

# **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER INFORMATION PACKAGE**

Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services

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Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer firefighter with Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services.

Service as a volunteer firefighter in our department requires a serious commitment not only from you but your family as well. Your decision to join should ***not*** be made quickly. Making a commitment to serve as a volunteer firefighter is a serious decision, and we ask that you take the time to read this information package to get the facts of what is involved.

Once you understand what is involved in being a volunteer firefighter, we hope you will find you are able to make the commitment that the community requires. The service provided by volunteer firefighters is truly valuable to the citizens of our municipality and we hope that you are able to contribute to our public safety.

## **ABOUT US**

Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services operates two fire stations on a composite basis (career and volunteer firefighters).

Station 51 is the Fire Department Headquarters and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Emergency Operations Centre. Fire Department Management, Prevention and Training Division operate from this station. Station 52 is our northern fire-hall that covers all of the Ballantrae area. Career firefighters staff both halls 24 hours a day, seven days a week, supported by a dedicated force of approximately thirty volunteer firefighters.

## **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER**

As a volunteer firefighter serving the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, you will find it both rewarding and challenging as you respond to a variety of emergency incidents including structure fires, vehicle fires, brush/grass fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies and public hazards (carbon monoxide, fuel spills, and natural gas leaks). In addition, volunteer firefighters are expected to participate in monthly maintenance training and community/public education events.





## **THE NATURE OF OUR BUSINESS**

Firefighting is one of the most diverse and challenging professions known today. It is this diversity that inspires most people to enter the service, both as volunteers and career employees. This diversity coupled with the fact that your skills may be needed at any time of day, seven days a week, in any kind of weather, and very often under potentially stressful and emotional circumstances, makes your contribution to this profession very personally rewarding.

To be considered for a volunteer firefighter position, the following basic qualifications are required:

### **Mandatory Qualifications**

- Be legally entitled to work in Canada
- Live in Whitchurch-Stouffville and in close proximity to a fire station
- Be mentally and physically fit
- Have access to a vehicle
- Valid Ontario driver's license with acceptable abstract
- (Candidate with four or more demerit points need not apply)
- Have a High School Diploma as a minimum form of education.
  
- Successfully complete a Vulnerable Sector Screening, administered by police

### **Preferential Qualifications**

- D-Z driver's license
- First Aid, CPR certifications
- Daytime availability
- Related courses and certificates
- Relevant experience

## **TRAINING AND PARTICIPATION**

A firefighter must be committed to Public Fire and Life Safety Education and continuous training in fire suppression, prevention and emergency aid procedures. To ensure that all members of the Fire Department are prepared to deliver the best level of services required, training standards have been developed to provide each member with the needed skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to deliver fire and emergency services to the citizens of the municipality.

In order to be qualified as a volunteer firefighter the recruitment and training process has become increasingly challenging. Provincially proctored exams and skill demonstrations are mandatory for certification. This is due to escalating demands to meet industry training standards.

Training is strictly mandated by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) using NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications. The training process is continuous and ongoing. To fully qualify as a volunteer firefighter, it will take





approximately four years and represents a considerable cost to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. For this reason, we ask that you carefully read and understand this information package before making your decision to join our department.

## **RECRUIT TRAINING**

Recruit training to be undertaken by firefighters will consist of, but not limited to:

1. Orientation
2. Health and Safety
3. Communications
4. Building Construction
5. Fire Behaviour
6. Personal Protective Equipment
7. Fire Extinguishers
8. Ropes and Knots
9. Search and Rescue
10. Vehicle Extrication
11. Forcible Entry
12. Ladders
13. Ventilation
14. Water Supply
15. Fire Hose and Nozzles
16. Mental Health Awareness
17. Fire Control
18. Loss Control
19. Origin and Cause
20. Fire Protection Systems
21. Life Safety
22. Red Cross First Responder
23. Haz Mat Awareness
24. WHMIS



Training will take approximately 6 months to complete and will occur on selected evenings and weekends. Members will receive the current minimum wage until successfully completing the recruit training process. Following the initial recruit training process, recruits are considered to be minimally qualified and will begin the 12 month probation period.



## **12 MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

During the twelve-month probationary period, recruits will be expected to continue ongoing training and development as set forth by the Training Division to successfully complete NFPA 1001 Firefighter Professional Qualification Level I certification.

## **24 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

Following the probationary period volunteer recruits will be expected to continue their education and training in accordance with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services Training Division.

Firefighters are expected to take on additional responsibility after gaining experience. Opportunities for advancement will be extended to individuals in areas of driver/pump operations as well as training and leadership roles.

## **ATTENDANCE**

There is an expectation that you will continue to attend weekly or bi-weekly training sessions and respond to emergency incidents when you are available. In addition, another key responsibility is the expectation that you will attend and participate in public education events.

Attendance for all of these functions is continually monitored and assessed.

## **VOLUNTEER PAY**

Volunteer firefighters will receive pay for attending training sessions as well as emergency incidents. Volunteer firefighter pay is based on an hourly rate and new volunteer firefighters will start at the Probationary Rate (70%) once recruit training is completed.

70% - Must complete the WSFES Recruit Program as well as the NFPA 1001, Firefighter I written and skills evaluation examinations through the OFMEM. Recruit training will include Canadian Red Cross First Responder. Firefighters will complete an in-house exam and skills evaluation with a required passing mark of 70%.

80% - Required to complete 12 months of service and successful completion of NFPA 1001, Firefighter 2 level written exam and skills evaluation through the OFMEM. Firefighters will also be required to complete the NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials theory and practical testing. Firefighters will complete an in-house exam and skills evaluation with a required passing mark of 70%.

90% - Required to complete 24 months of service. Firefighters will also be required to complete the NFPA 1035- Fire and Life Safety Educator I, which will include presenting a Public Fire Safety Education program or event in the community. Firefighters will also





be required to enter the Driver Operator program which includes the NFPA 1002- Pumper Operations each taught in-house by our qualified instructors. Firefighters will complete an in-house exam and skill evaluation with a required passing mark of 70%.

100% - Required to complete 36 months of service. The firefighter will present one Public Fire Safety Education program or event in the community and present one training session to their platoon. Firefighters will complete an in-house exam and skill evaluation with a required passing mark of 70%.

## **BENEFITS**

Volunteers will be provided with Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) coverage for injuries or lost time during any authorized activities.

Life Insurance is also provided by the Town and additional coverage is available for purchase by members.

Any questions please contact the Administration Offices at 905-640-9595 or [wsfes@townofws.ca](mailto:wsfes@townofws.ca)