

Toney Volunteer Fire Department

Guidelines for New Applicants

Thank you for your interest in the Toney Volunteer Fire Department. Below is some general information on:

What's next? Who we are Why we go..... What you can and can not do...
How do we get there?Who dispatches us?

What's next?

Now that you have filled out the application, there are some processes that will take place prior to accepting your application and starting your 60 day probationary period.

1. Your application will be submitted to the Madison County Fire Marshal's office for a full background check. THIS PROCESS MAY TAKE ANYWHERE FROM 1-2 WEEKS. If your background check passes your application will move on to step 2. If it fails you will be contacted in writing by the TVFD.
2. You will have an interview set up with three to four TVFD Officers where you will be asked several questions pertaining to the Fire Service, awareness and expectations of what is to come if you become a member. Once your interview concludes, a meeting will be held with you and the Chief of the department with the results of your interview and the decision of acceptance or denial of your application. You will be contacted by the Chief of the decision within 24hrs.

Provided are some general guidelines that will be helpful as you familiarize yourself with the department once your application is accepted and you start your 60-day probationary period.

Who we are

Toney Volunteer Fire Department was formed back in 1968 with 4 department members, a converted milk truck and a pickup truck modified with a mini pump on the back of it. The department has continued to grow in so many ways since it started back in 1968. We have grown from having 1 Tanker truck and a Brush truck with a hand full of members to having 4 Engines, 2 Brush trucks, 3 Support/Rescue units, and 5 EMS vehicles with 3 Stations having 40+ active members. Each one of our members takes pride and dedication in protecting the community and its neighboring communities no matter what time of day or night it may be. But with us being a 100% volunteer fire department we could not do the job we do without the support from our community. Toney Fire & Rescue proudly protects 7,000 people living in an area of 32 square miles. With the enormous growth that the Toney community is experiencing, we continue to strive for providing the most advanced methods of protecting life and property. Whether it is Fire, Rescue or EMS related for the community we will be there for them. Madison County has 15 other Volunteer departments that are basically on the same basis as us. We also have a mutual aid agreement in which at anytime of need we will support the outlying communities and provide them with the same level of service as we do our own.

The badge of a fireman is the Maltese Cross. This Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection and a badge of honor. Its story is hundreds of years old.

When a courageous band of crusaders known as the Knights of St. John, fought the Saracens for possession of the holy land, they encountered a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a simple, but a horrible device of war; it wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave fighters for the cross. The Saracen's weapon was fire.

As the crusaders advanced on the walls of the city, they were struck by glass bombs containing naphtha. When they became saturated with the highly flammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming torch into their midst. Hundreds of the knights were burned alive; others risked their lives to save their brothers-in-arms from dying painful, fiery deaths.

Thus, these men became our first firemen and the first of a long list of courageous firefighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders who awarded each here a badge of honor - a cross similar to the one firemen wear today. Since the Knights of St. John lived for close to four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea named Malta, the cross came to be known as the Maltese Cross.

The Maltese Cross is your symbol of protection. It means that the fireman who wears this cross is willing to lay down his life for you just as the crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago. The Maltese Cross is a fireman's badge of honor, signifying that he works in courage - a ladder rung away from death.

Why we go

There is an inside joke among firefighters that describes what we do: they say they "put the wet stuff on the red stuff." While firefighters know that this is an obvious oversimplification of the job, many people outside the fire service do believe that firefighting is not much more than spraying copious amounts of water on a fire until it's out. But there is much more to it than that. The fire service has evolved to include a lot more than putting out fires. Because Firefighters are often the first on the scene of medical calls, the fire department has trained EMT on every call. Medical calls constitute approximately 60% of all Fire Department calls. Firefighters also rescue victims of car accidents and respond on hazardous materials spills. In addition to emergency calls, firefighters assist residents with non-emergencies, maintain the apparatus, equipment and station. Here is a good little story about becoming a firefighter.

So, you want to be a firefighter? Maybe not. Before you become one of us, we want you to know what you do not. We cannot offer the pay or benefit packages of more typical employers. That's why we're called "public servants" and "volunteers". You should also know that you "volunteer" to belong -- everything that follows in the fire service is "mandatory". It has to be. The services we provide quite literally involve life and death; including your own. Fire departments are not social clubs. The days of the "good old boys", "bearded wonders", and "banquet firemen" are gone. It has to be. Today's buildings burn with more intensity, hazardous material content, and risk of collapse than ever before. Other organizations exist to fulfill your "party" needs. Belonging will be time consuming. Training. More training. Always, training. Firefighting is a "gamble". The only means you have of placing the "odds" in your favor is education. Knowing how fire burns, clues of color and smoke, building construction and ALL the other things that must be learned may save your life, and the lives of others. It also takes time to respond to alarms, do your duty, and then get all the equipment and tools of the trade back in service. The work doesn't end when the fire goes out. Time is needed for vehicle and station maintenance, prevention, inspections, investigations, record keeping, parades and fundraisers. There is never enough money. Time. The fire service requires lots of time. Firefighting is physically demanding. Not all the time- just each time you step foot on the truck to answer a call. Your heart pounds, adrenaline flows, and if you are sane, you are also scared. You'll wear almost 50 pounds of protective equipment. While wearing it, you will pull, push, climb, stretch, carry, lift, crouch, crawl, and breathe harder than you thought possible. Smoke and soot will become your cologne. You will learn a new meaning of what it is to be truly "cold", "hot", "sore", and "tired". You may bleed, you will sweat, and sometimes; you will shed tears. Firefighting can be ugly. It can be blinding bright or blinding dark. It can be deadly silent, or have a deafening roar. You will see suffering and carnage in fires of the future-like those before. So, you still want to be a firefighter? Then you might make it, you can make it; many have. The "bad" in Firefighting is part of the "good". It is what makes us different. We do what others can't. If you become one of us, you'll share challenges, comradery, and when we're successful, a sense of accomplishment that is second to none. Your family becomes ours; and ours becomes yours. In our breed, you will experience an often-strange sense of humor, and you'll develop pride. Not boastful, bragging, cocky pride; rather an inner pride known only by those who've worn the gear. You will develop a respect for your co-workers across the nation, and their job that exists in no other profession. It is often said, "Firefighting gets in your blood". That's not true. If you become one of us, it gets in your heart.

New Applicant Guidelines

The Do's and Don'ts

1. When responding to a call, whether it is a structure fire, a motor vehicle accident or a medical call, an applicant cannot ride in any department vehicle. The department does not encourage having children on calls or in personal vehicles in route to calls.
2. When arriving on a scene, it is important that all vehicles (Department and **Personal Owned Vehicles) park on the same side of the road.**
3. Obey all traffic laws when in route to a call.
4. Lights (strobe, amber, spotlights) on P.O.V.'s are against the law in the state of Alabama for the use in emergency response. Refer to Title 32 of the Alabama State Highway Regulations and Laws.
5. When you arrive on the scene of a call always check in with the Incident Commander or department member and await instruction on what to do. In the event you are asked to leave please do not take offense. Certain situations must be controlled for not only patient confidentiality, but also for safety reasons.
6. Any actions that you take without direction from the Incident Commander are subject to possible removal of the scene and termination of application. Keep in mind that you are there to watch and learn what we do.
7. Take time to familiarize yourself with the engines and all other department apparatus. Knowing where things are and where things belong can be a big help on a scene if called upon to help out.
8. Ask questions! The only dumb one is the one you don't ask! We were all there once.
9. On all medical calls, all non EMT's should remain outside unless the EMT instructs you to do something otherwise.
10. Conduct yourself in a professional manner on all scenes!
11. At anytime you are asked to do something that you either are not comfortable with or not trained to do, please advise that person that you are a new applicant and are unable to do the particular request. Find a member of the department and let them know. Immediately!

How Do We Get There?

When a call comes in, CFD (County Fire Dispatch) will set our tones off and advise us of the type of call we have. During the dispatch process CFD will give the address and a major cross street (meaning the closest street that intersects to the address off of the main road.). Our main rule of thumb for structure fires in our area is that two engines and a service truck respond to the call. On back up calls one engine responds. We ask as a new applicant that you listen and learn the dispatch process and only respond when you hear a department member respond. Please do not respond to other departments calls unless you hear a TVFD member go in route. If we get a call and no one answers and another department responds, please do not respond because they will not know that you are an applicant or an active member. CFD will dispatch all calls on main but may operate certain scenes on the tactical channels such as Capshaw or Ledges. It is always good to obtain a scanner with the frequencies listed below. This will allow you to monitor those channels in the event we switch over to one of them. You will hear on the scanner the use of 10-codes, which is the form of communication that we use with CFD and/or department personnel.

Who Dispatches Us?

Madison County 911 Dispatch center

Frequencies: Main: 154.385

Capshaw: 154.010

Ledges: 154.175

A. 10-Codes

The following are approved codes and terminology to be used by Madison County Volunteer Fire Departments on both emergency and non-emergency scenes.

10-1	Receiving Poorly
10-2	Receiving Well
10-4	Acknowledgement
10-6	Busy with Assignment
10-7	Out of Service, not subject to call (give location)
10-8	Enroute
10-9	Repeat message
10-10	At specified location awaiting next call
10-19	Return to your station
10-20	Location
10-23	Standby
10-31	Officers life in immediate danger
10-56	Person with symptoms of alcohol or drug impairment
10-97	On Scene
10-98	Finished with assignment
10-99	All is ok