



Do I use my own vehicle to respond to an alarm?

With minor exceptions, you will use your personal vehicle to go to the firehouse where you will put on your gear and board a fire truck to go to the scene.

Where does the money come from to buy equipment and apparatus?

Apart from modest grants and occasional fundraising, funds come from local taxes.

Are EMS skills required to become a firefighter?

No. Most Columbia County fire departments do not provide EMS services.

How do I apply or get more information?

Email Firefighter@ColumbiaCountyNY.com

**Don't wait, come in
and talk to us
at your local firehouse**

or email

Firefighter@ColumbiaCountyNY.com

**We are your friends
and neighbors:**

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**



**A message from the
Columbia County
Fire Advisory Board**



The help we need is YOU.

While financial donations are always appreciated, our local fire departments have an on-going need for volunteers. Now more than ever, many 30-40-50 year veterans of the fire service are no longer able to respond as they have in the past and we need to continually replenish our ranks.

Please take a moment to read this Q&A about what it takes to become a volunteer firefighter.

Who is eligible to be a volunteer firefighter?

The minimum age is 18 and there is no maximum. No previous experience required. A physical exam is provided at no cost and most minor medical issues do not prevent volunteering.

What does it cost to join?

There is no cost to join or maintain status as a volunteer firefighter. But as a volunteer, there is no pay other than the deep satisfaction we feel in helping our community.

How much does my equipment cost?

All your gear is provided at no cost to you.

What department should I join?

Generally, you would join the department closest to where you live or sometimes close to where you work.

How can I fit firefighting duties in with my job, school, family, etc.?

You do not have to answer every call. Because we all have jobs, families, school and various commitments there are no fixed shifts. When the pagers we carry at all times sound the alarm we respond if and when we can. Since not every firefighter will respond to every alarm, we need to have enough volunteers to be able to respond with the appropriate number of firefighters. Contact us to speak to firefighters to learn how they balance their personal obligations with their firefighting duties.



I am a (fill in your occupation) and know nothing about firefighting.

We come from all walks of life. Some of us were born and grew up around here and some are recent arrivals. Our makeup is blue collar, white collar, lawyers, accountants and other professionals, law enforcement, information technology, state/county/village employees, businesswomen/men, store owners, medical and educational personnel, students, retirees, etc.



How do I train to become a firefighter?

All your training is provided at no cost to you by highly qualified, certified and active firefighters at the new, centrally located, state-of-the-art Columbia County training facility.

I'm not sure I want to go into a burning building.

Many firefighters are exterior qualified and remain outside, dealing with hoses, hydrants and ladders in support of the interior crew. Others are responsible for scene and traffic control, keeping firefighters and bystanders safe. Still others act as drivers or help with fundraising, in the kitchen, equipment maintenance, etc. There are jobs for everyone.