

<p style="text-align: center;">TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 1: ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS</p>
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The Firefighting Profession

An individual choosing to be a Volunteer Firefighter should realize that firefighting methods inevitably undergo continual change, revision and improvement in order to successfully control fire hazards. Modern firefighting is recognized as a technical protective science of extreme importance to the welfare of any municipality. It is a demanding profession for those who follow it but it returns an exciting and needed service to the community and bestows a feeling of self-worth for those who are involved in it. Members of Township Fire Department, Inc. should bear in mind that the actions of one member reflect upon the members of the entire Department in public relations and opinions.

Fellowship

The feeling of camaraderie and fellowship traditionally prevalent throughout the Department is a valuable asset in the fire service and is usually found in the individuals who can do a good job in hazardous occupations. New members of the Department can share and become a part of this camaraderie in a short time if he or she indicates a willingness to cooperate and learn. If, on the other hand, he or she has a know-it-all or indifferent attitude, he or she is choosing the quickest way to antagonize and alienate fellow firefighters.

Semi Military Service

A semi military routine is necessarily employed in the fire service as a means of providing efficient departmental operation. Officers assume responsibility for many complex operations and should be respected and obeyed on the fireground. The highest-ranking officer at the fire scene is in charge and his/her orders will take precedence over all others, and should be carried out to the best of everyone's abilities.

Successful firefighting depends on a high degree of cooperation on the part of each member of the Department. This is as true within your individual stations as it is when the stations are working together on a response.

Integrity

A member of the Department should never use an official position to secure advantages for him/herself; such practices discredit the entire Department.

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A firefighter's integrity must be beyond reproach because it is often necessary to enter homes and business establishments under emergency conditions with or without the knowledge of the owners or occupants. It is the duty of all members of the Department to take special precaution with any valuables discovered by placing them in the hands of the proper authorities or directing their attention to them. A firefighter protects property; he or she does not pilfer it.

Training and Experience

Firefighters are required to perform many and varied tasks. Some can be performed by the novice, others by more experienced personnel. New members should not become discouraged at the numerous small and seemingly unimportant jobs that fall to the lot of the beginner. He or she should perform the assigned tasks willingly and well, keeping in mind the fact that he or she is constantly preparing themselves for more responsible duties, which will be assigned when abilities are demonstrated. The progress and promotion of any member of the fire department is dependent upon knowledge and ability to assume additional responsibilities. The quality of performance at the station and at fires coupled with yearly training will play an important role in future promotions within the Department.

There is no substitute for experience in firefighting, and it is clear that experience is the deciding factor in nearly every split-second decision made at fires and other emergencies. Fires develop good firefighters. Unlike members of many other professions, firefighters cannot afford to make mistakes while gaining experience, since there are few opportunities to remedy errors or to second-guess. The failure to do the right thing first may result in additional loss of life or property. A firefighter cannot wait until fires or other emergencies occur to obtain practical knowledge and experience. He or she will learn much at fires, but success as a firefighter will also depend upon how quickly and how well he or she can assimilate the experience of other firefighters by means of study and proper training.