

Did you Know?

NFPD responds to about 430 calls per year, roughly 65% are medical emergencies, 20% motor vehicle accidents, 5% structure fires, 5% rescue calls and 5% wildland fires or smoke reports.

The Nederland Fire Department was formed in 1913. In 1914 town population was 300 and the Fire Dept. had 27 volunteers nearly 10% of the population.

While we have a handful of paid responders, only one is on duty at night and on weekends, few emergencies are solved with just one responder.

Volunteers are and will always be essential to NFPD's ability to provide emergency services.

Bottom line we need more volunteers.



**Nederland Fire Protection District
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WWW.NFPD.ORG**

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E-mail: admin@nfpd.org**

**Prompt, Proud, Professional, Safe and
Courteous—every call.**

Common Questions to the Chief

- Q) I pass out at the site of blood (or I am scared of fire), would I make a good volunteer?
- A) Probably, I remember my first clinical at the ER as I was sliding down the wall watching an IV being started. Most responders get over their fear or other concerns related to participation in emergencies once trained. Frequently, intrigue as to how the body works, your increased skills at life saving, fire-fighting, or rescue override the old you. This is the growth part we mentioned, you will be surprised at what you can do.
- Q) What are the age limitations on being a volunteer?
- A) You must be at least 18 y.o. to participate in "dangerous" activities, there is no upper limit on age. In fact, older, healthy individuals who have more free time make great volunteers. Don't be confused it can be very hard work, but many hands make for a lighter workload.
- Q) Isn't firefighting dangerous?
- A) Sure, wouldn't really be fun if it wasn't. Seriously, we make every effort possible to minimize the risk to our staff. Proper training, good equipment and most importantly our rules of engagement all help prevent injuries or death. Simply stated we will risk a lot to save a lot (such as a life), risk some to save some (perhaps damage to equipment) and risk nothing to save nothing (the house cannot be saved).
- Q) Can I use marijuana and be a volunteer?
- A) The short answer is no. We rely on federal grant funding for much of our equipment, their regulations still prohibit MJ in the workplace, The Federal Public Safety Officer Death and Disability program also prohibits this activity. Perhaps more practical, it is difficult to judge impairment, this job requires the highest level of ability to think clearly in dangerous environments.

Still Interested or want more information?

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

P.S. We won't give your info to anyone else, but we will contact you

NEDERLAND FIRE-RESCUE



**Have you ever
considered
being a
Volunteer?**



**"There is no higher honor
than human service. To
work for the common good
is the greatest deed."**

Why Volunteer?



- 1) **Service to others** - You will help others when they need it most. While there are many worthwhile volunteer opportunities, knowing that you helped save someone's life or home is hard to beat.
- 2) **Community Need**— prompt emergency care is vital, many lives are saved by the services we provide. We do not have enough volunteers to meet demand.
- 3) **Personal growth**— you will be challenged physically, intellectually and emotionally. Many of our responders are surprised by how profound an effect being a volunteer has had on their lives.
- 4) **Camaraderie (FUN)**— the friendships created during training and then forged during emergency actions last a lifetime.
- 5) **Career stepping stone**—A two edged sword: a credit to our organization is that many of our volunteers have found careers at other Fire and EMS agencies, unfortunately resulting in a loss of volunteers when they move away for their new job.



What we do

Obviously Nederland Fire responds to structure fires, that's why we have the big red trucks. Fortunately these only account for 5-10 events per year. We provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS), respond to wildland fires, auto accidents and many forms of rescue. The EMS and Rescue side of our business account for over 70% of the approximately 430 calls for service we receive each year.

In addition to emergency responses, we provide public education to many of our school groups, perform inspections and preplans, standby for many town special events and perform other safety and fire prevention activities.



What makes a good volunteer?

- 1) **Time**— NFPD firmly believes that volunteers must take care of home first. That means addressing the needs of career and family. Eventually hobbies may take a lesser role and the Fire Department a greater one. When it is a training Saturday, it is OK to miss once in a while for a "Powder Day" but all winter can't be a powder day.
- 2) **Stability**— While many people initially inquire about volunteering when they first move to Town, if you do not have a job (and need one) or a home, it is unlikely you will be able to focus on your development as a Firefighter or EMT.
- 3) **Motivation**—There is a lot to learn, your growth will be proportional to the effort you put in. A continued desire to improve your skills and self-motivation to do so will help ensure success.
- 4) **Caring**— Our job is about people, to serve them well you need to care about the wellbeing of others.

A core concept of volunteering at Nederland Fire is that you must contribute more than you cost.

What does it take to volunteer?

- 1) Have adequate time to attend 1-2 Saturday and 2-3 Thursday evening trainings per month. Annually this needs to equate to at least 36 hours of fire training and at least 12 hours of EMS training to maintain certifications
- 2) Ideally live or work within the District and participate in at least 10% or ~40-80 unscheduled emergency calls per year. Non-district residents spend 36 hours per month at our station to provide coverage thereby meeting participation requirements but must also meet training requirements..
- 3) Must be able to attend an initial 160 hour Fire Fighter and/or EMT-B training academy (usually 1-2 evenings per week and some Saturdays for ~ 4 1/2 months). NFPD pays for these initial trainings for eligible candidates (Training contract required).
- 4) Must be able to pass a criminal background check. This would include, but not be limited to the absence of conviction of any serious crimes and free from alcohol or drug related offenses for at least 3 years. The public places their highest level of trust in our organization, your background must demonstrate that you are worthy of their trust.
- 5) Must be free from any psychological, physical or other limitations that would prevent activities as a Firefighter or EMT. NFPD will pay the cost of these evaluations for eligible candidates. Significant health issues related to heart, lungs or ability to lift heavy objects are of obvious concern. While excellent physical conditioning is an obvious goal, many of our responders have average levels of fitness.
- 6) Lastly, but perhaps most importantly. Must be able to follow instructions, respond positively to authority and direction and work in a structured team environment.