

WELCOME

The application you are about to fill out is the first step in becoming part of our department. This introduction is designed to provide you with some basic information about the application process and the time frame involved in becoming a volunteer firefighter. This introduction will also show you what to expect at each step in the process.

Step 1 is of course the application itself. Fill out the entire form and return it at or before your interview. Those prospective members applying for Junior Probationary Membership must have a parent or guardian's signature and that signature must be notarized. All applications are accepted pending an interview with the Service Board.

Step 2 is the interview with the Service Board. This will usually be on the second Tuesday of the month. The Service Board is composed of our Chief, Assistant Chief, 1st and 2nd Captains and 1st and 2nd Lieutenants. In this interview, you will get the chance to ask any questions you may have about the department, and the Service Board will get the chance to ask any questions they may have for you. You will be asked what made you want to become a firefighter and why you chose this department, you may also be asked for details about any information you may have supplied on your application. In most cases, the Service Board will pass your application along to the next step, if not you will get a full explanation why it was not moved forward. It is at this interview that the Service Board will require you to provide medical clearance for Firefighting; this can be a letter from your doctor or documentation of a recent physical. In the case of Junior Probationary Membership, the Fire Chief has a final veto right over the application.

Step 3 is the posting of your application at our monthly business meeting. This will usually be the same night as your interview. The Service Board will present the application to our President, who will have the Secretary read your application to the general membership. The membership may ask questions of the service board about your application. The meeting may then move to have the Secretary post your application on our bulletin board until the next meeting, one month later. This period of posting allows members who may not have been present to view your application.

Step 4 is perhaps the easiest step for the applicant. This is the observation of a company drill. Our department conducts training drills on every Tuesday night (other than meeting nights) at 7pm. We ask each applicant to observe at least one drill during the time his or her application is posted. Many members elect to observe more than one drill and you are of course welcome to observe as many as you can. This is to allow you to see just what is involved in the training of a firefighter. During this observation, the training process will be explained to you and the specifics of what the members are training on will be explained to you.

Step 5 is a crucial step. This is the voting by the membership on your application. This is a time-honored tradition in our department as well as many other volunteer fire departments. This step is nothing to be afraid of. All applicants are required to be in the Fire Station on the night their application is up for a vote. The Secretary will again read your application aloud; at this time any member that knows you may speak up and provide the membership with a recommendation for or against you. The President will then call for a vote. Only those members who have maintained active status may vote on your application. After the vote the Sergeant at Arms or a Firefighter will come and give you the results. If you are voted in, that member will then escort you into the meeting to be welcomed by the rest of the company.

What you can expect from us: You can expect to be welcomed into the department, but you must be aware that like all departments we are a collection of individuals. Respect is something that is earned and returned. You can expect to be trained so that you will have the same opportunity to become proficient as a firefighter that we afford all our members. You can expect that you and your family will be invited to several of our social functions throughout the year.

What will be expected of you: We expect that you will give your best effort to become an active part of our Firefighting force. We expect that you will attend training including State of Connecticut Firefighter 1 and either Medical Response Technician or Emergency Medical Technician courses within a reasonable time. We expect that you will respond to emergency calls in a timely and safe manner.

Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction and fill out the application. We look forward to speaking with you, in person, about your membership opportunities.

*The Service
Board*

The volunteer fire service is a challenging, exciting and rewarding experience. So if you have a sense of civic pride, if you want to see immediate results of a job well done, volunteering will allow you to give your time and talents to others in times of need. There is a great feeling of accomplishment when you help someone. Today, there are so many demands on our time, if you are considering this rewarding challenge, you should expect to devote a considerable amount of your personal time to training and responding to calls. While being a volunteer firefighter is an excellent opportunity for helping to provide important community services. This level of commitment can be found in no other volunteer service and is often underestimated. Below is a description of the duties a Volunteer Firefighter may be called upon to perform.

Volunteer Firefighters work along side with Paid Firefighters to perform firefighting and emergency service activities in protecting life and property including Firefighting, Community Service Projects, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Prevention, Fund Raising, Response to and Intervention to control Hazardous Materials. Completes and maintains mandated Firefighter & Emergency Medical Service training certifications. Study and review Department Rules and Regulations, By Laws, Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines. Meet stated response quotas. Attend regular and special drills and meetings to learn and practice firefighting and protection techniques, demonstrates safety awareness and safe practices in all aspects of duties.

Volunteer Firefighters answer and respond to Alarms of Fire and other emergency incidents, to don full turnout gear in reasonable amount of time. Perform duties in various outside weather conditions, year round during all times of day and night. Apply common sense understanding to carry out instructions, gathering information unique to each incident, adapt to rapidly changing and challenging situations under emergency conditions. May operate large Firefighting vehicles in both normal and emergency driving conditions.

Volunteer Firefighters must have and use the ability to communicate through speech and hear spoken commands and differentiate among various bells, buzzers, alarms, sirens, and horns. Speak clearly and concisely, communicate clearly both in person and via radio & telephone, read and comprehend what is read, think clearly and formulate accurate reports and documents. Uses Close Vision, Distance Vision, Color Vision, Peripheral Vision, Depth Perception and the ability to adjust focus.

Volunteer Firefighters coordinate activities and work as a team with other firefighters, to engage in physical tasks of heavy lifting, running, climbing, and walking long distances over rough terrain in full turnout gear indoors and outdoors where the fire may be located a long distance from the firefighting vehicle. Climb multiple flights of stairs, ability to stoop, kneel, crouch and crawl while working. Reach with hands or arms, use hands to finger, handle or feel objects so as to manipulate equipment and controls.

Volunteer Firefighters enter burning structures, Operate in a smoke filled and heated environment while wearing self contained breathing apparatus and full turnout gear, occasionally exposed to explosives, toxins, radiological hazards and excessive vibrations, extreme heat and toxic products of combustion.

Volunteer Firefighters locate hydrants and other sources of water, connect apparatus to those sources of water via hose using various tools and physical strength, operate handheld hose lines with and without assistance and position those hose lines by dragging, carrying or hoisting them into place. Locate source and extension of fire, extinguish fire by variety of methods including by directing streams of water onto the fire.

Volunteer Firefighters select, position, raise, lower, extend and retract then climb and balance on all ladders in use by the Fire Department, including Aerial Ladders in excess of 100 feet high to gain access to upper levels of buildings or to assist individuals from burning structures.

Volunteer Firefighters create openings in building for ventilation and entry by cutting locks, breaking doors, windows or roofs using hand or power tools. Search for victim using systematic search procedures to locate trapped victims without becoming lost or trapped themselves. Free trapped victims from a variety of situations including fire, car crashes, cave-ins, structure collapses, floodwaters, chemical spills and all kinds of unusual occurrences. After locating and freeing the victim, determine the safest path of evacuation Lift and carry victim without assistance in dangerous situations. Provides medical treatment of victims of accident, illness and injury at the scene of incidents, may be exposed infectious diseases. Carry patients in excess of 150 pounds.

Volunteer Firefighters cleanup and overhaul after incidents, including carrying burned furniture, clothing, appliances, etc from buildings to reduce fire and smoke damage. Scoop, lift, shovel, sweep and mop excess water and debris caused by the fire and firefighting efforts. Tear down or shore up weak or dangerous parts of structures such as roofs, floors or overhangs. Protects property from water damage by use of waterproof salvage covers.

Volunteer Firefighters conduct firehouse tours and Fire Safety demonstrations for public consisting of both adults and children. Assists other firefighters in checking, testing, maintaining and repair of apparatus, equipment, hydrants and station building & grounds as directed

Do you have what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter?

Some would say yes. They would say you have to be strong, smart, and fearless. Well, it takes a whole lot more. There's a difference in saying you're a firefighter and actually BEING a firefighter. Why do people join the Volunteer Fire Service?

- § **Is it to make friends?**
- § **Is it so you can put cool, flashing lights in your car?**
- § **Is it so you can ride on the big red(white) truck with lights and siren?**
- § **Is it so people will look at you and say, "You're so brave, to be a firefighter."?**

Even though all of these are aspects of the Volunteer Fire Service, if you are in the fire service for just these reasons, then I'm sorry to say that you joined for the wrong reasons.

- § **Being a Volunteer Firefighter is about giving your time and energy to help people you don't know, and not expecting to be praised afterwards.**
- § **It's about waking up in the middle of the night to go to a fire alarm activation, because you know, even though the odds say differently, that tonight it might be the real thing.**
- § **It's about becoming a true brotherhood, helping your fellow firefighter move into his new house, or work on his truck, whatever he needs.**
- § **It's about sitting down together at the station to eat supper without being a jerk to "that one guy" that no one really likes.**
- § **It's about going to training, not so you can get your hours, but so you can better yourself as a firefighter.**
- § **It's about treating your brothers with respect and loyalty, not singling anyone out, not making fun of the guy that asks for help.**
- § **It's about doing your very best on the fire scene, following all the rules, listening to your officers, then going back to the station to help repack hose and clean the trucks.**
- § **It's about giving it your all to help your community, to make a difference in someone's life, to be there at any time for any situation.**

**This is what being a firefighter is truly about. So, do you have what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter? We think you do!
New members are always welcome!**

Belltown Fire Department Inc

8 Dorlen Road
Stamford, CT 06905
Tel: (203) 323-0626 Fax: (203) 323-8819

APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: ACTIVE _____ JR. PROBATIONARY _____ ASSOCIATE _____ FIRE POLICE _____

1) Name _____ Date of Birth _____

2) Present Address: _____ Place of Birth: _____

How long have you been at this address? _____ Tel #: _____

3) Previous Address: _____ How Long: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

4) Occupation: _____ Work Tel # _____

Employers Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

5) High School Attended: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Did you graduate? _____ Yes Year: 19 _____ NO Last grade completed _____

College Attended: _____ Years Completed: _____

Year you graduated: 19 ____ List Degrees: _____

6) Have you ever been arrested? _____ NO _____ YES If yes when: _____

Where: _____ Explain charges: _____

Ever been convicted? _____ NO _____ YES CT Drivers Lic. #: _____

7) Do you have any physical disabilities? _____ YES _____ NO

If yes please explain: _____

Are you under a doctors care now? _____ NO _____ YES

If yes please explain: _____

8) Have you ever been a member of a Fire Dept., Police Dept., Ambulance Service or Rescue Squad? _____ YES _____ NO

Name of dept.: _____ Address: _____ Tel #: _____

Date Entered: _____ Date left: _____ Reason for leaving: _____

9) Have you taken any related courses? If so, please list: _____

10) Would you object to the Department checking these statements? _____ NO _____ YES

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE FACTS STATED ABOVE ARE TRUE, AND HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE BELLTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. TO CHECK ANY AND ALL INFORMATION GIVEN BY ME ON THIS APPLICATION.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

11) Parent of Guardian's Approval

IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT YET EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE, A PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED.

I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter participate in the activities of the Belltown Fire Department, Inc. I understand the element of danger involved in Fire fighting and related activities.

GUARDIAN,

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR

IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC

ss: Fairfield County

Subscribed and Sworn before me this _____ day of _____ 20_____

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF CT

12) Name of member proposing applicant: _____

I have known the Applicant for _____ years _____ months.

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

13) Service Board Review:

Date: _____

Background Check: _____ Passed _____ Failed Reason: _____

Comments: _____

SIGNATURE OF SERVICE BOARD DATE

14) Date Application was posted: _____

Date of Meeting that vote was taken: _____

Results of Vote: _____ votes in favor

_____ votes NOT in favor

THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE WERE VERIFIED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BELLTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT DATE