

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Fire Academy**

### **How many calls does the Evergreen Fire/Rescue respond to in a year?**

Approximately 2200 calls per year are received. A majority of the calls are medical where volunteers may be the first person on scene due to our neighborhood response system, however, our firefighters also respond to structure fires, wildland fires, water rescues, vehicle accidents and many other public requests for service. We provide training to give a volunteer the skills to know what to do in an emergency situation to help protect life and property.

### **How many stations does Evergreen Fire/Rescue have?**

Evergreen Fire/Rescue has eight stations strategically located across our community, which covers 120 square miles. Please see [evergreenfirerescue.com/about/stations](http://evergreenfirerescue.com/about/stations) to see the locations.

### **Is this a paid firefighter position?**

No, we are volunteers who live within the district boundaries. We are slightly compensated on a per call basis. EFR does have several paid positions that support the firefighters including a paid Chief, Fire Marshal, facilities and vehicle maintenance staff, administrative team and 24/7 paramedics.

### **How do I become a volunteer firefighter with Evergreen Fire/Rescue?**

Please complete and return the application if you are a resident of the Evergreen Fire Protection District (EFPD) as promptly as possible so we may place you in our recruiting system. The application will then be screened on the information submitted. A complete background check will be performed, plus a survey of those personal and business references you have provided.

After successful completion of the initial screening, you will be informed if you are on the list to continue the application process. You will be invited to participate in an interview before a panel of EVFD line and administrative officers, and shall answer such questions as deemed appropriate to the candidate's ability to serve as a member of EVFD.

You will then be required to pass a physical agility test. Becoming a Firefighter is physically demanding and we must make certain the members of the EVFD Academy will be able to perform the rigorous tasks that will be required.

### **PHYSICAL AGILITY TEST REQUIREMENTS:**

The candidate shall successfully perform each and all of the following tests in accordance with the EVFD Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). Candidate will be dressed in complete structural firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), without the Scott Air Mask. The Candidate will also be outfitted with an air pack containing full 30-minute bottle.

1. Upon initiation of the time clock, the Candidate will carry a high-rise hose pack 50 feet, raise the hose pack using an attached line to a height of approximately 30 feet and lower the hose successfully.

2. The Candidate will then immediately pull a charged 1 ¾" hose line, from a "flaked position" 75 feet.
3. The Candidate will then immediately be given a dummy weighing approx. 125 pounds, shall move the dummy 100 feet by dragging it to the finish. Items 1-3 must be completed successfully within a time of 4 minutes:30 seconds or less.
4. Each Candidate must demonstrate a lack of acrophobia (fear of high places) by properly scaling a ladder.
5. Each Candidate must demonstrate a lack of claustrophobia (fear of tightly enclosed places) by crawling through a spherical tunnel with full bunker gear on and face shield blacked out (No SCBA pack).
6. Utilizing a sledge hammer, the candidate shall strike a block moving the block from one end of sled to a designated point at opposite end of sled. A minimum of 20 strikes are required.
7. The Candidate must complete the Wildland required fitness test, which consists of walking 3 miles with a 45-pound backpack in under 45 minutes.

**What is the difference between the Evergreen Fire Protection District (EFPD), Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD), and Evergreen Fire/Rescue (EFR)?**

The EFPD is a Special District authorized under Colorado law which holds certain responsibilities and powers including collection of taxes for providing emergency services. The EVFD contracts with the EFPD to provide volunteer firefighter and rescue personnel.

The EVFD is a 501c4 non-profit organization that is the volunteer base. All volunteers are first and foremost a member of EVFD which has a board of directors that ensures all volunteers meet and maintain the standards required to be a member in good standing.

EFR is the common name that both organizations work seamlessly under to provide robust firefighting and rescue services to the Evergreen Fire Protection District and surrounding areas.

**What are the requirements to join EVFD?**

- You must be 18 years of age or older by the first scheduled class of the Academy.
- You must maintain a primary residence within the EFPD boundary unless a specific exemption is granted by the EVFD Board.
- You must have a valid Colorado Drivers License.
- You must be a legal resident of the United States of America.
- You must have a high school diploma or GED.
- You must undergo a criminal background check.

**How long is the initial training?**

Academy is approximately nine months from start to finish with several breaks through-out. It is held at 1802 Bergen Parkway, in the Evergreen Fire/Rescue Administration Building.

*Reference the Draft training calendar on the main page:*

<http://www.evergreenfirerescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2014-2015-AcademyScheduleDRAFT.pdf>

**What hours/days will the academy take place?**

The academy runs Monday nights and several Saturday days during the nine month period. The Monday nights start at 6:30 p.m. and go most nights until 9:30, though some nights will run long and some short. The Saturday days start at 8:00 a.m. and go until 5:00 p.m. with a lunch break around noon.

**What's an average academy day like?**

It varies depending on the topic. Most start with a brief lecture to give a good overview of the training and then a majority of the time is spent "hands on" to start to develop the skills and muscle memory needed during an emergency situation.

**What are the requirements following the initial academy training year?**

Every member must participate in a minimum of thirty-six hours of authorized training, as specified in the EVFD Standard Operating Guidelines.

It shall be the duty of all active members to respond to a minimum of 20% of all general alarms during any one calendar year, which varies from year to year, but is usually 60 to 80 calls. Responding to all other calls, including non-emergent alarms and rescue calls will count toward the minimum 20%.

Members are required to attend regular business meetings. Per the EVFD by-laws, "Absences from Meetings: Any member absent from three consecutive regular business meetings or absent from six or more regular business meetings in a year will be considered for dismissal from the Department by the EVFD Board of Directors."

Firefighters shall attend a minimum of eight regularly scheduled Company Trainings per year. Two scheduled Driver Engineer trainings per year shall be credited towards the company training requirement. Credit for two Company Training sessions within the same month, covering the same topic shall not be awarded without prior approval of the Officer In Charge. A Company Training session that exceeds three hours shall be awarded a maximum of 6 hours credit towards satisfaction of the 36 hours core training requirement and shall not count for more than one (of the eight) required sessions.

**What certifications do I need in order to become a firefighter?**

Members shall maintain current (not expired):

- Colorado Fire Fighter 1 (FFI)
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- CPR for First Responders
- Colorado Hazardous Materials Operations (HazMat-Ops)
- NIMS 100, 200, 700, and 800
- NWCG S130/190/180 (Wildland Firefighting Red Card)

All of these certifications will be obtained during the nine month academy. EVFD Probationary Members are required to pass ALL required tests within one year of the first attempted written or practical exam.

### **What testing requirements are there to be certified?**

In order to be certified for Firefighter 1, Hazmat Operations, CPR, and Emergency Medical Responder, members will need to complete a written exam conducted by the state of Colorado and a practical exam. Per state requirements: Members who do not pass the written exam may re-test up to three times for the Firefighter 1 and Hazmat Operations before being required to re-take a portion or all of the class.

### **If I already have all the required certifications, do I still need to go through the academy?**

Yes. Regardless of your experience, EFR believes there is value in completing the academy with your classmates. We want to ensure we are all using the same terminology and techniques with the goal of a safe environment and smooth communications on scene. This is also a great opportunity for those with certifications to keep current and to practice skills that have not been used in several years. And it is also the time to meet the other members on the department and share your valuable knowledge.

### **I travel for work several of the training nights, is there a minimum number of classes I can be excused from? Or is there a way to make up for missing classes?**

Missing class is understandable; however, not encouraged. As we are all volunteers, making up classes requires the instructors to give up their family time. We will work with each person but we feel that missing more than three classes will put a probationary firefighter far behind and will jeopardizes their safety and their ability to pass the class. If there are extenuating circumstances this should be noted on your application.

### **Once a full member missing training and not participating in calls may mean:**

Privileges and/or benefits that may be revoked, denied, or suspended. An active member may risk losing:

1. Pension credit.
2. Call reimbursement.
3. Use of Department or District facilities and equipment.
4. Emergency driving of apparatus or personal vehicles
5. Leave of absence.
6. Terminal leave.

### **How do I respond to an emergency?**

A volunteer firefighter carries a minitor that receives a verbal page from the EFR 911 dispatch center. Where applicable, you typically respond to a fire station and ride in a fire truck to the location. However, due to the size of the district and the philosophy of our "neighborhood response" you frequently drive your vehicle directly to the scene.

**How does the general public and law enforcement know that I am part of EFR when responding on calls?**

New academy recruits are issued a red Evergreen Fire/Rescue Academy tee shirt. This shirt along with the personal protective gear issued should be worn when arriving on calls. In addition, once academy members begin responding on calls, their vehicles are issued a rear window sticker for identification.

**Can I apply for firefighter license plates for my vehicle?**

Once you have been issued an EFR ID card, the department asks that you wait until you have completed the academy training period before obtaining firefighter license plates.

Thank you for your interest in the Evergreen Fire/Rescue academy. If you have any further questions please contact us at 303.674.3145.