



DeForest Windsor Fire & EMS Frequently Asked Questions for Potential Applicants



Q: Is the DeForest Windsor Fire & EMS Department a volunteer service?

A: We are a combination service with full-time, part-time and paid on-call members. Paid on-call members receive a small stipend for being on call, and responding to calls, but volunteer much of their time for training and special events.

Q: What types of incidents does the fire department respond to?

A: We respond to any type of emergency you can think of. Medical emergencies ranging from abdominal pain to cardiac arrest, structure fires, vehicle fires, brush fires, motor vehicle accidents, and alarm activations are just some of the calls we receive. If someone calls 9-1-1 for our services, we will respond 24/7/365.

Q: How many calls does the department receive?

A: Our call volume has increased over the past several years. We respond to approximately 1,200 calls for service each year. 80-85% of these are EMS calls. This averages three to four calls per day, though some days are busier than others.

Q: Is the department looking for any more paid on-call members?

A: Yes. We are actively seeking new people to join the ranks of membership. We are looking for people with a positive attitude and a steady work ethic who would make a good addition to our team.

Q: Why should I give up my free time for the fire department?

A: This is an extremely rewarding experience! As firefighters and EMTs, we get the opportunity to help our community and truly make a difference in others' lives. As a department, we will invest in you by providing you with equipment, training, facilities, and by welcoming you into our family. As a member, you will be expected to invest in yourself, by completing the required training, taking your responsibilities seriously, and giving back to the community. If you put forth a solid effort, the rewards and satisfaction are great.

Q: But I'm really busy with the kids, work, etc. How would I find the time?

A: The time commitment is definitely something to consider. It seems everyone is busier than ever nowadays, and the men and women of the DeForest Windsor Fire & EMS Department are no exception. We all have jobs, most of us have families, and some of us are attending school. Members are expected to put in 40 hours of on-call time per month and attend one or two drills (usually lasting one to two hours on Thursday evenings) per month. Fortunately, our on-line scheduling program allows us to view or on call shifts for the entire year and request trades with other members. This offers us flexibility with schedules.

Q: Would I fit in at the fire department?

A: Our members come from all walks of life. We have men and women, college students, husbands and wives, parents, and even a few grandparents. We have degree holders, and people with no post high school education, business owners, stay at home parents, etc. Our

organization prides itself in its professionalism, and no longer subscribes to the “good ole boys’ club” mentality. The old stereotypes of a volunteer fire department just aren’t accurate anymore.

Q: What are the requirements to be a firefighter or EMT?

A: You must be at least 18 years of age, be of good moral character, be a resident of the district or be willing to stay at the station when on-duty, have a high school diploma or GED, and be physically capable of performing the duties of a firefighter or EMT. Our application process is described in more detail below.

Q: What is it like to be a firefighter or EMT?

A: For starters, anything you saw in the movies or on TV is pretty much wrong! If you are expecting instant glory, fame, fortune, or hero status, you may be disappointed. If you expect to pay your dues, train hard, and learn your craft, the satisfaction, experience, and respect of your peers will follow. Is it dangerous? It can be, but we go to great lengths to train to do things properly and safely rather than rushing into situations. Is it exciting? Every day brings different challenges. While some calls are of high stress adrenaline boosting urgency, some are run-of-the-mill and relatively low excitement.

Q: What is being a probationary member like?

A: Probation is a time to learn the basics about firefighting or EMS, as well as about the department. You’ll get your hands dirty, and you’ll be doing some not-so-glamorous work like rolling hose. Probation is a time to pay your dues and show the members of the department what you’re made of. Every one of us has gone through this period and know what it’s like to be the new person. Our members strive to welcome and incorporate probies.

Q: I’d like to help, but I really don’t think being a firefighter or EMT is for me. Are there other opportunities?

A: Of course. We have a support division made up of dedicated individuals who help out in many areas. We are always looking for volunteers to help out behind the scenes with a myriad of duties including:

- Public education
- Photography
- Apparatus maintenance
- General carpentry
- The list goes on! If you have a skill that you think would be beneficial to the department, please contact us to discuss it.

Q: I think I’d like to be a firefighter and or EMT, but I’m not sure. How can I find out more?

A: We want to give you all the information you need to help you make your decision. If you still have unanswered questions, send an email to recruiting@deforestwindsorfire.com, call us at 608-846-4364, or stop in at the station to talk to someone face-to-face. We’ll be happy to answer your questions, and show you around the fire station. Chances are, there’s a friend or neighbor of yours that works with us. Give one of them a call and they’ll be happy to speak to you about the department as well.

Q: How do I apply and become a probationary member?

A: If you have decided it's worth a try, you can contact the department for an application or you can download a form from our website at www.deforestwindsorfire.com under the recruiting tab. Please fill the application out completely, and provide any supporting documentation such as existing certifications. We run several application processes throughout the year, and will keep your application on file until the next process begins. If upon the review of your application you are determined to be eligible for membership, you will be contacted for an interview.