

The following is a brief list of questions that many of our potential recruits have asked in the past. If your question does not appear in the list below please feel free to contact us for further information.

1. **What must I do to become a volunteer firefighter for the Louisville Fire Department?**
2. **What experience do I need?**
3. **Can I keep my full-time job?**
4. **What level of commitment is required?**
5. **What kinds of emergencies does the LFD respond to?**
6. **What happens after I apply?**
7. **What is included in the application process?**
8. **Do I need to buy any equipment? How much will this endeavor cost me?**
9. **Will I need to respond from home for calls or do Firefighters stay at the station?**
10. **What are the dangers of working as a volunteer firefighter?**

1. What must I do to become a volunteer firefighter for the Louisville Fire Department?

The mandatory criteria for becoming a recruit for the Louisville Fire Protection District are:

- you must be at least 18 years of age;
- you must be a legal resident of the United States of America;
- you must have a valid driver's license;
- you must have current automobile insurance, if you drive;
- you must successfully complete the screening process;

Preference is given to applicants residing within our district ([district map](#)); however, we may consider applicants living out of district who meet the membership requirements and depending on the number of in-district applicants.

2. What experience do I need?

None. All of the training you need to become a State of Colorado certified Firefighter and EMT-Basic will be provided by the LFD. If you are already certified as a Firefighter or EMT you will not have to repeat those certifications.

3. Can I keep my full-time job?

Yes. Since our firefighters are volunteers most have jobs. Some work within the community we serve, some work from home, and others work outside our district.

4. What level of commitment is required?

Without a doubt being a volunteer firefighter requires a large commitment from our volunteers and their families. To maintain good standing as a volunteer firefighter with the LFD members must fulfill one of the following criteria:

Serve 48 12-hour shifts per year on a duty crew at the station

OR

Respond to 20% of calls on a yearly basis

In addition, during each calendar year you must also complete 36 hours of general fire training, three to twelve hours of hazardous materials training, 12 hours of EMS training, 12 hours of fire department activities and pass annual State of Colorado job performance requirements (JPRs). All of the required training is offered in Louisville and typically will occur on Tuesday evenings and some Saturdays.

During the first year with the LFD, you will only need to meet half of the duty requirements listed above, but you will also participate in a 16-week Fire Academy where you will receive Firefighting and Hazardous Materials training and attend Emergency Medical Technician class where you will be trained as an EMT-Basic.

5. What kinds of emergencies does the LFD respond to?

In 2006, the department responded to more than 1,300 emergency calls. The distribution of those calls was as follows:

- 8 vehicle fires
- 731 emergency medical incidents
- 73 citizen assists
- 67 hazardous material calls
- 310 fire alarms
- 131 motor vehicle accidents
- 11 wildland fires
- 10 structure fires

6. What happens after I apply?

Applications will be evaluated by the Officer in charge of recruiting and acceptable applicants will be contacted. You will attend an informational session, where additional information on the position and the schedule of events leading up to your start date will be covered and you will be able to ask any questions you might have. Family members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Following successful completion of the application process, you will be sworn on as a probationary firefighter and you may then start working on duty crews.

7. What is included in the application process?

First, you must complete an LFD application. Qualified recruits then will be asked to take a written exam. Those who pass the written exam will be invited to take the Louisville Physical Agility Test (LPAT), a test of strength and endurance. Recruits that successfully pass the LPAT will be asked to come to an oral board interview. Recruits that pass the oral board will be put through a background check and asked to provide their motor vehicle record. Recruits that successfully pass all stages of the application process will be sworn on as probationary firefighters.

8. Do I need to buy any equipment? How much will this endeavor cost me?

While many LFD firefighters choose to purchase items to supplement the standard equipment issued, the district will supply all of the necessary gear for safely performing your duties as a firefighter.

This equipment will include bunker gear, helmet, gloves, uniforms, pagers, training materials, etc.

9. Do Firefighters respond from home for calls or do they stay at the station?

Our firefighters do both. We have duty crew shifts available 24 x 7 for those who can spend time at the station. Our day time shifts are scheduled in four hour blocks while our night shift starts at 7pm and goes until 7am. We also have firefighters respond from home or work, if their employer allows, to calls.

10. What are the dangers of working as a volunteer firefighter?

Firefighting is an inherently risky profession. You will be provided with the right equipment, training and leadership to perform the job safely, but no amount of preparation can completely eliminate the risk of serious injury or even death. The District does provide a \$50,000 life insurance policy for every volunteer.