

Belltown Volunteer Fire Department

8 Dorlen Road Stamford, Connecticut 06905

BelltownFire.com

Facebook.com/BelltownFire

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Est. 1928



Application for Membership

Welcome! The application you are about to fill out is the first step in becoming part of our department. This introduction is designed to provide you with some basic information about the application process and the time frame involved in becoming a volunteer firefighter. This introduction will also show you what to expect at each step in the process. Please read through the entire application.

Step 1 is the application itself. Fill out the entire form and return it at or before your interview. Those applying for *Junior Probationary* Membership must have a parent or guardian's signature and that signature must be notarized. Applications will be formally accepted only after the interview is successfully completed.

Step 2 is the interview with the Service Board. This will usually be on the second Tuesday of the month, however it may be scheduled at any mutually convenient time. The Service Board is composed of our Chief, Assistant Chief, 1st and 2nd Captains and 1st and 2nd Lieutenants. In this interview, you will get the chance to ask any questions you may have about the department, and the Service Board will get the chance to ask any questions they may have for you. You will be asked what made you want to become a firefighter and why you chose Belltown, you may also be asked for details about any information you may have supplied on your application. In most cases, the Service Board will pass your application along to the next step, if not you will get a full explanation why it was not moved forward. In the case of Junior Probationary Membership, the Fire Chief has a final veto right over the application. At this meeting you will be provided a State of Connecticut fingerprint card that must be completed and returned prior to posting.

Step 3 requires you to provide the Chief with medical clearance for firefighting. If you have had a recent physical your doctor should be able to provide a note stating you are "physically fit for firefighting duties." If you have not had a recent physical you should schedule one, or seek one out at an urgent care office, many of these offices offer "sports physicals" and a physical of that nature would be sufficient. Once you are a member, we will provide you with a full medical exam annually. This note must be submitted to the Chief prior to your application being posted, if you have it for your interview that is ideal.

Step 4 requires you to complete the fingerprint card and submit it to the Chief. Fingerprints are done at the Stamford Police Department, 725 Bedford Street. You will be provided with a phone number to call, that number will allow you to make an appointment or walk in at a scheduled time to complete your fingerprints. When the card is completed it should be returned to the Chief.

Step 5 is the posting of your application at our monthly business meeting. This will be at the next meeting held on the second Tuesday of every month after all your requirements for posting are met. The Service Board will present the application to our President, who will have the Secretary read your application to the general membership. The membership may ask questions of the Service Board about your application. The meeting may then move to have the Secretary post your application on our bulletin board until the next meeting, one month later. This period of posting allows members who may not have been present to view your application and/or get to know you.

Step 6 is the requirement to learn the equipment on all our fire apparatus. This is an essential step for every new member, so essential that we require you to complete it while your application is posted and before it is formally voted on. You will be required to learn the equipment on each of our trucks, and will be tested on each. Your application will not be brought up for a vote unless this is completed. Another document will be provided to help you facilitate this, in addition electronic methods may be utilized.

Step 7 is perhaps the easiest step for the applicant. This is the observation of a company drill. Our department conducts training drills every Tuesday night (other than meeting nights) at 7pm. We ask each applicant to observe at least two drills during the time his or her application is posted. Many applicants elect to observe all drills and you are of course welcome to observe as many as you can. This allows you to see what is involved in the training of a firefighter. During this observation, the training process and the specifics of what the members are training on will be explained to you. You may also use this time to help learn your equipment to complete Step 6.

Step 8 is a crucial step. This is the vote by the membership on your application. This is a time-honored tradition in our department as well as many other volunteer fire departments. This step is nothing to be afraid of. All applicants are required to be in the station on the night their application is up for a vote. The Secretary will again read your application aloud; at this time any member that knows you may speak up and provide the membership with a recommendation for or against you. The President will then call for a vote. Only those members who have maintained active status may vote on your application. After the vote the Sergeant at Arms or a Firefighter will come and give you the results. If you are voted in, that member will then escort you into the meeting to be welcomed by the rest of the company.

What you can expect from us: You can expect to be welcomed into the department, but you must be aware that like all departments we are a collection of individuals. Respect is something that is earned and returned. You can expect to be trained so that you will have the same opportunity to become proficient as a firefighter that we afford all our members. You can expect that you and your family will be invited to several of our social functions throughout the year.

What will be expected of you: We expect that you will give your best effort to become an active part of our firefighting force. We expect that you will attend training including State of Connecticut Firefighter 1 and either Emergency Medical Responder or Emergency Medical Technician courses within a reasonable time.

We expect that you will respond to emergency calls in a timely and safe manner. We expect you will spend at least 48 hours a month at the station prepared to respond to emergencies and utilize our shift calendar to record when you plan to be in the firehouse for an extended period.

Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction and fill out the application. We look forward to speaking with you, in person, about your membership opportunity.

If necessary, you may call the firehouse with questions at 203-323-0626 or you can always email contact@belltownfire.com or chief@belltownfire.com to get in touch with us. Do not hesitate to contact us with questions or problems!

-The Service Board

General Information about becoming a Volunteer Firefighter:

The volunteer fire service is a challenging, exciting and rewarding experience. So if you have a sense of civic pride, if you want to see immediate results of a job well done, volunteering will allow you to give your time and talents to others in times of need. There is a great feeling of accomplishment when you help someone. Today, there are so many demands on our time, if you are considering this rewarding challenge, you should expect to devote a considerable amount of your personal time to training and responding to calls. Being a volunteer firefighter is an excellent opportunity to help provide essential community services. This level of commitment can be found in no other volunteer service and is often underestimated. Below is a description of the duties a Volunteer Firefighter may be called upon to perform.

- Volunteer Firefighters work alongside Paid Firefighters to perform firefighting and emergency service activities to protect life and property including Firefighting, Community Service Projects, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Prevention, Fund Raising, Response to and Intervention to control Hazardous Materials Incidents.
- Completes and maintains mandated Firefighter & Emergency Medical Service training certifications. Study and review Department Rules and Regulations, By Laws, Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines. Meet stated response quotas. Attend regular and special drills and meetings to learn and practice firefighting and protection techniques, demonstrates safety awareness and safe practices in all aspects of duties.
- Volunteer Firefighters answer and respond to alarms of fire and other emergency incidents, don full turnout gear in a reasonable amount of time, perform duties in various outside weather conditions, year round during all times of day and night. Apply common sense understanding to carry out instructions, gathering information unique to each incident, adapt to rapidly changing and challenging situations under emergency conditions.
- May operate large Firefighting vehicles in both normal and emergency driving conditions. Volunteer firefighters must have and use the ability to communicate through speech and hear spoken commands among various bells, buzzers, alarms, sirens, and horns. Speak clearly and concisely, communicate clearly both in person and via radio & telephone, read and comprehend what is read, think clearly and formulate accurate reports and documents. Uses Close Vision, Distance Vision, Color Vision, Peripheral Vision, Depth Perception and the ability to continuously analyze and evaluate emergency scenes.
- Volunteer Firefighters coordinate activities and work as a team with other firefighters, to engage in physical tasks of heavy lifting, running, climbing, and

walking long distances over rough terrain in full turnout gear indoors and outdoors where the fire may be located a long distance from the firefighting vehicle. Climb multiple flights of stairs, ability to stoop, kneel, crouch and crawl while working. Reach with hands or arms, use hands to finger, handle or feel objects so as to manipulate equipment and controls.

- Volunteer Firefighters enter burning structures, Operate in a smoke filled and heated environment while wearing self contained breathing apparatus and full turnout gear, occasionally exposed to explosives, toxins, radiological hazards and excessive vibrations, extreme heat and toxic products of combustion.
- Volunteer Firefighters locate hydrants and other sources of water, connect apparatus to those sources of water via hose using various tools and physical strength, operate handheld hose lines with and without assistance and position those hose lines by dragging, carrying or hoisting them into place. Locate source and extension of fire, extinguish fire by variety of methods including by directing streams of water onto the fire.
- Volunteer Firefighters select, position, raise, lower, extend and retract then climb and balance on all ladders in use by the Fire Department, including Aerial Ladders in excess of 100 feet high to gain access to upper levels of buildings or to assist individuals from burning structures.
- Volunteer Firefighters create openings in buildings for ventilation and entry by cutting locks, breaking doors, windows or opening roofs using hand or power tools. Search for victims using systematic search procedures to locate trapped subjects without becoming lost or trapped themselves. Free trapped victims from a variety of situations including fire, car crashes, cave-ins, structure collapses, floodwaters, chemical spills and all kinds of unusual occurrences. After locating and freeing the victim, determine the safest path of evacuation, lift and carry the victim without assistance in dangerous situations. Provides medical treatment of victims of accident, illness and injury at the scene of incidents, and may be exposed to infectious diseases. Carry patients in excess of 150 pounds.
- Volunteer Firefighters cleanup and overhaul after incidents, including carrying burned furniture, clothing, appliances, etc from buildings to reduce fire and smoke damage. Scoop, lift, shovel, sweep and mop excess water and debris caused by the fire and firefighting efforts. Tear down or shore up weak or dangerous parts of structures such as roofs, floors or overhangs. Protects property from water damage by use of waterproof salvage covers.
- Volunteer Firefighters conduct firehouse tours and fire safety demonstrations for adults and children. Assists other firefighters in checking, testing, maintaining and repairing firefighting equipment.

Entry Levels of Membership

Junior Probationary Firefighter (16-17 years of age)

Junior probationary members shall be those who are sixteen (16) years of age or older, but who have not reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday, and can become members only upon discretion of the Chief. The written consent of parents and/or guardians relieving the Department of all responsibility is also necessary. They must be of good moral character and physically able to perform the duties in order to secure the Chiefs recommendation for appointment. With the exception of voting and holding office, this class of membership shall have all the privileges of active membership.

Probationary Firefighter/Firefighter (18 years of age or older)

-Probationary Firefighters are active members who respond to emergencies and train with experienced firefighters to learn the duties of Firefighter. With the Chiefs' approval, Probationary Firefighters will take a Connecticut Firefighter 1 class sponsored by the Belltown Fire Department. When an active probationary firefighter member becomes Connecticut Firefighter 1 certified and is cleared by the Belltown Fire Department appointment guidelines, he or she will be promoted to Firefighter.

-Firefighters are active members who are Connecticut State Firefighter 1 certified and are assigned to all of the duties of interior and exterior firefighting. Firefighters hold full membership privileges, including voting rights, and opportunities to hold office in the organization.

Associate Member (18 Years of age or older)

Associate members shall be those who wish to be associated with the Department in an administrative capacity. Members in this class of membership are not compelled to attend alarms and drills. However members are compelled to attend one half or six (6) of the general meetings during the year to remain an associate member. An associate member must attend two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) or eight (8) of the general meetings during the year to be eligible to vote for administrative officers only and run for administrative offices only.

Fire Police (18 Years of age or older)

Fire Police operate as defined in Connecticut General Statutes. This class of membership shall have the right to vote for or hold administrative office, and may vote for but not hold service offices. Fire Police perform road closures, traffic control, crowd control: at fires, incidents, missing persons searches, parade details, salvage, security, and other miscellaneous tasks as requested.

Membership Category

Junior Probationary Firefighter (16-17 years of age)

Probationary Firefighter/Firefighter (18 years of age or older)

Fire Police (18 Years of age or older, Assist in ensuring that the scene of an incident remains safe by directing traffic and maintaining crowd control)

Associate Member (18 years of age or older, Serving in an Administrative Capacity)

Personal Data

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____

Home Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Driver License Number: _____

Sex: Male/Female

Telephone (Home: _____ Telephone (Cell): _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Info

Primary Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone No. 1: _____ Telephone No. 2: _____

Secondary Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone No. 1: _____ Telephone No. 2: _____

References *(Must have two with completed applications)*

Name : _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Length of Time Known: _____

Name : _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Length of Time Known: _____

Education

High School:

Name : _____

Graduated: Yes/No Graduation Year: _____

College, Vocational School, Technical Institution:

Name : _____

Graduated: Yes/No Graduation Year: _____

Name : _____

Graduated: Yes/No Graduation Year: _____

Employment History

Present Employer: _____ Date Hired: _____

Position: _____ Part Time or Full Time: _____

Telephone: _____ Supervisor: _____

Address: _____

Previous Employer : _____ Date Hired: _____

Position: _____ Part Time or Full Time: _____

Telephone: _____ Supervisor: _____

Address: _____

Military Service(Leave blank if not applicable)

Branch:_____ Rank Achieved:_____ Reserves:_____

Year Entered:_____ Separated:_____ Honorable:_____

If Reserves or National Guard, what is your commitment on a monthly basis:

:_____

Public Safety History

Have you ever been a member of a fire department? YES/NO

Name(s) of Department:_____ Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

Have you ever been declined membership at a fire department? Yes/No

Name(s) of Department:_____

Address:_____

Phone Number:_____ Contact_____

List if you have any of the following certifications and state certificates received (Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, EMR, EMT, First Aid,CPR):

Criminal History

Have you ever been arrested? YES/NO

Have you ever been found guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony in any state? YES / NO

Explain if answered yes to questions on criminal history:

General Information

How did you hear about our fire department? (Example: Facebook, Instagram, Belltown Website, Current Member, Open House Event)_____

Have you ever filled out an application for the Belltown Fire Department previously? YES/NO

Date of Previous Application:_____

Are you available Tuesday Nights at 7PM for training?_____

Are you available the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30PM for the department meeting?_____

Can you commit to 48 hours a month of in-station coverage, including overnight coverage on a shift like basis?

Why do you want to join the Belltown Fire Department?

Questions the Applicant would like answered during the interview?(If applicable)

Parent/Guardian Info and Signature (If under age of 18)

I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter to participate in the activities of the Belltown Fire Department, Inc. I understand the element of danger involved in Firefighting, responding to emergencies, and all related activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Parent/Guardian Print Name:_____ Address:_____

Telephone Number:_____

ss: Fairfield County Subscribed and Sworn before me this _____ day of
_____20_____

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF CT SIGNATURE:_____

VERIFICATION STATEMENT: I do hereby certify the information in this application to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and understanding. If any falsehoods are found on this application, it is hereby stated to be immediate grounds for complete dismissal from the Belltown Fire Department, Inc. I, the applicant, for membership with the Belltown Fire Department Inc., hereby grant permission for a background investigation to establish my eligibility for membership.

Signature:_____

Print Name:_____

Date:_____

Below for Belltown Fire Admin Only:

Service Board Review: Date:_____

Background Check: _____Passed _____Failed

Reason:_____

Comments:_____

Signature of Service Board:_____

Date:_____

Date Application was posted:_____

Date of Meeting that vote was taken:_____

Results of Vote: _____

Votes in favor _____

Votes NOT in favor_____

THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE WERE VERIFIED BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE BELLTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

SIGNATURE OF
PRESIDENT_____

DATE_____