare and Unity of Civil Servants. While this regulation does not

explicitly mention firefighters, it provides a general framework regarding the welfare and unity of civil servants, which also applies to firefighters as ASN in carrying out the duties of the Functional Firefighter Position. As a community service institution, fire departments are required to always be on standby to provide good service to the public. These institutions must have human resources that meet both quality and quantity requirements to perform their duties and functions optimally and professionally (Edy S, 2009).

The fire department serves as an operational element of local government in the field of fire prevention and control. The fire department is led by a department head who is under and accountable to the Regional Head through the Regional Secretariat. In carrying out its duties and functions, the fire department is coordinated by the Assistant for Governance and Civil Apparatus Affairs.

The Fire Department is tasked with carrying out efforts to prevent and combat fires, as well as providing assistance and/or rescue during other disasters (Philipus M, 2007). Firefighters are highly vulnerable to workplace accidents when extinguishing fires to prevent the fire from spreading to other areas. Given the high risk of workplace accidents in their line of duty, the Fire Department must establish protections to enhance workplace safety and welfare (Riawan T, 2008).

Local governments, particularly those overseeing the Fire Department, have the responsibility to meet the occupational health and safety needs of their members. This includes providing adequate work equipment, housing facilities, and ensuring the welfare of each firefighter (Yassir A, 2015).

Based on the background of the issues outlined above, the author formulates the research problem as follows: How can the characteristics and challenges of the firefighting profession in Singaraja Regency be analyzed?

## **B. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Firefighters**

Firefighters are personnel, teams, or systems responsible for preventing, controlling, and extinguishing fires, as well as providing protection and rescue to people, property, and the environment from risks caused by fires. Firefighters are also often involved in disaster response, emergency rescues, and educating the public about fire prevention (Hidayat & Nasution, 2013). The performance of firefighters is determined by several key indicators, which are as follows:

1. Responsiveness
2. Availability and Readiness
3. Effectiveness of Handling
4. Safety
5. Education and Prevention
6. Availability of Infrastructure
7. Coordination and Collaboration

### **Fire risk management**

Fire risk management is a process designed to identify, evaluate, and mitigate fire risks in various contexts, including buildings, industries, and the environment. This process is crucial to protecting human lives, property, and the environment from fire hazards. Fire risk management includes several important aspects, as follows:

1. Risk Identification includes analyzing the physical conditions of buildings, the use of flammable materials, and activities that may trigger fires.

2. Risk Assessment this is evaluated based on the likelihood of a fire occurring and its potential impact.
3. Mitigation Strategies involve measures to reduce the likelihood of a fire occurring and its consequences.
4. Implementation of Effective Fire Management Systems establishing effective fire management systems in companies or institutions is essential. This includes pre-fire programs (such as training and equipment inspections) and during-fire programs (emergency response teams) to ensure a swift and effective response to fire incidents.
5. Stakeholder Engagement involving various parties, including local governments, communities, and building owners, is vital in reducing fire risks. Collaborative programs can enhance public awareness of fire prevention (Rahardjo et al., 2019).

### **C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The type of research conducted in this study is empirical research, a legal research method that utilizes empirical facts derived from human behavior, including verbal behavior obtained through interviews and actual behavior observed through direct observation. The data used in this study comprises two types: primary data and secondary data. The data analysis technique employs a qualitative analysis method, systematically collected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues being investigated.

### **D. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Firefighters and other rescue workers are professions with high stress risks due to their exposure to various traumatic events as part of their work (Afianti R, 2011). Fires pose a significant threat to human safety, property, and the environment. The rapid development and progress in construction have increased the risks of fires. With population density rising and the construction of buildings, residential areas, and industrial zones expanding, the risk of fires has also grown, requiring specialized handling.

Fire incidents are unpredictable, demanding that firefighters always remain on alert while on duty. Fire management in Indonesia still faces numerous challenges, including those related to policies, institutional performance, legal regulations, operational mechanisms, and equipment readiness. It can be said that fire protection is not yet considered a basic need. Consequently, fire incidents often result in severe consequences and tend to recur (Aini A, 2016).

One of the professions with high risks is that of a firefighter. The primary duty of firefighters is to respond to emergencies in various locations with the aim of saving lives, performing rescues, and minimizing property damage. Preparation for emergency response and prevention is also a critical aspect of their work. Firefighters represent a public service provided by the government to prevent, eliminate, and minimize the impact of fires in buildings, neighborhoods, and cities.

According to Regulation of the Minister of Public Works No. 20 of 2009 on Technical Guidelines for Fire Protection Management in Urban Areas, firefighters are required to maintain readiness and alertness to prevent and manage fire hazards. Regulations related to fire stations include the organization hierarchy of the fire service, standards for facilities and infrastructure at each hierarchical level, and operational area coverage standards for each fire station. Firefighters are individuals who have undergone extensive training to respond quickly and effectively to fire incidents. In addition to fire emergencies, they are trained to handle other unexpected situations, such as natural disasters, traffic accidents, or collapses of

ARTICLE

buildings or trees. Firefighters possess strong mental and physical resilience and are required to work swiftly and accurately in critical and hazardous situations.

As a profession, firefighters are bound by their professional ethics. The concept of a code of ethics refers to norms and principles that serve as a foundation for the behavior of a particular group. According to K. Bertens, a code of ethics in every profession is like a compass, guiding the members of that profession. The firefighters' code of ethics, as detailed in the "Fire Service Reputation Management White Paper" by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (CVVFA), was developed to ensure that firefighters adhere to ethical principles and uphold high standards of professionalism. Effective implementation of this code of ethics requires oversight (Bertens K, 2017).

Firefighters do not merely extinguish fires but also carry out various other critical responsibilities. Below are some of the primary duties they often perform:

1. Firefighting

Their main duty is to extinguish fires in various situations, whether in residential areas, forests, industrial zones, or high-rise buildings. They must work in dangerous conditions, sometimes facing extreme temperatures and the risk of explosions.

2. Disaster Response and Rescue

In addition to fires, firefighters are also often involved in disaster response, such as earthquakes, floods, and accidents. They are trained to rescue victims from rubble, flooded areas, or hard-to-reach locations.

3. Evacuation and Animal Rescue

4. Firefighters are sometimes called upon to handle emergency situations involving animals, such as rescuing wild animals or pets trapped in dangerous locations.

5. Public Education and Outreach

Firefighters also have the responsibility to educate the public on fire prevention measures and emergency actions. They often conduct awareness campaigns in schools, offices, or residential areas to raise awareness about fire hazards and how to respond.

6. Use of Special Equipment

Firefighters must be trained to use specialized firefighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, ladders, and other rescue tools. This also includes wearing heat-resistant clothing, oxygen masks, and other safety gear that is mandatory for personal protection.

Every code of ethics created by various professions requires special oversight, and if the situation changes, it is possible that it may be revised or adjusted. Ethical thinking does not stop once the code of ethics is formed and always requires ethical reflection. The existence of this firefighter code of ethics presents a challenge for firefighters to demonstrate their credibility and maintain the integrity of both the institution and the individual.

## E. CONCLUSION

The Characteristics and Challenges of the Firefighting Profession in Singaraja Regency are that firefighters only need to perform their duties professionally, and once the task is completed, their job is done. However, in every task, firefighters are always faced with "Another Face." This means that they are called upon to take the right approach towards other people. The challenge of firefighting is that the profession carries a high risk to the safety of oneself and others. Therefore, to apply as a firefighter, one needs strong physical capabilities as well as in-depth knowledge of disaster management and rescue procedures.

**REFERENCE**

- Afrianti, R. 2011, *Stresor Kerja dan Insomnia pada Petugas Pemadam*, Kebakaran di Jakarta Selatan,
- Aini, A. 2016, *Analisis Risiko Kerja dan Upaya Pengendalian Bahaya pada Petugas Pemadam Kebakaran di Dinas Pemadaman Kebakaran Kota Semarang*, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 6 (11), 951–952., 4, 7–12
- Hidayat, S., & Nasution, I. (2013). Pelayanan Pencegahan dan Pemadam Kebakaran Pemerintah bagi Masyarakat dalam Mengatasi Musibah. *Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan dan Sosial Politik*, 1(2), 176-191.
- K. Bertens, 2017, *Etika* PT. Kanisius, Yogyakarta,
- Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana.
- Philipus M. Hadjon, 2007, *Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Rakyat Di Indonesia. Sebuah Studi Tentang Prinsip-Prinsipnya. Penanganan oleh Pengadilan dalam Lingkungan Peradilan Umum dan Pembentukan Peradilan Administrasi Negara*, Surabaya, PT Bina Ilmu
- Rahardjo, H. A., Hafizh, N., & Prihanton, M. (2019). Manajemen Resiko Kebakaran Untuk Keberlangsungan Fungsi Bangunan. *Prosiding Semnastek*.
- Riawan, Tjandra W. 2008, *Hukum Administrasi Negara*, Universitas Atma jaya Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta,
- Ridley, John, 2008, *Ikhtisar Kesehatan & Keselamatan Kerja Edisi Ketiga*, Jakarta: Erlangga,
- Shafwani R, 2012, *Gambaran Risiko Pekerjaan Petugas Pemadam Kebakaran di Dinas Pencegah Pemadam Kebakaran (DP2K) Kota Medan*, Skripsi: Fakultas Kesehatan Masyarakat Universitas Sumatera Utara: Medan,
- Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945.
- Werther dan Davis dalam Edy Sutrisno, 2009, *Manajemen Sumber Daya Manusia*, Jakarta: Kencana Perdana Media Group,
- Yassir Arafat, 2015, *Prinsip-prinsip Perlindungan Hukum yang Seimbang*, Jurnal Rechtens, Universitas Islam Jember. Vol IV. No. 2. Edisi 2
- Zaeni Asyhadie, 2008, *Hukum Kerja; Hukum Ketenagakerjaan Bidang Hubungan Kerja*, Rajawali Pers, Jakarta