



Volunteer Firefighter Applicant Frequently Asked Questions

I'm interested becoming a volunteer—is this for me?

Being a Volunteer Firefighter is an extremely rewarding experience. Firefighters make a difference in the community by coming to the aid of people in times of greatest need. Life and death is often in the balance. Elmira Heights Volunteer Firefighters have and will continue to positively impact the well being of all people in this community.

We are always looking for new Volunteer Firefighters. The process starts by completing an application. Each qualified applicant must successfully pass an interview, an arson background investigation and a medical exam.

New applicants that possess prior firefighting or emergency medical training should present their training certificates with the Fire Department officers for review and to determine the process for reciprocity if received from another state.

What does a Volunteer Firefighter do?

Volunteer firefighters respond to fires, traffic accidents, and medical emergencies.

What are the requirements to become a Volunteer Firefighter

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Live within the service boundaries of the Elmira Heights Fire Department.
We also accept applications from residents of the City of Elmira with addresses is north of 5th Street.
- Physically capable of firefighting activities
- No other experience is required

How much will it cost me?

There is no cost to you other than your time. The Fire Department will issue you all of your equipment. All required training is provided free of charge.

How will I know what to do as a volunteer?

Department training is every Monday evening at 7:00 PM. The second Monday of each month is reserved for Company meetings. Occasionally there will also be department training on weekends. Day time training can also be arranged.

New firefighters are also provided with Firefighter I and II training courses by New York State.

Is attendance required for every training event?

It is to your benefit and the community's benefit if you attend as much training as possible, but most events are not mandatory. We do understand that you may have other obligations. These training



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events will keep you well informed and in practice. Certain important events may be mandatory. You must maintain an attendance rating of 50% for all training.

How much time will I have to commit?

The time you commit to responding to calls and training is up to you, however, the more you are involved in this program the better the outcome will be for the community as a whole. To become and maintain your proficiency, we require that all members maintain a 15% response rate to all alarms. This is about 8 calls per month, minimum.

How will I know when I'm needed and where to go?

You will be issued a radio paging device that gives you all the information you need in the event of an emergency.

I can't leave my job to go to an emergency, is that ok?

Volunteers respond when they are able. When committed at work or out of there area, we hope others will respond, and that is why it is important to have more Firefighters.

How soon can I begin responding to calls?

Once you are accepted into the department, you will begin participating in training and responding to alarms. The level of training you have coming in to the department will determine at what level you can participate in emergency operations. For applicants new to the fire service, there is an orientation program that will get you involved while you begin your training.

How can I get more information?

Please contact Captain Ryan Hastrich, or any of our on-duty firefighters for more information.

Phone: 733-6580

Web: www.elmiraheightsfire.org

Social Media: www.facebook.com/elmiraheightsfire

How do I get started?

Complete the [Volunteer Fire Fighter Application](#) and drop it off to the station at 215 Elmwood Ave, Elmira Heights, NY 14903. Applications are also available at the fire station.

If you have additional questions, contact Captain Ryan Hastrich, at 733-6580 or speak with our on-duty firefighter.