



East Side Volunteer Firefighters Association New Applicant Packet

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in joining the East Side Firefighters Association. There are several steps you will have to complete before you become a firefighter and respond to calls. This document outlines the information necessary to navigate the steps from application submission to association member to probationary firefighter status.

Being a volunteer firefighter requires a significant time commitment and a strong sense of community. We respond to approximately 250 calls per year, average two public relations events each month, conduct fire prevention at schools and preschools/daycares, and host fundraisers. Feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Minimum Requirements

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age
- Applicant must have a valid drivers license
- Applicant must have reasonable* means of transportation
- Applicant must have proof of valid motor vehicle insurance at all times
- Applicant must not have any prior felonies
- Applicant must live within 2.5 miles of the engine house at 3111 East B St Rd
- Applicant must be available to attend Monday evening trainings or meetings

**Reasonable transportation- Being that we provide emergency services to the community, it is expected that our firefighters are able to respond to the fire house in a safe and timely manner. Since we respond to calls in all types of weather, it is recommended that all applicants have an automobile.*

Application Submission

To be considered for membership with the East Side Firefighters Association, submit a completed application that can be obtained by downloading it from our website: www.eastsidefirefighters.com or by attending a Monday evening training session.

After your application is submitted, the Association will conduct a background check for any criminal history and traffic violations. The State of Illinois prohibits prior felons from being a member of any fire department. Any applicant found to have prior felony charges will have their application declined. Traffic violations are generally only a factor if they are severe or numerous.

Once the criminal history check is completed, the information will be reviewed. A short interview may be conducted before the next regular business meeting. The application will be forwarded to the screening committee who will contact references. If approved by the screening committee, the applicant will be considered for membership during a Monday night business meeting typically held on the last Monday of every month. Applicants must attend a minimum of 4 consecutive Monday nights to be considered for membership.

Attendance is mandatory during the period between application submission and business meeting. Applicants who fail to attend regularly are not considered for membership unless the absence is approved. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please make the fire department aware of your pending absence by contacting a member of the membership committee.

Although applicants are restricted from performing some activities, considerable knowledge can be gained from observing and asking questions. Participation and willingness to show commitment plays a major factor in advancing to Association member and forward.

Association Member Status

Once approved for membership by the Association at a business meeting, the applicant will become a member of the East Side Firefighters Association. Being voted on as a member of the Association does not ensure the applicant firefighter status; it is a step in the process of becoming a firefighter. The Association member has the ability and is expected to attend functions such as public relations events and fundraisers.

Attendance on Monday evening truck checks and training is mandatory. This time allows new members to learn about equipment, its location on each fire apparatus, and the opportunity to address any other questions. Association members should attempt to learn as much as possible about each fire apparatus, tools, and response procedures during the months before becoming a probationary firefighter.

Association members may, at the discretion of the equipment officer, be loaned turnout gear to be used for training purposes only. If you are loaned training gear, be sure to gather the gear from the engine house every Monday to be brought to training. The gear is to be returned immediately after each training.

Association members are prohibited from responding to any calls until they achieve probationary firefighter status.

Probationary Firefighter Status

After 3 months of being a member of the East Side Firefighters Association, a member will come up for vote to become a probationary firefighter. A probationary firefighter is a firefighter who is not yet certified through the State. Members must attend a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks of Monday night trainings and meetings to be considered for probationary firefighter status.

Firefighters typically base their vote on a new member based on their attendance, dedication, and willingness to learn. Upon an approving vote, the member will be sworn in as a probationary firefighter. The probationary firefighter is able to respond to calls and is required to attend a minimum of 30 training drills per year and respond to 40% of calls and special duty assignments.

Probationary firefighters will attend Firefighter Certification courses through Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC). These courses will take one year to complete. Classes are generally held one day or night a week for three hours and 1 Saturday or Sunday a month for 8 hours.

During this time probationary firefighters are encouraged to take time and visit both engine houses to familiarize themselves with all apparatus. Probationary firefighters will be asked to retrieve tools and equipment from all apparatus; not just their respective engine house. Gaining this knowledge not only shows commitment but is vital when responding to calls.