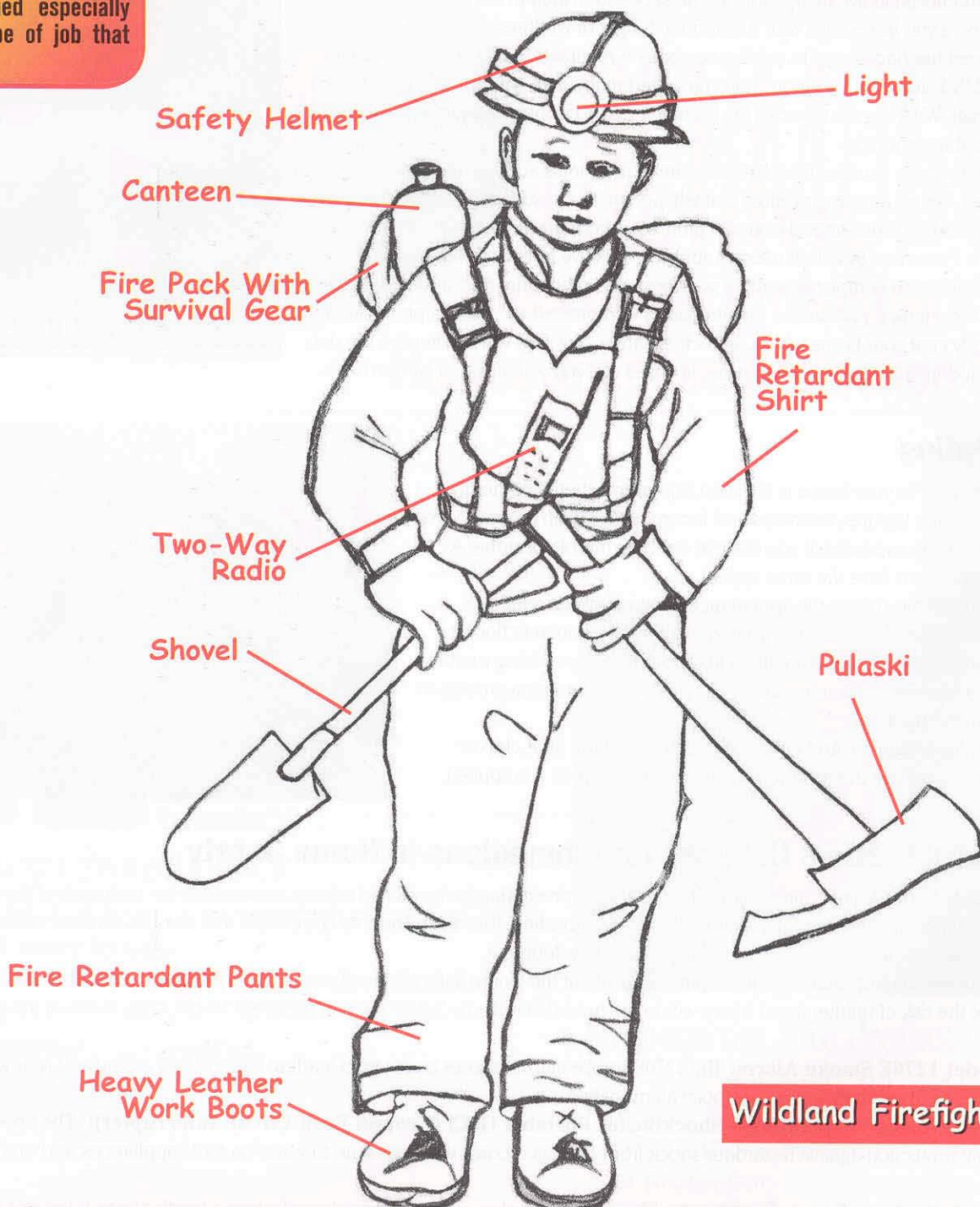


Just as it is difficult to build a house without the right tools, firefighters need the right tools and equipment to do their job. Both types of firefighters wear clothing designed especially for the type of job that they do.

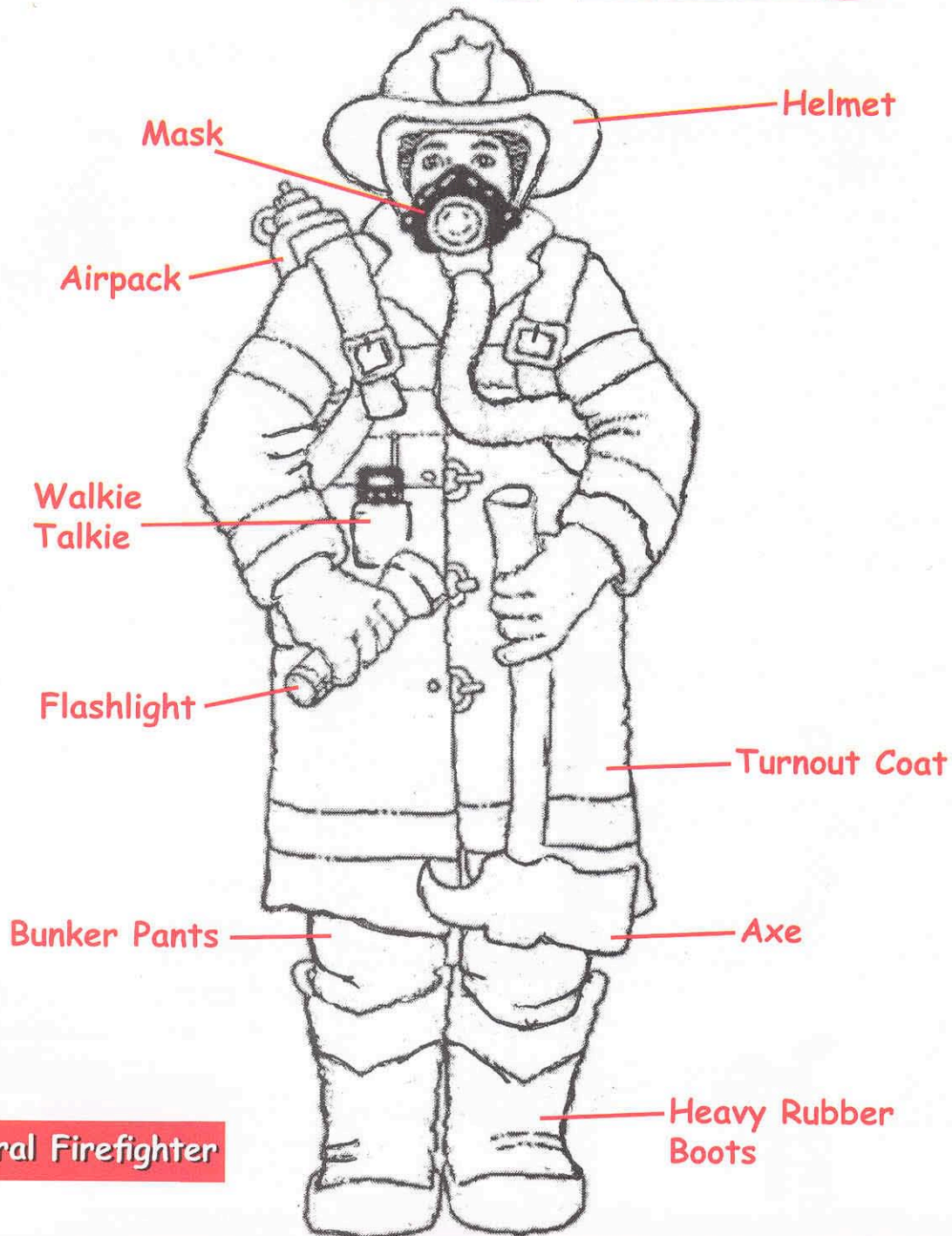
HOME & fire KIDS



Wildland Firefighter

A wildfire firefighter fights fires that burn outside. Their gear weighs about 45 pounds. With this equipment they may have to hike several miles to the wildfire as well as up and down mountains as they work the fire line. Their shirt and pants are made from a material called Nomex which is fire retardant. They wear helmets to protect their heads from falling timber and have radios to communicate with others. They each carry their own water, food, and flashlights as part of a survival pack along with a fire shelter for use in case of an emergency. A Pulaski, a combination ax and hoe, is used among other tools to dig a fireline.

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Structural Firefighter

A structural firefighter fights fires in buildings. Their gear weighs about 40 pounds. Their equipment allows them to enter burning buildings where dangerous fumes may be given off by such things as burning carpets and furniture. Their helmets are made of Kevlar and a high-impact plastic mask shields their face and eyes. They wear a breathing apparatus that contains 15 to 30 minutes of air. Their coat and pants are waterproof, heat proof, even acid proof. Their boots are puncture proof and fire resistant. They carry walkie-talkies, flashlight, and a rope. One type of tool they use is an axe which they can use for testing for damaged floors and walls as well as making holes in the outside of the building to cool the fire.