

# **Arnold Volunteer Fire Department**

1505 Ritchie Highway \* Arnold, MD 21012 \* 410-757-5942

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## New Member Information

The minimum age for training in Anne Arundel County is 16. Junior members can be 14.

### **Required Training**

All required training is provided free of charge by Anne Arundel County. Courses are usually conducted at fire department headquarters on Veterans Highway in Millersville.

1. Firefighter I – 99 hours (actual, not credit hours)
2. EMT-B -- 131 hours

These two classes are typically taught two nights each week (Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs), three hours each, for about a semester. There will be occasional Saturday classes for practical evolutions. Sometimes courses will be offered only on weekends, all day Saturday or Sunday, for about a semester.

3. Hazardous Materials Operations – 24 hours (HazMat)
4. Emergency Response to Terrorism – 8 hours
5. CPR/AED – 8 hours

Over the summer, a course called All You Need To Ride (AYNTR) is offered on a full-time basis (8-4, 5 days/week, 4 weeks) that includes all required training except EMT-B. High school students have the option of vocational training in firefighting – ask for further information.

Most people take about a year to complete all the initial coursework. However, after about eight weeks of Firefighter I, and completion of Terrorism, CPR/AED and HazMat, you may begin to ride the engine as a Probationary Firefighter, Red Stripe. This is intended to augment your classroom training with hands-on experience. You are allowed to perform limited tasks on the fireground, outside of the hazardous atmosphere. Once you complete everything except EMT-B you are granted Probationary Firefighter status. You are now allowed to enter the building and perform all tasks on the fireground. However, you will not count toward the minimum number necessary for a full engine crew: one driver, one officer, one firefighter. Upon completion of EMT-B, you are granted Firefighter 1 status, and will count toward the crew.

### **Optional Training**

After succeeding in basic training, a variety of options will be available to you. Firefighter 2 and Rescue Technician are the most popular. If you're interested in driving the engine, you can take Emergency Vehicle Driving and Pump Operations.

Moving up the chain of command through Lieutenant to Chief will require several courses in Fire Inspections, Training Methods, Fire Officer and Incident Command. Additional courses in emergency medical services are available, focusing on managing trauma, pediatric patients and other areas. All these courses – required and optional – are offered free of charge through Anne Arundel County.

## Company Obligations

We hold two drills each month: the first Sunday at 10am, and the third Thursday at 7:30pm. We ask all riding members to attend at least one drill per month to maintain riding status.

We have a company meeting on the second Thursday each month at 8:00pm.

We ask members to commit to 24 hours of duty each month. We do not currently have assigned duty periods. Recognizing that we are all volunteers, we try to coordinate our availability with the needs of the company, acknowledging the requirements of families and careers.

## Community Relations

We hold an Open House in September, and various fire prevention activities throughout the year. We attend Boy/Girl Scout meetings, and children's birthday parties. Not only do the kids enjoy climbing on the engine, but we have the opportunity to teach them the stop/drop/roll maneuver. Also, they can see what a firefighter looks like in full gear, so they may be less frightened in an emergency. We also assist people with installing and maintaining their smoke detectors.

## Financial & Administrative

Administrative members have opportunities to help in all areas except emergency response. These include, but are not limited to, fundraising, planning the open house, coordinating fire prevention activities, assisting with membership recruiting and retention, and just about anything else you can think of for a volunteer organization. We also require help in maintaining our building (all members), from simple cleaning to performing or overseeing major renovations.

We hold two major fundraisers each year, but both are coordinated by outside contractors. We have a mailer that goes out each April to all the houses in our district. Our responsibilities are limited to opening the envelopes and depositing the checks.

In November/December, we run a photo fundraiser. We staff the station during photo shoots and shows. We don't call anybody asking for money, we don't knock on doors, and we don't do bingo, carnivals or pancake breakfasts.

We are a small, non-profit corporation with a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board of Trustees. All positions are open to all members. We welcome members of all sorts - operational and administrative - high school to senior citizen, from five hours per year to 100 hours per month, from no prior experience to "Crusty Old Jakes". Everyone can help somehow.

If you have further questions, please visit the membership section of our website [www.arnoldvfd.com](http://www.arnoldvfd.com) and click on the email link. Thank you for your interest!