



HOW TO BECOME AN INDIAN HILLS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER/EMT

Serving as an Indian Hills Volunteer Firefighter and/or EMT is an exciting, rewarding and satisfying opportunity. You may be surprised at the ease with which you can begin to serve your community.

The basic requirements for membership in Indian Hills Fire/Rescue (IHFR) are minimal. A prospective member must be eighteen years of age, living within the District membership boundaries, complete a membership application, and obtain a physical exam and certain immunizations. The prospective member must also clear a Colorado Bureau of Investigation arrest record check and a motor vehicle record review. These procedures and checks are done at the Department expense.

Once these basic requirements are met, the prospective member is now a probationary or “rookie” member. Rookie members are asked to attend a brief orientation class as well as training meetings, and to begin the process of being trained in the use and operation of various department apparatus and tools. Rookie members are issued certain basic equipment for use in training.

All members are asked to attend as many weekly meetings as possible. Most meetings are held on Tuesday of each week. The first Tuesday meeting is a Department Business Meeting, the second Tuesday is a Fire Training Meeting, and the fourth Tuesday is a Rescue Training Meeting, held jointly with Inter-Canyon Fire Department. While all members are asked to attend as much as possible, the meetings are voluntary, except as required for certification purposes as noted below.

Some community volunteers may wish to become a non-responding member of the Fire Department. This refers to members who have talents and energy to contribute, but do not wish to become an emergency responder such as a Firefighter or EMT. These valuable members help out around the firehouse, work with the community, and perform other valuable services for the Department.

New responding members may choose to follow one of three paths to full membership in the Department. Within the two years after application, rookie members are required to substantially complete either a firefighter I certification course, an EMT certification course, or a First Responder course. Firefighter I and EMT courses are offered at various locations and the cost of the courses are reimbursed to the member after completion of two full years of service. These courses are offered evenings and some weekend days, and generally extend for about five or six months.

After an initial training period during which the member becomes familiar with Department equipment and procedures, the member will be issued limited equipment and begin to respond to emergency calls in the company of a full member. This process usually takes between four and six months. After completion of the Firefighter I, EMT or First Responder course, the member may then be nominated for full membership in the Department.

Many members choose to take both the EMT and Firefighter I courses at some point in their volunteer career. Some go a step further and take Wildland Firefighting courses and become “Red Card” certified or certified as a Wildland Firefighter.

In order to maintain voting membership in the Department, members are required to attend at least six (6) of the monthly Department business meeting annually and at least six (6) meetings in their area of certification. Similarly, in order to maintain their certification, either as an EMT or a Firefighter I, attendance at the necessary meetings to maintain certification and active status is required.

Opportunities for outside training are abundant, although not required. IHFR members have attended national and state conferences and have learned valuable skills through training not always available at the local level. Many members have also found that their skills have transferred to their every day life, and even to potential employment opportunities.

Department members are eligible for various benefits including life insurance, worker’s compensation insurance for injuries while performing Department business, and even a pension after a minimum number of years in service.

Most importantly, the volunteer members of the Indian Hills Fire/Rescue have found that their service has enriched their lives and the lives of those around them, including all the Indian Hills residents. Your greatest reward will invariably be the thanks and gratitude of your neighbors and friends. Please join us in serving you community.