

Why Become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Wolfville Fire Department?



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Why Become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Wolfville Fire Department?



Who are volunteer firefighters?

There are many good reasons for becoming a Volunteer Firefighter. Being a firefighter is a challenging, satisfying and rewarding experience. Friendship and camaraderie are a big part of being a firefighter and are reflected in the department's social functions.

One of the biggest benefits of becoming a volunteer firefighter is the enormous amount of training provided. Training provided to the firefighters is not just applicable to firefighting; it is useful in all aspects of a person's life, including other occupations and home life.

How much time is required to be a volunteer firefighter?

Hours vary depending on the incidents you respond to. The annual average number of calls that the Wolfville Fire Department responds to is 150-200 calls per year.

What will my training cost?

All of your training is provided at no cost to you. You'll receive professional training from experienced firefighters to ensure you're ready to do the job.

Are there any out-of-pocket-costs?

No. Everything you need to be a volunteer firefighter, including training, equipment is provided to you for free.

What qualifications do I need to become a volunteer firefighter?

The most important qualification is motivation, a true desire to help your fellow residents and your community. We do have a minimum age requirement of 18 for active members. Apart from that, there are no other qualifications, including previous firefighting experience.

Do volunteer firefighters get paid?

No. All members of the Wolfville Fire Department are unpaid, professionally trained volunteers.



Why Become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Wolfville Fire Department?



How many hours do volunteer firefighters work?

We do not require a minimum number of hours per week or month. We do expect that you'll attend our weekly training sessions (Monday nights 7:00pm-9:00pm), monthly general meetings (first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm), and periodic community activities. In addition, it's critical that you respond to as many calls as you can.

The commitment requested of you is that you attend a minimum of 40% training sessions and 40% actual fire department calls.

How will I train to be a volunteer firefighter?

Once you're a member, and within the first two years as a volunteer in the department, you'll need to achieve your Firefighter Level-1 designation, at no-cost to you, via a course offered by the Kings County Firefighters Association and the Nova Scotia Firefighters School.

After you achieve Firefighter 1, we expect that you'll take personal responsibility for continuing your firefighter education to enhance your firefighting abilities, add value to the fire department, and help keep you and your fellow firefighters safe.

What are the best aspects of being a volunteer firefighter?

Helping our neighbours in their time of need is immensely rewarding. We know we're making a difference. Beyond that, our members appreciate the camaraderie and friendship we all share. We have fun together—and we're incredibly serious when we need to be.

Should I start a physical training program before applying to be a volunteer firefighter?

Yes. Firefighting is a physically taxing activity. While you're not required to be involved in a specific program, conditioning will be important to help you achieve the physical standards needed to be a firefighter. To pass your probationary status you will need to complete a physical assessment that mimics the front-line duties required. Once you're a member of the Wolfville Fire Department, you can use our in-station fitness center free of charge.

Can a volunteer position lead to a career in firefighting?

Yes, but most of our members do not go in this direction given they're already in other careers. That being said, volunteer firefighting can be an excellent stepping-stone to a paid firefighting role, given the training and experience you'll gain. In addition, your volunteer firefighting experience can provide leadership and decision-making skills that can be leveraged in any career—and valued by prospective employers.

Why Become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Wolfville Fire Department?



What is some of the Training that I can expect to take?

Some of the training offered to volunteer firefighters includes:

- Firefighting and Rescue Skills
- Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations
- First Aid/AED
- Fire Service Leadership Principles
- Fire Extinguisher
- Conflict Resolution
- Operation of hydraulic rescue tools
- Fire Prevention and Education
- Operation of hand and power tools
- Difficult Rescue procedures – Motor Vehicle Extrication
- Operation of fire pumps and water systems
- Operate various types of Fire apparatus
- Wildland Fire Awareness



How long will I have to wait to contribute?

You'll be able to make an immediate difference once you've completed your initial training. As you gain more experience and training, you'll be able to take on more responsibility.

What if I become injured during training or responding to a Fire Call?

As a member of the Wolfville Fire Department, you will be covered under the Workers' Compensation Board.

What's the first step to becoming a volunteer firefighter?

Drop by the Wolfville Fire Department, 355 Main Street, Wolfville NS. We'll gladly answer any questions you have or connect via email with us at WFD_Recruiting@wolfville.ca



Why Become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Wolfville Fire Department?



WFD Firefighter – Job Description

You are ...

- ... a team player
- ... a quick thinker
- ... a natural leader
- ... an excellent communicator
- ... able to thrive in high-stress situations
- ... older than 18
- ... resident of Wolfville Fire district
- ... ready for a challenge



Your mission:

- To enhance the Wolfville Fire Department through quick and professional response to emergencies, fire safety education, and support of the fire departments' other activities.

You have:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to understand and communicate in English (written and oral)
- Good physical condition (ability to pass Physical Assessment)

Your responsibilities:

- Work as part of a team to respond to emergency situations
- Perform the duties of emergency responder, fire suppression, and public education as assigned
- Rescue and evacuate people from hazardous environments
- Learn the trades of emergency responder including different jobs such as hose and pump operator
- Respond to a broad range of emergency situations including motor vehicle accidents
- Provide pre-hospital care for victims
- Be a community role model
- Responsible for upgrading and maintaining skills/knowledge and physical requirements
- Maintain fire station and the upkeep of firefighting equipment
- Complete Kings County Level 1 Fire Training
- Complete Standard First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Level C certificates

Why Become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Wolfville Fire Department?



Your environment:

- Fast paced and ever-changing
- Team-oriented

Estimated Training hours:

- 2-3 hours per week (weekly Monday training);
- 2-3 hours per week (weekly Tuesday Kings County Level 1 Firefighter certification)
 - Training for Level 1 (September to March)

Are you interested?

Learn more at:

www.wolfvillefire.ca

or email:

WFD_Recruiting@wolfville.ca

