

Most Frequently Asked Questions by NLF&R Applicants

- **What happens after you receive my completed application?**

As soon as possible, we run a criminal and DMV background check. After this is completed, a representative from North Lincoln Fire & Rescue will call you to schedule a standard drug test and medical evaluation.
- **When can I respond to fire calls?**

Before you can respond, you will need some basic training. This training takes approximately 16 weeks and is conducted on Monday nights and a few Saturdays. If you are already (or have been recently) a volunteer with another department, the Training Officer will review your certificates and customize your training schedule. You will be invited to attend Monday night drills. After training, you will be able to respond to calls.
- **Can I become part of Water Rescue, Search and Rescue or EMS as soon as I join?**

In some cases, depending on your previous training or background, you can. As a rule, most members need to complete a training period of six months and their “Basic Firefighting” training.
- **Who deems that I am physically fit to be a volunteer firefighter?**

The application process includes a confidential medical questionnaire and you may be asked follow-up questions from a health care provider.
- **When do I get my firefighter gear?**

Within a week of acceptance and after your evaluation is complete, you will receive “orientation” and your gear (turn-outs). This will be kept at the training facility until your training period is complete.
- **What kind of training do I need to be a firefighter?**

Besides the techniques for fire suppression and science behind fires, you will receive training in Hazmat Awareness, Blood-borne Pathogens, Communications, etc.
- **Am I too young to be a firefighter?**

You must be at least 18 years old.
- **Once I am a firefighter, where and how do I respond?**

You will receive a radio/pager that “tones” you out to emergencies. You will respond to your closest station.
- **Can I drive the fire engine right away?**

As part of your training, you will receive Emergency Driver (Code 3) Training. After you complete this training and are 21 years old, you could be cleared for emergency driving. If you are 18 or older, but not yet 21, you can drive apparatus you’ve been “signed off” for non-emergency (Code 1) status.
- **Is there any test I have to take to be a firefighter?**

Annually, all firefighters complete a brief health check (in-house), annual task performance evaluation and annual driver test (Driver’s Rodeo).
- **Am I expected to go to all the calls?**

No. Depending on your work situation, family needs and your personal level of training and commitment, you respond where and when you are available.
- **Is there any pay or reimbursement?**

You are not paid as a “volunteer” but do get reimbursement “points” for the work you do with the department and calls you respond to. There is also a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP).
- **Can my family participate in the District?**

Yes, we have many involved family members who assist and participate in functions such as the annual Firefighter’s Ham Dinner, Fourth of July BBQ, the Annual Awards Banquet, just to mention a few.
- **Can I volunteer even if my boss won’t give me time off from work?**

Most definitely! Emergencies never take a vacation and volunteers are needed all the time. If you can’t get off work, you can still respond to calls during your other hours.
- **How big is the District?**

Our District is approximately 85 square miles of urban and rural communities, including several rivers, seven miles of ocean front, and a 680-acre lake
- **I want to be a paid firefighter. Is volunteering a way to get in?**

Yes. All the career firefighters receive the same training you can receive through North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1. Many of our current paid staff members began as volunteers and several of our volunteers are now working as paid firefighters in Albany, Salem, Portland and McMinnville.