

ERRINGTON

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



NEW RECRUIT INFO PACKAGE

Errington Volunteer Fire Department Recruit Introduction and Application Package



Message from the Fire Chief

Dear Recruit,

Welcome to the Errington Volunteer Fire Department.

As a first responding agency we serve approximately 3,500 residents and visitors throughout an area of approximately 80 square kilometers. In addition, from time to time we are called upon by our neighboring communities to assist with larger incident under a mutual aid agreement. We are an all risk fire department that provides services in fire suppression, rescue, fire prevention, emergency medical services and disaster mitigation to list a few.

The type of organization that you have chosen to be a part of is one of the most worthwhile imaginable in public service terms. At the Errington Fire Dept we are passionate about providing the best possible service to our community and have a shared ethos of commitment and professionalism in all that we do. There is a special atmosphere of camaraderie among fire fighters which is unmatched in all other organizations.

Without the dedication of our volunteers our fire service would have a very difficult time providing our citizens with a very modern and progressive emergency service. The dedication of our volunteers is inspiring to each one of us involved in our department. In the time of need our fire fighters are willing to give their today for someone else's tomorrow. No matter the weather, the time of day, nor what the emergency is, they are there. This says a lot for their dedication, training, events they hold, and emergencies they answer. I'm very proud of each and every volunteer we have and look forward to new recruits.

Service as a paid-call (volunteer) member of our Department required a serious commitment, however. Your decision to join us should not be made quickly - careful consideration should be made of the many factors associated with becoming a member of the Fire Department. This booklet has been developed to provide you with the information needed to help you understand this commitment and assist you in making your decision.

It is hoped that you will strive to become a significant part of this revered team and realize the satisfaction that we all enjoy.

I would like to welcome you and your family to our team as a recruit fire fighter. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask myself or any of my officers.

Sincerely

Troy Bater

Troy Bater
Errington Fire Chief.

Errington Volunteer Fire Department



THE NATURE OF OUR BUSINESS

The fire and rescue service is one of the most diverse and challenging professions known today. It is this diversity that inspires men and women to enter the service -- as volunteers, paid-on-call firefighters or career employees. Imagine having to train to prepare yourself to cope with situations that range from structure fires to motor vehicle accident to hazardous chemical spills to heart attacks and almost any other possible emergency situation in between. This diversity is coupled with the fact that these skills may be needed at any time of day, seven days a week, in any kind of weather, and very often under potentially stressful and emotional circumstances. These factors contribute to our profession being personally very rewarding.

Our primary goal is to protect the public. This is accomplished in two ways:

- a) The first is to prevent fire emergencies from occurring. This is done through fire prevention, inspections, fire safety education and code enforcement programs.
- b) Secondly, we are here to prepare ourselves to control fire emergencies and assist at medical emergencies. This is done through education, training, pre-incident planning, more training, state-of-the-art equipment and more training. We are a paramilitary profession working in a "hurry up and wait" environment.

This business is not for everyone. You need more than just a desire to help people. You also need courage and dedication, assertiveness and a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges. The fire and rescue service is not for the meek or timid or for those who lose control of their emotions during times of crisis. Our service is one which calls on its members to perform hot, sweaty, dirty, strenuous work, often in uncertain and hazardous environments.

The personal rewards and satisfaction received from the fire and rescue service are often beyond description. There is a sense of accomplishment after controlling a building fire, joy and elation when a child is rescued, compassion for accident victims and fulfillment in teaching fire safety. The list goes on and on.

The bottom line in our business is measured by the loss of life, pain and suffering, and property damage we have prevented and reduced. We exist and are prepared for one reason only: to provide service to the community. If you feel you have what it takes to meet the challenges of our business, we welcome you to join us.

Errington Volunteer Fire Department



Profile:

The Errington Volunteer Fire Department consists of approximately 25 members. Fire protection and backup emergency medical services are provided to the citizens of the Errington from the fire hall's located at 960 and 1930 Errington rd. We have a Management Staff of a Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and at each hall a Captain and Lieutenant. Within the District 69 fire protection area we have a mutual aid and automatic aid agreement with seven other fire departments.

Mission Statement:

To provide the most effective and efficient fire protection and rescue service for the citizens of and visitors to Errington.

Organization:

The Fire Department operates under the direction of the Fire Chief who is responsible to the Board of Directors.

In order to deliver the services needed to accomplish the above stated mission, the fire department is organized into several main divisions:

The Board of Directors

Who look after the future planning of new vehicles, finances, monthly directors meetings and to communicate with the Fire Chief?

Fire prevention

Errington Fire Department has a paid Fire Prevention Officer that looks after all of the fire inspections in Errington. He also looks after all of the maintenance of all fire department apparatus and buildings. Fire Fighters may also be responsible for pre-fire planning, investigations and education.

Training

Responsible for achieving and maintaining the skills and expertise to accomplish the departments stated mission.

Operations:

The Errington Fire Department responds to approximately 100 to 120 incidents a year, ranging from structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, First Responder Medical incidents, bush fires and on occasion mutual aid to other local fire service.

Volunteer Firefighters:

Volunteer fire fighters directly participate in fire operations, including incident response after their recruit training. They will also be responsible for the operation of equipment and apparatus. We are interested in men and women over the ages of 15, who are in fairly good physical condition, must be clean-shaven (WCB standards), and have the desire to participate as team working towards a common goal ultimately resulting in a safer community. A Medical and RCMP Security Check will be due with-in the first month of joining (paid by the department) as

well as drivers abstract. We ask for a 75% attendance rate for practices but we are flexible when it comes to work. The more time you put into our fire department the more you will gain back. We will do our best to fit you in with whatever role you chose to pursue.

Training and Participation:

In order to ensure that all members of the Department are prepared to deliver the best level of services required, we have developed training standards to provide each member with the needed skills, knowledge and abilities to deliver fire and emergency service to our area. We strive to equip you with all the training you require to face almost all types of situations your community will ask of you.

Training Requirements – Recruits:

All volunteers entering the department, regardless of prior training or experience, will complete the recruit training and orientation program taught by the fire department officers. The program can last up to three or four months, depending on how many new recruits we have. Over the course of the year, you may be sent on more courses all paid for by the fire department. Some Saturdays and some Sundays (or both) may be required of you for these courses. Our Tuesday night practices start at 7:00 pm sharp and last till about 10:00 pm, keep in mind some practices may last longer depending on the topic.

As a Responding Member of the Fire Department:

After your recruit-training period you will be provided with a pager. You will be expected to respond to the hall when your pager sounds as often as you are able to. When you are responding, you are requested to follow all traffic laws and speed limits. When you arrive at the hall an officer/senior Fire Fighter will place you on one of the fire trucks.

As your career in our Volunteer Fire Department progresses you will be trained in all aspects of the services we offer. As you gain more experience and training you may want to become a frontline fire fighter or an Engineer fire fighter (Apparatus Driver/Pump operator, Tender Driver) or just be there to help out, we leave it up to you. If you don't want to be a frontline fire fighter that's all right too, there are many other things for you to do. We are a very diverse fire department and understand that not everybody can do everything that is what makes our volunteer fire service so unique.

Extra Fire Department Functions and Fund Raising:

Every Christmas, the Fire Department holds a Family Christmas dinner and awards night for the members and families. We all gather together and have dinner to discuss the year and thank our spouses for putting up with our pagers. We also will have campouts and summertime, movie nights at the fire station, weekend dinners and many other fun events. We encourage our fire fighters to have as much fun outside of the fire department as a group. It makes all of us a better team and we know each other better. We are all like one big family so we try to have as much fun as possible. Our Fire Fighters hold fund raising events throughout the year for various charities. These range from the annual springtime garage sale, car washes, open house to the biggest event that we do our annual pancake Breakfast.

Closing:

We look forward to seeing you in our department or family, as some call it. We are sure that once you are in you will be “hooked” and will look forward to helping your community in any way you can. We are very proud of our Fire Department and the people who work to keep our community safe. So thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you in the Fire Station soon

