

Papineau-Cameron
Fire Department



Information and Application
for
New Recruits



A Letter from the Fire Chief

Thank you for considering volunteering for the Papineau-Cameron Fire Department we welcome your interest. I hope this package will inform you and answer any questions you might have about what is required to become a volunteer firefighter.

We, as members of the Papineau-Cameron Fire Department, are proud of the service we provide to our community. We train hard to provide a safe, effective and efficient response to assist people in all kinds of emergency situations.

Not everyone is suited to be a volunteer firefighter. Volunteers in “Emergency Services” are quite different from other volunteer groups. We deal with dangerous situations, life threatening incidents and complex equipment. We are responsible ethically and legally to provide it. We’re rushing into a situation when everyone else is running away.

Only about 1 in 3 who applies stay more than a year, in large part due to the time involved. Although this is a fact of life, it is also important to remember that once you feel comfortable with your training and your fellow firefighters, you will feel good about yourself and what you’ve accomplished. The experience is one that will last a lifetime as you build a sense of teamwork; take pride in your achievements; and gain camaraderie, stories and memories.

The level of commitment and dedication goes far beyond what most people think and as you read further, you will understand and appreciate what it takes to become part of our team.

Please feel free to talk to myself or any of our firefighters. Come to a few of our meetings to get a feel for who we are and what we do.

I hope that we will be hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Niel O’Grady
Fire Chief
Papineau-Cameron Fire Department



A Brief History

There are 3,492 fire departments in Canada. A total of 3,184 (or about 90%) of these departments are staffed exclusively by volunteers, while only 95 departments' staff are a composite of professional and volunteer firefighters. There are over 84,300 volunteer and 23,700 full-time firefighters in the Canadian Fire Service.

The first recorded organized firefighting occurred in ancient Rome, but it was not until the middle ages that the buckets were finally put away in favour of hand fire engines using "large syringes". Insurance companies began to operate their own brigades, but these brigades were only allowed to fight fires involving the property of their own companies! In 1865, control of firefighting passed into municipal hands and firefighting methods and technologies rapidly contributed to its effectiveness. Today, the design of equipment, breathing apparatus, vehicles and training is very sophisticated; making the job easier and safer. Innovations such as radio communication have made major changes in attack strategies.

Firefighting is both an art and a science and is best accomplished by safe, disciplined teams with special training and equipment, directed by Incident Command and utilizing procedures gained through study and experience.

What is Expected of New Volunteer Recruits?

As mentioned, Emergency Services are not like other fields of volunteer service; perhaps that is why being involved in Emergency Services is so special. The following items are listed to give you an idea of what will be expected of new recruits as members of our Fire Protection Team. Don't let this frighten or overwhelm you! It is our suspicion that many of these expectations are naturally a part of your attitude and character already. Emergency service volunteers tend to be action-oriented, highly dedicated, family and community oriented, self-motivated and team-players.

Our work involves; structural and chimney fires; vehicle fires, accidents and rescue; hazardous situation responses; emergency pre-planning; fire safety and awareness; etc. As a new recruit, you will not be doing any of these things until you are ready! Training will be your focus, as you rely on your more experienced firefighters, but it will not be long before you find yourself contributing to our efforts in ways you can only now imagine.

Firefighters, whether on a full-time or on a volunteer basis, have roles and responsibilities that must be accepted long before considering responding to an alarm. Every firefighter owes it to themselves to be properly trained and educated on the ethical and legal requirements needed to maintain his/her safety and to increase the public's confidence in the department. In this package is a list of the roles and responsibilities of the firefighter, along with the ethical and legal requirements and how they apply to him/her.



Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of a firefighter are to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the fire department's response area. The programs and services of the fire protection team range from the adverse effects of fire, to exposure to dangerous conditions created by individuals or nature. They also include fire prevention and public education, rescue and suppression services. Responses will be made when help is needed in incidents such as motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents or spills, ice and water rescues, off-road rescues, all types of fire or explosions and First Aid or cardio pulmonary resuscitation to those in need.

A person who wishes to become a qualified member of the fire department must be of good character. The individual is expected to pass any tests (including background checks) that may be required by the Chief of the fire department.

Duties and Standards

A firefighter is required to do the following:

- operate and maintain fire equipment
- perform fire ground operations
- apply first aid/participate in public service functions
- perform public relations/education
- perform auto-extrication
- perform rescue operations
- control hazardous materials
- perform station duties
- carry out communication duties

Legal Requirements

Legally, no member of the fire department should enter any premises where alcoholic beverages are sold or consumed while in uniform, except with permission of the department. No one will respond to calls, to the fire hall, or attend meetings if they are impaired by alcohol or drugs. Firefighters have an obligation to do what they need to in order to provide the best service to their community. They must take into consideration, not only what is best for their citizens' safety, but their own and their team members as well. This can be accomplished through proper training and by following the bylaws established by the fire department and its Standard Operating Guidelines.

A firefighter's job is a dangerous and demanding one. There can be serious consequences if the firefighter does not adhere to the roles and responsibilities set out for him/her. They must also conduct themselves in accordance with the ethical and legal standards of the fire department.



Joining our Fire Department

Our team meets every Thursday evening at 6:30pm. These meetings may involve work on the apparatus and equipment, training or practise sessions.

Throughout the year, we schedule additional training in conjunction with fire departments outside of our township.

A person is qualified to be appointed as a probationary member of the service if:

- you complete an application form
- you are of good character
- you are not less than 18 years of age
- you pass an aptitude and other tests required by the department
- you have a reliable means of getting to the fire hall, any time of day or night
- you have a valid Ontario driver's license

Points System

Although the Papineau-Cameron Fire Department is a volunteer organization, the Council has set up a point system for the Fire Department team. Points are issued for attending meetings, fire calls and other various events and the value is set based on the number of events and volunteers attending the events. Points are paid out twice annually in June and December.



Code of Ethics for Volunteer Firefighters

I fully realize and accept the responsibility of being a volunteer firefighter and shall perform the duties assigned to me.

I shall respond promptly to alarms.

I will obey the order of the Officer-in-Charge or Incident Command.

I shall report for drills and practices earnestly and do my part in making our fire department an efficient firefighting organization.

I shall do my work at fires and drills in a safe and orderly manner.

I shall do my share of work that is required in loading hose and cleaning apparatus and equipment.

I shall report to the fire station immediately after each call in order to help put the equipment and apparatus in shape for the next call.

I shall refrain from using profane language and will conduct myself professionally while working at calls and when in the public eye.

I shall be loyal to my fellow firefighters and my department and shall conduct myself at all times in a manner that is keeping with the responsibilities of a firefighter.

If, at any time, I feel that I cannot comply with the regulations of the department, I will voluntarily resign.

I hereby acknowledge that I received and read the above package and declare my intention to join the Papineau-Cameron Fire Department.

Signed

Print Name

Date



PCFD – Volunteer Fire Department

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER APPLICATION

I hereby make application for the position of volunteer firefighter in Papineau-Cameron Township and submit the following information:

1. Name: _____
2. Address: _____
3. Telephone: home _____ business _____
4. Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ S.I.N. _____
5. Marital Status: _____ Dependents: _____
6. Name and address of present employer: _____

7. What position do you hold? _____
8. Height: _____ Weight: _____
9. Do you have any disabilities or ailments which would interfere with firefighting duties?
yes or no _____
10. Firefighting experience: _____

11. Do you have any other trades or experience which would assist in your firefighting training?

12. Are you willing to devote at least **FOUR** nights per month to firefighting training? _____
13. Are you willing to respond to **ALL** emergencies? _____
14. Are you willing to return to the station after a fire and assist in preparing all fire equipment and apparatus for response to another emergency call? _____

I have read the application package given to me and I understand and agree that any misrepresentation or false information with any phase of this program will be sufficient cause for refusal of this application. I authorize the Clerk/Treasurer and the Fire Chief to make such inquiries and reference checks as deemed necessary. I hereby swear to devote all possible time and energy to the suppression of fire and the elimination of fire hazards in my community and to do my utmost in protecting the lives and property of my fellow citizens from fire, without regard to my personal inconvenience.

Signed _____

Date _____