



**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**
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VOLUNTEER RECRUIT INFORMATION PACKAGE



Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services
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Thank you for your interest in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Program. This package will provide you with the necessary information in order to become a volunteer firefighter.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services operates two fire stations on a composite basis (full-time and volunteer firefighters). In November 2009, Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services moved to their new state of the art fire station located at 100 Weldon Road in the heart of Stouffville replacing the old Main Street fire station.

Station 51 is the Fire Department Headquarters and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Emergency Operation Centre. Fire Department Management as well as Fire Prevention and Training Divisions operate from this station. In addition, full-time firefighters staff this hall 24 hours a day, seven days a week, supported by a dedicated force of volunteer firefighters.

Station 52 is located at 15400 Hwy. 48 in Ballantrae. It is staffed with full-time firefighters 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and supported by a dedicated force of volunteer firefighters. Station 52 is equipped with a classroom and a community services room.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

As a volunteer firefighter serving the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, you will find it rewarding and challenging as you respond to a variety of emergency incidents including structure fires, vehicle fires, brush/grass fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies and public hazards (carbon monoxide, fuel spills, natural gas leaks). In addition, volunteer firefighters are expected to participate in monthly maintenance training and community/public education events.

In order to be qualified as a volunteer firefighter the recruitment and training process has become increasingly challenging. This is due to escalating demands to meet industry training standards.

Training is strictly mandated by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office (OFM) for all firefighters in Ontario. The training process is continuous and ongoing. To fully qualify as a volunteer firefighter it will take approximately three years and represents a considerable cost to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and for this reason we ask that you carefully read this information package.

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The following are the basic qualifications required to become a potential volunteer firefighter candidate.

Mandatory Qualifications

- Be legally entitled to work in Canada
- Live in close proximity to a fire station
- Be physically fit
- Have access to a vehicle
- Time commitment/availability
- Valid Ontario driver's license with acceptable abstract
- Successfully complete a background check

Preferential Qualifications

- D-Z driver's license
- CPR Certification
- First Aid Certification
- Daytime availability
- Related courses and certificates
- Relevant experience

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Submission of applications, resumes and required documentation.
2. Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview.
3. Candidates successful in the interview process will be contacted to proceed with a skills test, medical and fitness assessments.
4. Final selection process.

Skills Test

1. Search confined space.
2. Climb up and down stairs 3 times with 40 kg. weight over the shoulder.
3. Climb 12m ladder and hoist a 25 kg. weight up with a rope.
4. Remove and replace ground ladder from apparatus.
5. Drag 90 kg. dummy 15m while maneuvering around pylons.
6. Effectively maneuver a fire hose line.

Medical/Fitness Assessment

1. Fitness Assessment will be conducted by qualified staff at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.
2. Medical Assessment by a Physician.

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RECRUIT TRAINING

Prior to responding to alarms, successful candidates must have completed the following modules of the OFM Curriculum.

Module 1:

- Introduction to Curriculum
- Fire Department Organization
- Professionalism
- Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- Search and Rescue

Module 2:

- Fire Behaviour and Chemistry of Combustion
- Water Supply
- Hoses and Appliances
- Fire Streams
- Fire Suppression Techniques

Module 3:

- Ladders
- Ventilation

Module 4:

- Incident Command
- Personnel Accountability System

Module 5:

- Apparatus Maintenance

Module 6:

- CPR
- First Aid
- Defibrillation Training

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Training will take approximately 5 months to complete and will occur on selected evenings and weekends. Members will not receive remuneration until successfully completing the recruit training process. Following the initial recruit training process, recruits are considered to be minimally qualified and will begin the 12 month probation period.

12 MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD

During the twelve month probationary period, recruits will be expected to complete the following additional Ontario Fire College (OFC) Curriculum modules:

- Ropes and Knots
- Portable Extinguishers
- Forcible Entry
- Salvage
- Overhaul
- Size-Up
- Fire Cause Determination
- Portable Pumps
- Tanker Operations
- Aerial Operations

24 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD

Following the probationary period volunteer recruits will be expected to continue their education and training in accordance with the OFC Curriculum. This will take approximately 24 months to complete. Successful completion of each OFC Component will increase salary.

Each component will require a written exam administered by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Once all component exams are passed, the recruit will be deemed qualified by the OFM to be a firefighter in Ontario.

Firefighters are expected to take on additional responsibility after gaining experience. Opportunities for advancement will be extended to individuals in areas of driver/pump operations as well as training and leadership roles.

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ATTENDING EMERGENCY INCIDENTS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

There is an expectation that you will continue to attend weekly or bi-weekly training sessions and respond to fires and other emergencies when you are available. Attendance at training sessions and emergency incidents is continually monitored and assessed.

VOLUNTEER PAY

Volunteers will receive pay for attending training sessions as well as emergency and non-emergency incidents. Volunteer pay is based on an hourly rate and new volunteer recruits will be paid at the following rates:

- 70% - Must complete Component 1 requirements, defibrillation and first-aid certification (completion of initial recruit training).
- 80% - Successful completion of Component 1 written exam and completion of Component 2 requirements.
- 90% - Successful completion of Component 2 written exam and completion of Component 3 requirements.
- 100% - Successful completion of Component 3 written exam, pump operators course and water rescue program.

BENEFITS

Volunteers will be provided with Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) coverage for injuries or lost time during any authorized activities.

Life Insurance is also provided by the Town and additional coverage is available for purchase by members.

Volunteers are provided with a pager, required personal protective equipment and station wear (uniform) following the probationary period.

Any questions please contact the Administration Offices at 905-640-9595 or wsfes@townofws.ca

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