

Welcome to the Evansdale Fire Department. Whether your reason for joining is to give something back to your community, curiosity in the fire and EMS field or as a stepping stone to a full-time job in the fire or EMS fields, we will do our very best to insure your time with our department is well worth your efforts.

Just a few bits of information you should be made aware of as you consider your association with our service.

Applicants must first apply to the department and pass a background check including a record check of your driver's license. Once that is successfully completed, you will be directed to one of the local occupational health centers for a physical and pulmonary function test. All of these activities are at no cost to you. Once the information is returned and you are cleared for participation, your equipment will be issued to you. This equipment includes all safety clothing and protective apparel needed for responding as well as uniforms, badges, pagers, etc. All this equipment remains the property of the Evansdale Fire Department and must be returned upon leaving the department.

Once your equipment is issued, you will be trained in "basic firefighting practices" including CPR. Once you obtained the state mandated structural firefighting training, you are eligible to respond to fire calls. However, until you have fully completed your training and been trained and qualified to function in our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), you will ***not*** be permitted to respond to calls on the "first-due engine" but will operate in a support role in relation to your training on one of the other responding vehicles.

As a "paid-on-call" department, we respond to over 600 calls for service annually (500+ medical calls and 100+ fire/rescue calls). Calls you respond to and/or participate in and meetings you attend at the fire department result in a "stipend" payment (currently \$8.50 per call). Checks are issued each month and deposited directly into your bank account.

Each evening at 8:00 PM, the communications center conducts a test of the paging system for all fire department pagers in Black Hawk County. Any problems with your pager not activating should be reported as soon as possible to one of the officers on the department.

During your "probationary" period, you will be assigned another fire department member to help you learn about the apparatus and equipment carried on all our vehicles. You will be given training in operating the apparatus and once qualified, will be placed as a driver on one of the ambulances.

Members are generally scheduled for four evenings (6:00 PM – 5:00 AM) and either 2-12-hour shift or one 24-hour per month when they are responsible for staffing the "first-due" ambulance. During those times you are on "dedicated" call, you are asked to remain within close proximity (less than 5 minutes response time) to the fire station and refrain from consuming any alcoholic beverages. Should requests for additional

ambulances or other fire apparatus arise, a general page is broadcast and all available personnel respond to staff the requested unit.

As the image of volunteer, paid-on-call or full-time firefighting and ems personnel has changed, so has the position taken by this fire department regarding responding while under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance. In short, we ask that if you have consumed any alcohol, you not respond to any ambulance call. If a fire or rescue call is paged, we ask you to use good judgment regarding responding. Under **NO** circumstances will a person who has consumed any alcohol be permitted to operate any of the department's vehicles or participate in interior fire suppression. Members who respond and are under the influence are subject to the applicable laws governing public intoxication and/or Operating While Intoxicated. The department has taken a "zero tolerance" position regarding appearing in public while intoxicated while representing the fire department.

We conduct training meetings at least twice a month, on the first and third Wednesday's (6:00 PM-9:00 PM) and the Thursday morning following those meetings (9:00 AM to 11:00 AM). We also conduct a business meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Members are required to attend and participate in these meetings. Should a scheduling conflict arise (work schedule, vacation, etc.) you are required to call (either the department and leave a message or any officer) to explain the reason for not attending and obtain an excused absence. Failure to attend or obtain an excused absence may result in removal from the department.

The State of Iowa requires each member to receive basic firefighting training (Firefighter I level) before actively engaging in firefighting roles. We provide this training during your first few weeks on the department and encourage you to obtain the Firefighter I certification (again, we pay all costs associated).

If you wish to continue your training, we continue to pay associated costs associated, however approval is obtained prior to starting the course. We also encourage our members to take EMT-B and EMT-I and/or Paramedic level classes/certification. All costs of tuition, books and testing are paid by the department. Members continuing their education must sign a contract with the city, agreeing to provide those skills to the fire department for a specified period of time.

Members are free to frequent the fire station during their free time. This time allows you to maintain familiarization with the equipment and aids in reducing response times, provides additional maintenance to the facility and apparatus. Members are permitted to bring guests into the facility, however are responsible for their actions and cleaning up after their departure. Good judgment should be used so as not to interfere with training and/or meetings being conducted at the station.

In addition to your membership with the city fire department, you will also automatically be added as a member of the Evansdale Fire Rescue Association, which is part of the "social" portion of the department membership. The Association provides a fund-raising venue for the department and has purchased things such as rescue-extrication tools (jaws-of-life), heart monitors and defibrillators, rescue air-bags and a number of other pieces of equipment that otherwise would have been paid for out of tax-dollars. The Association also sponsors community events such as the Evansdale Good Old Days Parade, fire prevention contests in the local schools and pre-schools, Halloween activities as well as social activities for the members throughout the year.

I hope you consider joining our department and know you will find it both rewarding and enjoyable. We take great pride in the service we provide our community. As one of the busiest volunteer fire departments in the State of Iowa, your association with our department will provide you challenges and rewards as you give back your service to your community.