

Town of Grand Rapids Fire Department Recruitment Overview

The Town of Grand Rapids Fire Department is a combination department with one full time Fire Chief and paid on call members. We are a group of professional volunteers, working together to save lives and property. We provide fire suppression, Emergency Medical Services (Medical First Responders), fire safety education, and fire inspection services. We respond from one (1) fire station, protecting approximately 12,000 citizens in an area covering 100 square miles.

Firefighters and Medical First Responders receive minimum state required hours in these fields during their one year probationary period at no cost to the member. You can choose to do either fire, ems, or both. Members receive up \$15.00 per call and LOSA Retirement benefits.

Career advancement opportunities are available in the areas of fire prevention, suppression and emergency medical services

IS A CAREER IN THE FIRE SERVICE RIGHT FOR YOU?

Today's firefighters are men and women of all races and creeds who provide public safety services to the citizens of our protection area. Firefighters not only fight fires but they perform related public safety tasks which may include all the following essential functions:

- Operate all types of fire and rescue equipment, including fire extinguishers, forcible entry tools, aerial ladder equipment, emergency medical equipment, and hose lines with nozzles.
- Respond to emergency medical incidents, analyzing patient needs and administering emergency medical assistance
- Respond to a variety of general emergency rescue calls such as auto accidents, natural gas leaks, and public assistance (helping the elderly and disabled individuals with a problem).
- Perform search and rescue of individuals in hazardous environments including fire situations, collapsed buildings, auto accidents, hazardous materials spills, water related incidents, and confined spaces.

Firefighters and Medical First Responders report to a Lieutenant or Captain who supervises and works alongside his/her crew. Each crew rotates monthly performing duties in the area of truck/equipment checks, housekeeping duties, and cleaning. Just as with family members, good communication skills are a must while working in these close quarters.

THE JOB

Fire fighting and Emergency Medical Services is a hazardous occupation and such work can be extremely arduous at times. The tools of the trade are heavy, and firefighters/MFRs must be able to repeatedly handle those implements over prolonged periods of time. Because fires spread rapidly, firefighters must work quickly. This urgency places a considerable burden and stress on them. Also Firefighters and Medical First Responders are in contact with patients that have a wide range of medical problems and issues requiring prompt care. We work very closely with our contracted ambulance provider and area departments to provide the highest quality of service to the citizens we protect.

Fire fighting is always conducted while wearing heavy, protective clothing and a self-contained breathing apparatus. The total weight of this gear, while fighting a fire, is approximately 45 pounds. The weight of the protective gear in itself increases the difficulty of "routine" tasks, which underscores the importance of strength and stamina.

Fire fighting is conducted in an extremely hot and toxic environment. The protective clothing greatly retards the body's ability to cool itself. Physical fitness (principally cardio-vascular fitness) greatly influences how well and how safely fire fighters can cope with the potentially dangerous heat stress.

The fire fighting selection process is designed to ensure that those who are selected for entrance into recruit possess the physical strength, stamina, and learning ability to successfully complete the intensive and strenuous training program. In addition it is the responsibility of all members to maintain their physical fitness throughout their employment and career.

Fire fighting and EMS is not just a job, *it is a career*. We strongly encourage all members to take an active role in the department and all training opportunities throughout the area.