

DASHWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT



NEW MEMBER INFORMATION PACKAGE

Message from our Fire Chief

Dear Fellow Citizen.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information package, we want to start off by saying that our members are the backbone of our department and are very committed to serving our community with pride. Our members respond in all types of weather, all times of day, and are willing to dedicate their time to our community. When selecting new members to join our family, we are seeking those who share this vision, share the drive to be committed to our department and our community.

The choice to join our department requires careful consideration, as it involves a long-term commitment and ongoing dedication. Factors that come into consideration to join our department is your ability to attend the full recruit class, attend ongoing training, answer calls, attend community events and being part of a tight knit family of firefighters.

We have developed this information booklet to help you make the decision to join our department and get an idea of how our department operates, and the team you may be a part of.

Our application process is as follows:

- Completion of Application, Criminal Record Check, and Drivers Abstract (must live in the Dashwood/Meadowood areas)
- Applications will be reviewed, and only those selected will be contacted for interview.
- Panel Interview, and if required a follow up interview
- Reference Checks
- Physical Skills Assessment
- Selection and invitation to attend the recruit training program

Being a member of the fire service is a rewarding and challenging experience; it can change your life in ways you could never imagine. Being part of a progressive, inclusive, dedicated team of like-minded individuals is truly inspiring. Our greatest strength is our members, and we will do our best to continue recruiting amazing people to do amazing things for our community.

Please if you have any questions contact us at firechief@dashwoodvfd.com, or call us at 250-752-5434 and we can do our best to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Nick Acciavatti

Nick Acciavatti
Fire Chief
Dashwood Volunteer
Fire Department

The Nature of our Business

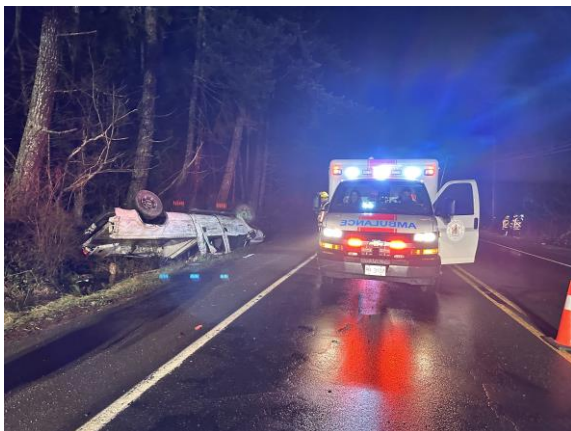
The Fire Service is one of the most diverse and challenging professions known today. It is this diversity that inspires people to enter the service and face the challenges working as team. All Fire fighters are trained to cope with situations that range from structure fires to motor vehicle accidents to medical emergencies and almost every other possible emergency incident. We willingly use our skills any time of day, seven days a week, in any kind of weather, and very often under emotional and potentially stressful circumstances. These factors contribute to our profession being very rewarding and life changing.

Our primary goal is to protect the public and we accomplished this in several ways:

- Recruit and retain long term members and continually invest in their skills and mental and physical wellbeing.
- We work to prevent fire emergencies from occurring. This is done through our fire prevention programs, fire safety inspections and fire safety education.
- We train to respond to a wide range of emergencies. This is achieved by selecting the right people to be firefighters, then providing them with relevant training and solid leadership.
- We also ensure that our members have the right equipment, apparatus, tools and facilities to respond to emergencies.

As a member of our department, we will train you in First Responder first aid (we provide medical assistance until the ambulance arrives), how to fight fires (forestry & Structural), motor vehicle accidents, and other rescues. We know that this can be challenging and demanding, but it is incredibly rewarding. The personal rewards and satisfaction received from the fire service are often beyond description. There is a sense of accomplishment after controlling a building fire, joy and elation when a child is rescued and compassion for those involved in emergencies. The list is endless.

The bottom line in our business is measured by the best possible prevention and/or reduction of the loss of life, pain and suffering of our citizens and visitors, and property damage we have prevented and reduced. We exist and are prepared for one reason only: to be of service to our community. If you feel you have what it takes to meet the challenges of our business, we welcome you to apply to be a member of our department.



Motor Vehicle Accident



Automatic Mutual Aid Structure Fire

Our organization

The fire department was founded in the spring of 1984, and in 2009 expanded into the Meadowood area opening up Station 62. We operate out of two fire stations, we have 4 career members, and up to 40 paid on call firefighters serving a population of approximately 4000 citizens. We are also part of a region wide Mutual and Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with departments from Lantzville to Deep Bay.

- Station 61 located in Dashwood at 230 Hobbs Road and is home to Engine 61, Tender 61, Squad 6
- Station 62 located in Meadowood at 1800 Galvin Place and is home to Engine 62, Tender 62 and Rescue 62.

Our members are paid for each call and training session they attend based on their rank, and then after a year of service, members are enrolled in our Extended Health and Dental Plan. Our members also have access to an Employee Assistance Plan, full WCB coverage, Accidental and Injury Insurance. Members are required to undergo an annual NFPA Physical exam, and we offer annual free mental health counseling. The well-being of our members is our top priority and we work to ensure that our members are taken care of.

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors oversee the future planning of new vehicles, short- and long-term finances, host directors' meetings and ensure that the fire department is fulfilling its obligation to our community. Our Board of Directors are publicly elected officials made up of citizens from our community.

Fire Chief

Our Fire Chief is accountable to our Board of Directors, our community and the members of our fire department. The Fire Chief is responsible for ensuring that the mission of the fire department is carried out by having well trained firefighters, having the right equipment and apparatus for the emergencies we face. Furthermore, our Fire Chief will provide progressive and inclusive leadership to the department and our community.

Fire Officers

Our Fire Officers provide leadership and draw on their experience to lead our firefighters during emergency and non-emergency events. Our officers are the front line for all we do and are well versed in the tasks that are expected of us. Our officers are trained in Fire Officer 1 through 4 based on their rank. Our department has Captains, Lieutenants and Acting Lieutenants at both our fire stations.

Firefighters

Paid on Call fire fighters are those boots on the ground who directly mitigate emergencies and nonemergency events. Our firefighters are expected to learn and maintain a wide range of skills that relate to our job. The training in these skills is on going and always evolving. Our Firefighters are trained to the NFPA 1001 FF2 Standard, as well as many other courses and programs.

Training Requirements

All members entering the department, regardless of prior training or experience, will complete the recruit training and/or orientation program taught by the fire department officers. The new recruit training program is approximately 9 months, and once complete recruits can respond to emergency incidents. The training then continues for an additional 12 months become a certified to the NFPA 1001 FF 2 Firefighter Standard. All the courses you are asked to attend are all paid for by the fire department, and all we ask is that you attend as many as required. All members are required to attend

Thursday training sessions from 7pm to 930pm to keep your skills sharp and we do offer some Saturday morning training for those who miss Thursday evenings. There will be some weekend courses that we require you to attend as your training progresses, and we do our best to ensure that these courses are planned far in advance for you. As a member of our department the training never stops.

As a Responding Member of the Fire Department:

After your recruit-training period you will be provided with a pager and able to respond to calls. You will be expected to respond to your nearest fire station when your pager sounds and attend as many calls as possible. If you cannot make the call due to other commitments, do not worry, we get our strength from strong compliment paid on call firefighters.

What else do we do?

Every Christmas, the Fire Department holds a potluck style dinner accompanied with awards to the fire fighters. 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 members attend several other community events such as FireSmart Programs, Annual Father's Day Show and Shine, Car Washes to name a few.



In Closing

We look forward to you applying to be a member of our department, and our family. We live in an amazing community, we have an amazing department, and we are so very proud to serve our community. We seek those who want to make our department better, our community safer and be a great member of our family. We will give you all the skills you need to succeed, the right tools for the job, all we ask is for your dedication and commitment.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our department, the commitment, and who we are seeking to be a member.

Nick Acciavatti

Fire Chief
Dashwood Fire Department