
A Brief History of Volunteer Firefighting

Benjamin Franklin established the first volunteer fire department in Philadelphia in 1736 and consisted of 230 volunteers.

The first volunteer firefighter was Isaac Paschall of “The Union Fire” company. Other famous Americans who served as volunteer firefighters were:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| George Washington | Thomas Jefferson |
| Benjamin Franklin | Samuel Adams |
| John Hancock | Paul Revere |
| Alexander Hamilton | John Jay |
| John Berry | Aaron Burr |
| Benedict Arnold | James Buchanan |
| Millard Fillmore | |

In 1818, women began serving as firefighters. The first recorded female volunteer was Molly Williams, a black slave.

Today, volunteers comprise 73% of firefighters in the United States.

OUR MISSION:

SERVING BECAUSE WE CARE

District Demographics

Polk County Fire District No.1 is a combination career/volunteer organization consisting of four fire stations providing service to approximately 25,000 people living within the 185 square mile region of southeast Polk and southwestern Marion County and is governed by a 5 member, publicly elected, Board of Directors.

Designated land uses are varied ranging from the urban/suburban areas of Monmouth and Independence, to the rural, farm and forest lands surrounding unincorporated communities of Buena Vista, Suver, Airlie, and Pedee .

The Fire District is a full-service emergency service delivery system providing:

- Fire suppression
- Injury prevention & education
- Fire investigations
- Structural plans review and inspections
- Fire/EMS training
- Advanced life-support ambulance
- Surface water rescue
- Light apparatus maintenance,
- Specialized services.

Polk County Fire District No.1 is made up of five chief officer/administrative positions, nine funded career suppression/paramedic positions, nine resident volunteers and 79 volunteer members (Fire/EMS/Support/Explorers).

During 2008 the District answered 1,982 calls for service including 1476 medical calls, 78 structure fires, 98 Motor Vehicle Crashes, 103 Service Calls, and 233 miscellaneous other calls.

We Need YOU!!



To Answer The Call
To Accept The Challenge:

THE MISSION:

*Serve Your Community
With Pride and
Professionalism*

How To Become A Volunteer

1. Submit volunteer application. (Indicate for what position: Firefighter, EMT, or Support Division)
2. Applicant will take part in an oral interview and , if applying for the firefighter position, a physical abilities evaluation consisting of :
 - a. Stair Climb
 - b. Hose Hoist
 - c. Fire Hose Advancement
 - d. Bucket Carry
 - e. Forcible Entry Simulation (sledge chop)
3. Pass driving record and background check.
4. Possess a valid Oregon drivers license.
5. Complete an Insurance Card prior to starting the observation/probationary period.

Station Locations



**Buena Vista
Station 40**



**Pedee
Station 70**



**Airlie
Station 80**



**Central Station- Independence/Monmouth
Station 90**

1800 Monmouth St.
Independence, OR 97351
Phone: 503-838-1510 Fax: 503-838-1235
Website: www.polkno1.org

Jason Cane, Fire Chief

Firefighter Training

Those entering the firefighter recruit academy will receive practical hands-on experience as well as classroom style lectures covering such topics as;

- ⇒ Fire Department Organization and Safety
- ⇒ Fire Behavior
- ⇒ Overhaul
- ⇒ Personal Protective Equipment/SCBA
- ⇒ Fire Hose, Appliances, and Streams
- ⇒ Rescue
- ⇒ Water Supplies
- ⇒ Ventilation and Tools
- ⇒ Fire Prevention and Building Construction

Recruits successfully completing the academy will meet or exceed the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard for Firefighter I.

For those volunteers not desiring to be a firefighter, specialty training will be provided.

Little Known Facts

- Volunteers comprise 73% of Firefighters in the United States.
- Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$36.8 billion per year.
- Recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters is a key issue in Oregon volunteer fire departments. Volunteer firefighters in the U.S. has decreased 5-10% since 1983.
- Call volumes continue to increase each year.

**POLK COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

