



# Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department

## Do You Have What it Takes to be a Hometown Hero



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Who are the Volunteers of the WVFD? You already know us. We're your friends and neighbors. We're mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers. We come from every profession and every walk of life. We are company executives, students, contractors, craftsman, engineers, administrators, plumbers and electricians. We are CEOs, medical professionals, sales associates, teachers, business owners and VETERANS from every branch of service. We are Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

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### **Medical Qualifications**

To be a Volunteer Firefighter for Wethersfield, applicants are required to pass a Fire Department physical. The physical is based on requirements established in NFPA 1500 and is use for determining if the applicant is capable of the physical exertions encountered during Fire Department emergency operations.

### **Criminal History & Background Check**

All applicants are required to submit to a criminal history and background check. Firefighters across the country are held to very high ethical standards. Terms such as, Honor, Duty, Integrity and Responsibility mean something in the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department and all personal are expected to uphold our long and rich dedication to those guiding principles. The men and women of the WVFD also have what is perhaps the greatest responsibility, that of the public trust. If an applicant has a criminal history, it is not necessarily an automatically disqualifying factor. Each applicant's criminal history and background check is carefully reviewed to determine the specific circumstances. Once the applicant has successfully met the Medical and Background requirements they are accepted into the Recruit Training Program.

### **Training, Time and Commitment Required – The First Year is the Hardest**

As a Recruit/Probationary Firefighter, it is necessary to be able to commit the time required to attend Department level training, Department activities and to attend and successfully complete Firefighter I certification at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. Applicants should expect the following general time commitment during their first year of membership:

### **Recruit Training Program**

When an applicant is accepted as a Recruit Firefighter, the first step is to attend the Recruit/Orientation Program which consists of both online and classroom training. The primary purpose of this program is to provide a fundamental administrative orientation, provide basic information and training on topics such as Department Organization, rules and regulations, Basic Firefighter Safety, Personal Protective Equipment, Emergency Response, Emergency Scene Safety and Driver Safety. It is a critical aspect in the preparation for the Recruit Firefighter to be released to their Fire Company for more in-depth training.

### **Company & Department Training** - Monday Nights are Firehouse Nights

Once a Firefighter has successfully completed the Recruit Training Program, they are released to their home Company as probationary Firefighters. The majority of Firefighter Training occurs during Monday training drills, this is when the real work begins. The Probationary Firefighter should consider Monday nights as Firehouse nights. Although most drills and training sessions held on Monday nights begin at 7:00 p.m., the Probationary Firefighter should arrive at the firehouse by 6:30 p.m. and should not expect to leave until at least 10:00 p.m.

Once a new Firefighter is released to their home Company, their Company Captain will determine at what point they will be allowed to respond to emergency calls. Initially, the Probationary Firefighter will be very limited as to what duties they can perform during an emergency. As the Probationary Firefighter attends Monday night training sessions and receives more and more training, they gain knowledge and experience which is critical to their safety as well as the safety of the public we are here to serve. The Probationary Firefighter's Company Captain and Company Officers are responsible for evaluating the Firefighter's capabilities, skills and commitment and will allow the Probationary Firefighter to assume additional responsibilities accordingly. Under no circumstances will any Firefighter be allowed to achieve the classification of a Full Entry Level Firefighter until they have received Firefighter I Certification.

*\*\*\* Once you are authorized by your Company Captain to start responding to calls, you are required to respond to 35% of all calls your Company is called to respond to. In addition, you are required to attend all Department/Company meetings (held on Monday nights).*

### **Firefighter I Certification (FFI)**

The Firefighter I Certification course is held at the Connecticut Fire Academy (CFA) in Windsor Locks. The FFI course is recognized across the country as the standard certification level for Firefighters to become a Full Entry Level Firefighter. The FFI Certification course is a very challenging in terms of the academics, physical demands and commitment of time.

The scheduling of FFI Certification courses are established by the CFA and does change from course to course however, most commonly the course takes about 4 – 5 months to complete and classes are usually held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as some Saturday and Sunday sessions. The completion of the FFI Certification course is the most intense part of becoming an Entry Level Firefighter and is one of the requirements to be eligible to go from Probationary status to Full Membership.

### **Summary**

Medical Qualifications

Criminal History & Background Check

Recruit Class – Online and Classroom Training Sessions

Monday Night Drills – Every Monday Night (except when taking FFI)

Firefighter I – Tuesday and Thursday Evenings and some Weekends (over 4-5 months)

For additional information, email [wvfd@wethersfieldct.gov](mailto:wvfd@wethersfieldct.gov)