

## **INTERESTED IN JOINING NEW HAVEN ADAMS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT?**

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“I’ve got some time to volunteer for the Fire Department, how do I know if it’s enough time?” – *Initially probationary members are required by the state to pass a mandatory firefighter training program. Additionally, the probationary member will receive training in CPR, First Aid, and AED operation. This totals about 48 hours of training conducted one or two evenings a week and occasional Saturdays. Following this initial training, probationary members will take certification classes for Firefighter I/II during their first year on the department. This will be followed by training and certification as an EMS First Responder. Active members are required to attend two training sessions each month and perform station work details every other week. This is in addition to any runs that the member may go on during the month. Advanced training and certification is encouraged by the Department, and as is the case with initial training, all costs are paid for by the Department.*

“Will membership in the Department cost me anything?” – *Hardly! While we are referred to as a volunteer organization, members are actually paid for the time they put in. How much? Don’t expect to pay your bills with this money! As a member participates more, his/her “point money” increases. Paid out in the first part of December, it is not uncommon for a member to earn over \$1,000 in “point money” and around \$200 gas and clothing allowance. All required equipment and personal protective gear is supplied by the Department as well as textbooks and training materials.*

“I live in Fort Wayne. Can I still volunteer for the Fire Department?” – *We require that members live a reasonable distance in relation to the station that they are assigned to. Generally, that means no more than a five minute drive from that station.*

“Will membership and training on a volunteer fire department give me an edge in obtaining a job as a paid firefighter in a larger city?” – *Most large fire departments are set up to take in recruits that have little or no training or experience in firefighting. Their hiring criteria is based on how a potential candidate does in various tests and interviews conducted as well as a back round check.*

“What is involved in the application process?” – *Stop by one of the three stations and obtain an application. Fill it out completely and return it. The Board of Directors will review all applications and a back round check will be performed. The applicant will need to obtain a physician’s release for work as a firefighter. Aptitude testing follows, then Physical agility, Acrophobia, and Claustrophobia testing takes place. Based on results, successful applicants are presented to the full department body with*

*recommendations by the Board. Those applicants accepted will be brought on as a Probationary member for a period of at least six months.*

*“I have relatives that are interested in joining. Can we all be members of the Department?” – Sure! Because of Departmental By-Laws, husband and wife cannot serve as members of this Department at the same time.*

*“Isn’t firefighting dangerous work?” – There are inherent dangers in many aspects of fire/rescue work. Until the 2001 disaster in New York City statistics nationwide were quite steady for a number of years. On average, one hundred firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty. Most of those incidents involved heart attacks. There are about one million firefighters in the United States. So, while the work can be considered dangerous, training and equipment have made line of duty deaths a small percentage as related to the total number of firefighters in the country.*