



Woman of Distinction

First Responder



Kari Burnham
Lieutenant
Pittsburgh Fire Bureau

Kari Burnham is a lieutenant with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. She is in charge of an engine company protecting one of Pittsburgh's 88 neighborhoods. An engine's primary function is the extinguishment of fires as well as rescue, ventilation, water supply, utility control, hazard mitigation, and patient care.

Kari was promoted to the position of lieutenant in 2020 after serving as a firefighter for the previous five years in the bureau. She also serves the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire as an instructor, teaching new fire recruits. She is currently the only female officer in the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire and the first female officer in over 15

years. Kari is a Pennsylvania State-certified fire suppression instructor through the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, as well as a member of the Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team 1.

Prior to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, Kari served as a volunteer firefighter in her community, and she continues to volunteer her time assisting in a number of various community programs. She is currently working on a program that would educate and encourage females to join the fire service.

Kari earned her bachelor of science in criminal justice from Ferris State University in Michigan.