



Firefighter

The Reality: Over 40,000 people reside in the 213 square miles that make up Warren County. Not every station has dedicated staffing, therefore, volunteer firefighters are crucial to the success of Warren County Fire and Rescue. Even when stations have dedicated staff, the calls often require additional units that need to respond. There may also be other calls for service that come in when dedicated staff are already out on a call. If enough volunteers are not present at all stations, the response times to emergency calls increase.

Commitment: Volunteers should commit to being at their fire station or in training a minimum of 18-20 hours a month. The easiest way to accomplish this goal is to plan to be at the fire station for a few hours on a given day or evening every week (e.g., a duty shift). In addition, volunteers should plan to attend company meetings and help with company fundraising activities, when possible.

Training: It is a long road to become certified as a firefighter, but it is a worthy accomplishment that holds lasting meaning after completing the training. For approximately five months, the training will consume two evenings and most Saturdays of the month. There may even be some training on Sundays, given the requirements to meet the training schedule. Check the [events tab](#) on this website to find training opportunities.

Work Ethic: Firefighters are relentless in seeking to learn more about all of their assigned tasks. They are truly excited about developing new, specialized skills and abilities. The discipline to apply themselves to studying, practicing and performing a wide range of tasks—from the simplest housekeeping items to maintaining a level of personal physical fitness to complex rescue methods—sets a firefighter apart.

Judgment: Firefighters make reasonable decisions, with personal and scene safety taking priority. They think through challenges logically, and seek to address problems proactively. They learn from their own, and others', past mistakes.

Teamwork: Firefighters put the overall mission ahead of their personal interests and strive to work well with others. They demonstrate their support for fellow volunteers and dedicated staffing staff by acting respectfully when differences of opinion or past experiences are present.

Communication: Effective firefighters recognize that tone of voice, body language and what is written affects individuals differently. Therefore, they communicate in clear, concise ways, remaining positive in all aspects of communication.

Empathy: Responds to others appropriately, respectfully and helpfully, while remaining calm, compassionate and competent.

Concern for the Community: Firefighters are willing to serve others. The desire to protect and rescue those experiencing an emergency is crucial to top performance. They show sensitivity towards every citizen in need.

A flowchart of the volunteer process appears on the next page:



County of Warren Department of Fire and Rescue Services Volunteer Application Process

Applicants may begin the process however they prefer, but both steps will need to be completed prior to membership.

Receive Application

Prospective volunteers can receive application packets for membership from the individual stations. If unsure of an appropriate time to obtain one, please contact the Recruitment and Retention Coordinator at (540) 636-3830.

Attend New Volunteer Orientation

Prospective volunteers may find it beneficial to have some questions answered prior to visiting the station. We hold a New Volunteer Orientation on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Warren County Fire & Rescue **Training Facility on ESA Lane** at 6:30 p.m. Register at www.warrencountyfire.com/events.

Fingerprints

Within your application packet are instructions for scheduling a fingerprinting appointment. You must be found "eligible" to volunteer by Virginia Office of Emergency Services prior to membership. This process usually takes at least 3-4 weeks.

Return Application to the Station

Once completed, bring the application to the station. You can also provide copies of any certifications, to include CPR, for your file.

Prior to Membership

Until voted into membership, there are limitations as to what applicants can do. They are not permitted to participate in any training, fundraising, or responding to calls, unless ride-along status has been approved. They are, however, allowed to familiarize themselves with the station, attend New Volunteer Orientation and meet other members.

Attend Monthly Membership Meeting

Your station meets on _____ for their monthly membership meeting. After your application has been submitted, expect that your information will be read at a meeting, then voted on either at the same meeting or the following month's meeting. An affirmative vote by the membership will make you eligible for probationary membership.

Note: Applicants to Warren County Station 6 will be appointed by the Fire Chief instead of being voted into membership.

Meet with Station Mentor

Each station has designated members to assist new volunteers during their probationary period. Make sure to make yourself available to meet with your mentor; be willing to learn and ask a lot of questions. We pride ourselves on the quality of service we provide, and being well trained is essential to meeting that goal.

Complete CPR

AHA Healthcare Provider CPR is offered on the third Tuesday of even numbered months at no cost to our members. Members should pre-register at www.warrencountyfire.com under the Events Tab. CPR is required prior to responding on ANY apparatus.

Complete Certification

Members are encouraged to complete either an EMS and or Fire Academy as soon as it becomes available. In addition, we offer many other training options within the county, including the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC).

Individual stations may have slight variations from this outline; in this event follow your station's process.