

FAQ



LOWER MERION
FIRE DEPARTMENT



joinLMFD.org

CAN I REALLY BE A FIREFIGHTER? WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

YES! WE'RE ORDINARY PEOPLE, JUST LIKE YOU. Most of us have regular full-time jobs and families. Members are only restricted by their physical abilities, comfort level, and training experience. Anyone who lives within a mile of any of the seven stations is encouraged to become a member.

You must be 18 years of age to perform interior fire operations. Some fire companies have volunteer opportunities for those as young as 14. You are welcome to begin the membership process before reaching minimum age requirements.

Staffing levels are lowest during the weekday. Those with flexible work schedules, students, and others available to run calls during these hours are strongly encouraged to apply. We have many veterans serving, and anyone with military experience is also encouraged to become a member.

WHERE DO I SIGN UP? WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO JOIN?

Please visit joinLMFD.org and submit your information. A member of the Recruitment Committee will get back to you within a few days. Each fire company has its own bylaws and procedures for new members, but generally speaking the process consists of an interview, background check, and physical examination.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

There is no specific time requirement. Volunteers respond to as many calls and training drills as they are able. Policies vary by station, but generally members are expected to respond to at least 25% of their station's calls each year. Most stations hold one regular weeknight training session in the evening.

New firefighters are required to attend classes at the Montgomery County Fire Academy and achieve national Firefighter I certification as soon as possible. The training program is offered in several flexible iterations, including night- and weekend- only classes.

DO YOU REALLY DO THIS FOR FREE?! ARE THERE ANY OTHER BENEFITS?

Volunteers do not receive any monetary compensation, but all equipment, training, and education is paid for. In addition, members receive LMFD clothing and gear, a Township parking permit, and attend various social events hosted by the fire company.

More importantly, however, are the intangible benefits. The 125 year old tradition of volunteerism in Lower Merion is a testament to how rewarding an experience firefighting can be. **Members take pride in serving their community, learning life-saving skills, and dedication to the traditions of the American fire service.** The camaraderie of the fire service is a tight-knit bond rarely experienced elsewhere.

I'M NOT ABLE TO BE A FIREFIGHTER, BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO HELP.

WHAT CAN I DO?

There are a number of other ways you can participate. Fire companies also need non-active members to help with **fundraising, administrative, and support functions.**

Just as the fire companies rely on volunteer staffing, they also rely on voluntary contributions to operate. While the Township assists fire companies with some personnel expenses, the fire companies rely mostly on donations from the community. **Please consider making a donation to your local fire company.**

We could not function without the support of our families and communities. If a member of your family is interested in becoming a firefighter, do your best do support them!



answer *THE*
CALL

ORDINARY PEOPLE,
EXTRAORDINARY ROLES



Most of the firefighters in Lower Merion are volunteers.

The Lower Merion Fire Department is comprised of seven independent fire companies serving nearly 70,000 residents across over 25 square miles of Lower Merion, Narberth, and portions of Radnor. The fire companies are staffed by a handful of full-time personnel supplementing the efforts of over 200 volunteer firefighters and officers. Members of the seven companies now respond to more than 2500 calls for service annually. In addition, LMFD Fire Marshals conduct fire safety inspections and perform command functions at emergencies.

FIRE COMPANIES

Merion Fire Company of Ardmore (founded 1890)

Narberth Fire Company (1897)

Bryn Mawr Fire Company (1903)

Union Fire Association (1903)

Belmont Hills Fire Company (1913)

Penn Wynne/Overbrook Hills Fire Company (1928)

Gladwyne Fire Company (1944)

The area we serve is as diverse as any in the country, ranging from tightly-packed rowhouses to sprawling estates, large industrial sites, and hi-rise commercial buildings. A housing stock built up over three centuries, busy transportation arteries, and aging infrastructure create innumerable challenges and hazards. Our firefighters work hard and train continuously to meet the ever-changing needs of this community.

Becoming a LMFD firefighter provides you with access to state-of-the-art equipment, the latest training methods, and advanced education in life-saving skills. You will fill an urgent need in your community on a close-knit team with other dedicated volunteers.

**YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU,
NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

The number of emergencies we respond to has doubled over the past 25 years, but staffing levels have not increased commensurately.

