



Frequently Asked Questions

How old do I need to be in order to join?

Our membership ranges in age from 15 to 80. Junior members (age 15 to 17) are limited in what they can do on the emergency scene (i.e. they cannot perform interior structural firefighting); however they provide support and get plenty of training. Several current department members, officers and an assistant chief started in the department as junior members.

What type of experience do I need in order to join?

No experience is necessary, just a desire to help and a willingness to learn.

Are there any entry tests I have to take to join?

There are no verbal or written exams necessary to join. Each new applicant is required to have a physical and background check completed as part of the membership process.

Is training provided?

Yes, all new applicants are provided with training such as EMR (Emergency Medical Responder), EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and Fire Fighter 1.

What do these training programs cover and how long are they?

Emergency Medical Responder - Minimum age 14 (60 Hour Course)

This course provides interactive instruction to equip the first responder to provide CPR, basic airway management, bleeding control, basic patient assessment, shock recognition / treatment and splinting.

Emergency Medical Technician - Minimum age 16 (180 Hour Course)

This course is an entry level program that will train you to be an integral member of the pre-hospital team. The course provides instruction in basic life support skills such as CPR, airway management, treatment of bleeding control and shock recognition. In addition you will also learn care for trauma victims, medical emergencies, OB/GYN, and pediatrics.

Firefighter 1 - Minimum age 18 (120 Hour Course)

This course is the basic entry program for interior firefighting and more! Students learn about fire behavior, building construction, ventilation, loss control, hose advancement, communications, water supply, forcible entry, and more. Also included in the program is the latest Hazardous Materials / WMD First Responder-Operational level training program.

Does my training stop once I finish the Initial Training?

No, you will drill with the department monthly. There are classes offered outside the department (days, nights and weekends) that you can take (most of which the Department will reimburse you for).

What time requirements do I have to commit to?

Members of the fire department meet once a week for work night (Wednesday's from 7:00 pm). These weekly work nights allow the members to maintain equipment and take care of other tasks around the department. The monthly meeting for the department is held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. It is understood that members cannot make every weekly work night, monthly meeting or every emergency call. Below is a list of what all active members must attend to remain in good standing with the department.

25% of Drills(Excluding Mandatory Drills)

25% of All Work Nights

10% of Community Events

What if I can't get time off from work to go to calls?

If you work in or around town, some employers may be receptive to letting you go to calls during your working schedule, however these types of arrangements are strictly set up by the individual and his/her employer. Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1 cannot and does not require an employer to allow employees to leave for emergency calls. Most department members can only respond to calls outside of their normal work hours. As we have (and are looking for) members that work different shifts, we maintain coverage around the clock.

How often do emergency calls come in?

The amount of calls varies by day, week and month. It is understood that members cannot make every call, but would like to think that they attempt to make a good percentage of the calls for the period that they are most available for.