

Why Volunteer?

Have you ever heard a siren or seen a fire engine – and wondered what was happening?
Have you ever witnessed or come upon a motor vehicle accident – and wished you could help?

Have you been there when someone was stricken with sudden illness – and wanted to assist?

Are you looking for new friendships, challenges and rewards?

Do you want to become involved in your community?

This business is not for everyone. You need more than just a desire to help people. You also need a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges. Our service is one that will call on its members to do dirty, strenuous work, often in uncertain and hazardous environments.

Imagine having to prepare yourself to cope with situations that from structure fires to childbirth to hazardous chemical spills to heart attacks to almost any imaginable emergency. This diversity is coupled with the fact that these skills may be needed at any time of the day or night, seven days a week, in any kind of weather, and very often under potentially stressful and emotional circumstances. Yet these same factors contribute to our profession being so personally rewarding.

The fire service is filled with diverse challenges that will always keep you thinking. These daily challenges are what keep the men and women of the fire service constantly striving to improve their knowledge and skills.

Volunteering in emergency services is one of the most important decisions you may make. It is not something that should be taken lightly and should definitely involve some open discussion with your family and those closest to you. We hope that you give this decision the time and serious consideration it deserves, and if you feel you can accept the challenge, decide to join our ranks.

Different people volunteer for different reasons. Action oriented people enjoy the excitement and adrenaline rush that emergency services has to offer. Some see the volunteer fire service as a way to get away from the desk they sit behind at their day job and get behind the wheel of a fire engine. Many enjoy the feeling they get when they help people in their time of need and some feel it's their obligation to serve the community. Yet others just want to belong to a team. Whatever motivates you to volunteer – everyone gains the self-satisfaction of being at their best when others are dealing with what is often the worst day of their life.

Our success is measured by saving someone's home and possessions from fire, saving someone's life, and even in public education in preventing fires and accidents. There is a sense of pride felt from helping someone through their worst day.

About Us

The Stratmoor Hills Fire Department is a team of volunteer and career professionals that is comprised of your friends and neighbors. They're people just like you – with families, jobs and active lifestyles who still find time to give back to their community. Stratmoor Hills Fire Department offers a friendly environment for you to discover your capabilities, push yourself, and make the most of your volunteering investment.

Established in 1960, the Stratmoor Hills Fire Department is a premier provider of emergency services in El Paso County – protecting residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas between the City of Colorado Springs and Ft. Carson.

Our station is located on B Street just west of Highway 85/87. We provide our own dispatching services as well as dispatch service to Ellicott Fire Department. We provide comprehensive fire fighting, extrication, fire prevention education and basic and advanced life support to the residents and travelers in our district. Keep in mind that firefighters are the jack of all trades and are expected to be the master of them all. You never know what we may be expected to do. Our department currently maintains a fleet of two fire engines, one light rescue truck, an ambulance, a brush truck, and two support vehicles. Our membership is made up of firefighters, EMS personnel, and dispatchers.

We take emergency services very seriously. While individuals volunteer to serve their community, our volunteers must realize that the fire department exists to provide emergency services to the residents and visitors of our Fire Protection District– a service paid for by the taxpayers of our community. We must be committed to providing our services 24 hours a day - every day. We seek volunteers to bolster our ranks in a diverse range of services. We are committed to offering a friendly, fun, professional atmosphere.

Stratmoor Hills Fire Department Operations

How We Respond

Like our career members, our volunteers have scheduled duty shifts. To accommodate busy and varying lifestyles, our volunteers consist of individuals that live “in district” (IDMs) and members that live “out of district” (ODMs). Our members not only work scheduled shifts at night and weekends but are on-call at all times – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Volunteers respond when they are available and the on-duty crews need additional manpower. All volunteers sign up for a minimum of four shifts each month, but keep in mind all shifts need to be filled. Our dispatchers dispatch our units and if necessary request additional manpower from surrounding departments or El Paso County resources. We are extensively engaged in automatic and mutual aid with surrounding departments and work very hard to train with and maintain outstanding working relationships with these other departments.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Population: 6,500

Area: 6 sq. mi.

Serving: Primarily residential, light commercial industrial properties, and Pikes Peak Community College

RESPONSE VOLUME:

Approx 1400 alarms per year, 65% medical emergencies and traffic accidents

Opportunities

We offer the opportunity for you to volunteer in the area that you feel most comfortable with, where you feel you can contribute the most, and where you'll benefit the most from your volunteering experience. Our membership is split into the following divisions:

Dispatch – All members of our department are required to be trained as dispatchers and must work dispatch shifts. Some volunteers only wish to dispatch. If you wish to be a dispatcher we will provide you with all the training and knowledge necessary. All we ask of you is your time and commitment.

EMS – This is a great opportunity for those who wish to help others who are sick and injured and serve their community. Out of district applicants who wish to join this group must already have their EMT certification.

Fire - We offer virtually unlimited opportunities for you to explore the exciting world of firefighting and the training to do it safely. You are encouraged to constantly push yourself to gain new knowledge and skills. Out of district applicants who wish to be a firefighter with us must hold either a firefighter or EMT certification, or both.

Join today and enjoy these benefits

Quality Training - You provide the commitment and we provide the training opportunities. We expect all our members to be the best they can, whether that is the best firefighter, EMT, or dispatcher. The training opportunities are limited only by your drive.

Flexible Memberships – We are happy to have members join and concentrate only on becoming quality firefighters, EMT's, or dispatchers. Many of our members choose to move forward and get training and certifications in driving and pumping our apparatus, instructing younger members, and becoming fire officers.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - We protect our firefighters with the latest technology in fire resistive coat, pants, leather boots, gloves, Nomex hood and traditional style fire helmets complete with a leather front proudly identifying your name, rank and department identification.

Social Events - Members and their guest enjoy our annual Christmas dinner held each December to recognize the year's accomplishments of the department and our members. Throughout the year we offer a variety of opportunities for you and your family to get to know the other members of your department in a relaxing atmosphere. From conventions to parades, parties, and family picnics - we not only work hard - we play hard too! Many

members find that our family atmosphere and activities are some of the most rewarding aspects of being a member.

Expectations

Although no previous experience or training is required, you need more than just a desire to help people. You also need courage and dedication, assertiveness, and a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges, as well as a strong desire to advance and be a member of a team.

Our volunteers need to be team players, respecting each other's roles and contributions. You need to be able to work on-call and to deal with occasional interruptions to your lifestyle, dropping what you're doing at the "sound of the bell" to respond to the emergency needs of your fellow citizen. In addition to four to five shifts per month, a new recruit can expect to spend between 5-15 hours each week on fire company business. This entails meetings, training, emergency responses and other miscellaneous activities. Some weeks will be more and other weeks less. The days of the week or times may vary depending on the level of activity. However, most regularly scheduled events occur on evenings and weekends to accommodate a regular work schedule.

The process

Selection Process

- In order to apply you must meet the following criteria
 - Be at least 18 years of age
 - Be a legal resident of the United States
 - Have no felony convictions
 - Be a resident of El Paso County
 - Have reliable transportation
 - Hold a valid driver's license
 - Be able to read, write, and speak English proficiently
 - Be physically, mentally, and emotionally capable of accomplishing all required tasks
- You need submit an application either in person or on our website
- The application will be prioritized based on whether you are in-district or out, the position desired, and certifications held
- An interview will be scheduled with you and a 3 person interview panel
- If you are selected to continue a background check will be performed
- You will begin with a department orientation and begin filling out department paperwork (bring copies of any certifications you have, your driver's license, vehicle insurance, driving record obtained from the DMV, a Tuberculosis test, and a vaccination record or titer showing you have a hepatitis B vaccination)

- You will be considered a recruit until you complete your first training module, complete a 30 day review, and obtain membership

Dispatch Portion

- Complete a dispatch orientation PowerPoint
- Complete 10 dispatch scenarios
- Pass written dispatch test
- Begin mentored dispatch shifts
- Complete NIMS/ICS 100 and 700 during the first two mentored dispatch shifts
- Complete 8 more mentored dispatch shifts for a total of 10 shifts with two scenarios on each remaining shift
- Successfully dispatch a minimum of 7 Stratmoor Hills calls and 3 Ellicott calls
- Pass the dispatch practical test
- Upon successful completion of the dispatch practical test you will begin a 30 day review to obtain dispatch membership
- You will move on to the EMS portion, assuming that a fire academy is not starting immediately. In the event that a fire academy is starting you will attend the fire academy and then move on to EMS upon completion of the academy

EMS Portion

- You must hold a Colorado EMT certification to practice in the state of Colorado
- If you hold a National Registry or a certification from another state we can help you get reciprocity and a Colorado certification
- If you do not currently hold an EMT certification at all you will need to attend an EMT class on your own to obtain a certification
- You will be given an EMS physical agility test to ensure you are capable of performing the day to day duties of an EMT
- Attend a 480 and 425 period of instruction covering both the equipment on the vehicles as well as the acts allowed
- Pass a hands-on test over the equipment on both 480 and 425
- Pass a written EMS protocols test
- Pass skills-based EMS testing
- The recruit will attend 2 EMS calls in an observer role, 4 calls in an assistant role, and 6 calls in which they are the lead EMT and will be evaluated
- Recruit must complete 2 EMS scenarios per shift and accumulate 6 successful patient contacts
- Upon completion of the EMS portion, the recruit will be under a 30 day review for their EMS membership.

Fire Portion

- Before beginning any firefighter training you will be given a firefighter physical agility test to ensure you are physically prepared for the rigors of firefighting
- SHFD will instruct a fire academy twice a year that will last for approximately 17 weeks.
- If you already hold a firefighter certification through IFSAC, Department of Defense, or Pro-Board there will be a testing and training process to ensure you know the required skills and our equipment and procedures before you begin your 30 day review
- We can help you try and get Colorado Division of Fire Safety reciprocity for your certifications from other jurisdictions
- If you attend our Firefighter I academy you will test with the Colorado DFS for your certifications upon completion of the academy
- Upon receiving Firefighter I and HazMat Ops certifications, or completing our firefighter testing and training program if you already hold certifications, you will be under a 30 day review to obtain fire membership. If you skipped the EMS portion to attend the fire academy then you will begin the EMS portion upon completion of the fire portion.

Are You Up To The Challenge?

[apply online](#)