



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE AND EMS DEPARTMENT

GUIDE TO VOLUNTEERING

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About Us

Did you know over 1,000 dedicated volunteers are on the front lines of the fire and EMS service in Prince George's County? We are neighbors helping neighbors — and you can join us.

Our 35 member departments have immediate openings for Firefighter/EMTs, EMTs, Paramedics and Administrative, Support & Auxiliary volunteers and no training or experience is needed.

Each department in Prince George's County is an independent corporation, each with its own structure and unique facets of the membership process.

Why Volunteer?

The Fire and EMS service is one of the most diverse and challenging vocations today. It is this diversity that attracts most men and women to join our ranks.

Different people volunteer for different reasons. Action oriented people enjoy the excitement and adrenaline rush that emergency services has to offer. Some see the volunteer fire service as an alternative to 'driving a desk by day' – by allowing them to 'drive a fire truck or ambulance at night!'

Many like the feeling they get when they help people in their time of need and some feel it's their obligation to serve the community. Yet others just want to belong to the team. Whatever motivates you to volunteer – everyone gains the self-satisfaction of being at their best when others are dealing with what is often the worst that life has to offer.

Imagine having to prepare yourself to cope with situations that range from structure fires to childbirth to hazardous chemical spills to heart attacks to almost any imaginable emergency in between. This diversity is coupled with the fact that these skills may be needed at any time of the day or night, seven days a week, in any kind of weather, and very often under potentially stressful and emotional circumstances. Yet these same factors contribute to our profession being so personally rewarding.

We realize that firefighting & EMS is not for everyone, but we believe that volunteering can be. There is plenty of work to be done on or behind the scenes, too.

The personal rewards and satisfaction received from what we do is often beyond description. There is the sense of accomplishment when you control a building fire, joy and elation when a child is born, compassion for accident victims, and fulfillment from teaching fire safety.

The bottom line in our business is measured by the loss of life, pain and suffering, and the property damage we have prevented and reduced.

Volunteering in emergency services is one of the most important decisions you may make. We hope that you give this decision the time and serious consideration it deserves, and decide to join our ranks.

Position Description

General Purpose

The Volunteer Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (Volunteer FF/EMT) serves the community by responding to a wide variety of situations, ranging from emergencies that immediately threaten life or property, to routine citizen requests for information or assistance. They perform within the scope of the policies and procedures of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and they perform duties in the following general categories: fire suppression, emergency medical aid or rescue, hazardous material responses, training, building inspections and public education. The Volunteer FF/EMT normally works under the supervision of a company officer and is expected to function effectively as part of a highly trained team. They are also expected to perform their duties under adverse conditions and physical conditions that may pose a high risk of personal injury or exposure to hazardous conditions or infectious diseases.

The Volunteer FF/EMT is required to attend regularly scheduled training in order to maintain the high level of knowledge, skill and ability necessary to function safely and effectively as a Firefighter and EMS provider in accordance with state law, county protocols, and standard operating procedures.

The work performance of a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT is continuously evaluated for general knowledge, skill proficiency, and ability to work as part of a team. Any deficiencies are corrected through remedial training.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The Volunteer Firefighter/EMT drives or rides an emergency vehicle in response to fire, rescue, and emergency medical events, hazardous materials responses/mitigation and routine requests for help or assistance. In the performance of their duties, the Volunteer Firefighter/EMT places equipment, lays and connects hose; operates high-capacity pumps and directs water streams; raises and climbs ladders; uses chemical extinguishers, safety belts, lines and hooks and uses self-contained breathing apparatus. The Volunteer Firefighter/EMT may enter burning buildings as part of a fire suppression team, perform ventilation tasks above ground, carry heavy objects and equipment and rescue injured or trapped victims. The Volunteer Firefighter/EMT also responds to requests for pre-hospital emergency medical care and the transport of sick or injured persons, setting up and/or operating oxygen and auto-defibrillation equipment, administering pre-hospital emergency medical care to the sick and injured and performing other related work as assigned.

Minimum Desired Qualifications

All members of the Department must be 16 years of age or older and have the ability to:

- Obtain or possesses and maintain certification as a Firefighter I and Maryland EMT-Basic. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to understand and carry out verbal and written instructions using the English language.

Complete a full County application which includes a background check and NFPA 1582-compliant physical. This physical consists of bloodwork, vision and hearing screenings, drug screen via urinalysis, pulmonary function test, chest and lumbar x-rays, and a treadmill stress test.

- Maintain physical conditioning necessary to perform efficiently in emergency situations; meet medical and physical agility standards as established.

Within 12 months of appointment as a member of the Department, the Volunteer must be enrolled in either the Firefighter I or EMT-B courses offered by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. These courses are required and must be completed within 30 months.

- Participate in training drills; hydraulics, first aid and emergency medicine, fire equipment, and apparatus, and other classes associated with recognized fire fighter and EMT standards.
- Learn and apply technical information pertaining to firefighting and emergency medical services.

- Analyze and cope with a variety of emergency situations calmly but effectively and to react quickly to secure accurate and precise information on the location, extent, and nature of fires and emergency aid requests.
- Sustain heavy physical labor during periods of intense activity in emergency situations; to work at varying heights above grade.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with members of the department, supervisors, and the general public; to work effectively as a team member.
- Perform community service activities.

Physical and Mental Demands

The physical and mental demands described here are representative of those that must be met to successfully perform the essential functions of this volunteer position.

Physical Demands:

Work is performed primarily in the fire station, on emergency medical scenes, mass casualty and fire scenes, and any other extraordinary events as they occur. Performing tasks under emergency conditions may require strenuous exertion. The exposure to death, emotional stress, patients with contagious diseases and terminal illnesses can be expected.

Mental Demands:

While performing the duties of this position, members of the Department will be regularly required to use written and oral communication skills; read and interpret data, information and documents; analyze and solve problems; use math and mathematical reasoning; observe and interpret situations; learn and apply new information or skills; and interact with a multitude of Department members, such as other Firefighters and EMTs, Chiefs and Officers, other organizations, and the public.

Work Environment

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that a Volunteer FF/EMT encounters while performing the essential functions of this position:

Physical hazard from fire, equipment, traffic, smoke inhalation, and falling objects at emergency scenes, and exposure to health risks may occur. Performance of hazardous tasks under emergency conditions may require strenuous exertion under such handicaps as limited

visibility, exposure to hazardous or toxic chemicals and gases, extremes in temperatures, cramped surroundings, and contact with death, emotional stress, contagious diseases, and terminal illness.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Firefighter / EMT



We respond in many ways to help our community members when they are in need — fires, vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, hazardous situations, service calls and much more. It's not all about running into burning buildings — but there's plenty of that, too. Fire/EMS volunteers are cross-trained as Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Training for these courses is free and takes place throughout the county and region at convenient times for volunteers with varied schedules, including evening, weekend and summer classes.

Volunteer EMT or Paramedic

If you enjoy helping people in medical emergencies – we'll provide the training FREE. In cooperation with the State of Maryland and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, we'll train you in CPR and to be an Emergency Medical Technician. EMT training is provided free with classes held throughout the area at convenient times, including evenings and weekends. You can even enhance your skills by becoming a volunteer Paramedic — many stations offer tuition reimbursement and may cover part or all of your paramedic coursework.

Administrative, Support or Auxiliary Volunteer

Administrative & Associate Members provide administrative and fund-raising support for the operation and the business of our busy volunteer fire and EMS departments. From accounting, computer, public relations, maintenance, IT, community education and administrative functions – there's plenty to do behind the scenes. Plus stations with "Auxiliary" programs provide on scene support including meals, drinks and rehab services. Anyone who does not have the desire

to participate directly in operational services, or those who cannot meet the physical demands for serving as a Firefighter/EMT or EMT are encouraged to serve one of our departments in one of these critical capacities.

Expectations



- Rescue individuals and or pets trapped in fires
- Render first aid, helping sick or hurt people
- Speak to your community about fire
- Participate in fire prevention events and station drills
- Train in numerous fields such as Hazmat and Technical Rescue
- Participate in fundraising events for your fire house
- Take PRIDE in your station and in what you do

Process

Each department in Prince George’s County is an independent corporation, each with its own structure and unique facets of the membership process — but it all starts with the first contact, so get started today and browse the primary core steps of the recruitment process below.

Core Requirements

- Be at least 16 years of age
- No past training or experience required
- Be able to pass a criminal background check
- Be able to pass a full physical (not required for Admin/Support)

Typical First Steps

- **Find Your Firehouse**
Search the pgfdvolunteers.org database for your closest or most ideal firehouse based on your location or interest — or contact our recruiter via last form in this brochure.
- **Connect with a Recruiter**
Our county recruiter or a recruiter from your selected department will contact you to

advise the specific initial steps — which typically include an initial firehouse visit, may include a ride along and more.

- **Get a Background Check**

Your department's recruiter will coordinate your completion of a Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department volunteer application package, which includes electronic fingerprinting to complete a full criminal background check.

- **Get a Physical**

Once you clear your criminal background check, you'll call Concentra to schedule a standard physical exam. Volunteers seeking to be Firefighter/EMTs, EMTs or Paramedics must pass this exam in order to continue in the process.

- **Start Training**

After passing your physical, your department will coordinate your initial training, which includes a self-paced online course "Volunteer Recruit School" — followed by scheduling your initial EMT and/or Firefighter I training. Fire/EMS members must complete both Firefighter I and EMT within 36 months of joining — EMS members must complete EMT within 18 months of joining a department.

How can you benefit?

You may not get paid in the traditional "paycheck" way as a member of the volunteer fire/EMS service, but the true benefits are countless — including a retirement program, tax incentives, free training, camaraderie, a new second family and more. Take a look at the benefits of becoming a volunteer in Prince George's County below

- **Free training**
- **Live-in programs available**
- **LOSAP (retirement program)**
- **MD State tax credits**
- **Scholarship Programs for Fire/EMS degrees**
- **Development of life skills**
- **Friends and memories to last a lifetime**

Contact

For more information visit PGFDvolunteers.org or call 301-583-1944 to learn more about the operational and administrative opportunities available for volunteers of all backgrounds and skill sets.



NAME: _____

HOME ZIP CODE: _____

CONTACT #: (CELL) _____

EMAIL: _____

VOLUNTEER INTEREST – CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY:

(FIREFIGHTER/EMS, EMS ONLY, ADMIN.SUPPORT/AUXILIARY, LIVE-IN, OTHER):

STATION OF INTEREST: _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US: _____

**FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS FORM OR THE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION
PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE VOLUNTEER FIRE/EMS RECRUITER, TRISH
SHELTON @ 301-583-1944 OFFICE, 240-825-9863 CELL,
VOLUNTEERRECRUITER@CO.PG.MD.US**