

Antrim Fire Department Informational Handout for New Applicants

Introduction

This informational document will give an individual who applies to the Antrim Fire Department an overview of department activities and the expectations and responsibilities of being a member.

Please review this document and present any questions you may have at your scheduled meeting with the Review Committee.

Overview

The Antrim Fire Dept. is a volunteer organization that provides quality and caring service to those who live in or visit Antrim. The department provides fire protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the residents of Antrim. Additionally, the department provides ambulance transportation services to the towns of Bennington and Stoddard.

The department consists of approximately 50 firefighters and emergency medical service members, many of whom serve in both fields. The department is managed by Chief Marshall Beauchamp who is appointed by the town and assisted by two Assistant Chiefs and six line officers that are elected by the membership of the department. The Antrim Firefighters association, which consists of the membership of the department, oversees all non-profit business activities of the department.

The department responds to over 500 emergency calls each year, with approximately 375 ambulance calls and 125 fire calls.

Minimum Qualifications

Each new prospective member shall be 18 years of age and possess a valid State of New Hampshire Drivers License.

Member Expectations & Responsibilities

This section outlines the reoccurring activities that require participation by each member.

Business Meeting

The fire dept conducts a business meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., to address the business activities of the association. Members are expected to attend meetings. However, if work schedules, family obligations, or other unforeseen circumstances do not allow a member to attend a meeting, than it is the member's responsibility to notify the Captain of his/her Station. Meeting minutes are recorded by the association's clerk and are posted shortly after the meeting to allow excused members the opportunity to review business activities conducted at the meeting.

Monthly Fire Training

To ensure that all Fire/Rescue members are refreshed on the fundamentals of firefighting and life saving techniques, the department conducts monthly training. The second Monday of each month is training night; training starts at 18:30 and usually lasts 2 hours.

Members are expected to attend each month. Again, if work schedules, family obligations, or other unforeseen circumstances do not allow a member to attend the training, then it is the member's responsibility to notify the Captain of his/her Station.

Sunday Radio and Equipment Checks

To ensure all apparatus and equipment is properly maintained to answer an emergency call the department conducts equipment checks every Sunday of the year. To spread this obligation and time commitment evenly throughout the membership each member is assigned to a radio check group. Sunday radio and equipment check starts at 9:30 a.m. and generally ends around 12:00. The group works as a team to check, operate, and test all equipment and apparatus essential to life and property protection. Traditionally a member's Sunday radio and equipment check rotation is once every 3 weeks.

Sunday radio and equipment checks are regarded as an extremely important operational aspect of the department. Members are expected to attend their assigned Sunday radio and equipment check. Should a member be unable to attend, it is the member's responsibility to swap coverage with another member.

Fire Certification Training

New firefighters are encouraged to enroll in the State of New Hampshire's Firefighter Level 1A & 1B training series within their first year of service or upon availability of a local course. This training series educates an individual on fundamental firefighting techniques.

Additionally, new firefighters are required to attend the Meadowood Fire Training School's Spring or Fall fire school for SCBA or Pump Operations class. Meadowood's spring and fall classes are held over the course of a weekend. There are generally two Spring classes and two Fall classes. These classes are held in Fitzwilliam, NH and meet the certification requirements of the State of New Hampshire's Fire Firefighting Level 1A and 1B series. The department will pay for members to enroll in these training programs and will pay members for their time spent in class. Any outside training that will be funded by the department must be approved in advance by the Chief.

Department Details & Special Events

To promote fire safety in the community and local schools the department participates in the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week, which is held annually in October. The department meets with all children in the Great Brook Elementary from the pre-school grade level through the fourth grade to communicate fire and life safety tips. Members are encouraged to participate in the fire prevention program with the local schools.

The department holds, or participates in, other details throughout the year for the betterment of the station, equipment, apparatus, membership, and support of the Town. Members receive advanced notice of these details and are encouraged to attend.

Compensation

The Town of Antrim supports its firefighting and emergency medical service personnel by providing financial compensation for each member's time in answering emergency calls, training, and other activities required by the department. The starting hourly wage of an on-call firefighter is \$10.00 per hour, and is paid to the member in November.

Medical Evaluations

The department provides medical physicals that adhere to the guidelines established by the NFPA's 1500 code for firefighter physicals. This benefit is arranged through the Monandnock Community Hospital's Occupational Health Department. The frequency of this medical physical depends on a member's age, and is paid for by the Town of Antrim.

The Town of Antrim also pays for each member to have the Hepatitis B vaccination upon acceptance. All members are offered an annual Flu shot and a Tuberculosis (TB) test as well.

Protective Gear

Each member is outfitted with full protective gear that meets and or exceeds established NFPA codes.

Members who participate in firefighting duties will be outfitted with a helmet, protective hood, coat, gloves, pants, boots, and other equipment essential to personal safety.

Probationary Period

To allow for a smooth transition into the role of being a firefighter, a firefighter probationary program has been established. All new members will progress through this six-month program. The objective of this program is to familiarize a new member in the operational activities of the department, how to use the various types of firefighting equipment, where the equipment is located on the apparatus, and familiarization of fire ground operations. After 6 months the Review Committee will either promote you to full membership, continue probation for an additional 6 months or terminate the probation.

Review Process

After your meeting/interview has been held with the Review Committee, your application will be presented to the Chief to accept or reject based on the Review Committee's recommendation. After you are accepted for probation, you are strongly encouraged to visit the station during Sunday checks, department training's, and at any other time that is convenient for you. This is an opportune time for you to ask questions regarding department activities, get to know the membership, and most importantly, for the membership to get to know you prior to the next month's meeting where your membership status will be voted on. Many members of the department are eager to see what your commitment level is and will gauge this by your enthusiasm and willingness to make an appearance during this introductory period.

Conclusion

After reading this document, you may present any questions at your scheduled meeting with the Review Committee. You should also feel free to stop by the station and speak with an officer or contact Captain Eric Phillips at 588-3259 or if you live in the North Branch area Captain Gary Wood at 588-2709. Thank you for your consideration in volunteering with the Antrim Fire Department. We look forward to meeting with you.