

# **BARNARDSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**100 Dillingham Road**

**Barnardsville, North Carolina 28709**

**Fax: (828) 626-4444**

**Emergency: 911**

**Business: (828) 626-2222**

## **MEMBERSHIP POLICY GUIDELINES**

### **1. Request for membership**

- A. The applicant must be 18 years of age.
- B. The applicant must be a resident of the Barnardsville Fire District
- C. The applicant must complete an application to be a volunteer firefighter and provide conviction records (if any) from an accepted agency.
- D. The membership committee will review the application and the Chief will notify the applicant of his or her acceptance or denial.
- E. Upon acceptance, the membership committee will set the applicant up for an interview.
- F. At this time, the applicant must sign the drug testing policy form. The applicant will also be given a medical requirements form that must be signed by a doctor after a physical (provided by the department). The applicant should start the series of three hepatitis B vaccinations (also provided by the department). If the applicant has proof of vaccination against hepatitis B, or refuses to get the vaccine, a form must be signed.
- G The applicant must attend a one-day orientation prior to going online as an active probationary firefighter.
- H. After review of the above, and upon acceptance of the candidate by the membership committee, the candidate will begin a probationary period during which time he/she must obtain 36 hours of fire service training before becoming an active member and must include blood borne pathogens (BBP) and 3 hours of HAZ-MAT training. This probation period is not to last over 11 months

- J. The candidate may not drive equipment on an emergency response, or be placed in hazardous situations (inside burning buildings, etc.) during the probationary period. There should be no non-emergency driving except with an officer or on-duty personnel.
- K. If an experienced firefighter joins the department, any of the above requirements may be waived at the discretion of the officers, depending on the candidate's training and experience.

## **2. Review of the candidate after their probation**

- A. The officers will discuss the merits of the candidate, including attitude, knowledge, willingness to follow instructions, and total fire department involvement.
- B. The officers may deem necessary an additional probationary period of up to, but not exceeding, six months in order to ensure the candidate's safety, knowledge, and training. At the end of the probationary period, upon recommendation by the officers, the candidate will be voted on by the fire department membership present, with majority rule.
- C. At the end of the probationary period, the member will receive his or her badge and become an active firefighter.

## **3. Requirements to maintain active membership**

- A. The member must have 36 hours of annual fire service training, including 3 hours of BBP, 12 hours of certified instruction, and 3 hours of HAZ-MAT. If training requirements have not been met by December 31st of each year, the firefighter will be suspended of all duties and will have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to complete all needed training. At that time the Chief and the Training Officer will review the training records and reinstate all benefits. If the training requirements have not been met, all gear and radio equipment must be turned in immediately and the suspension period will continue until December 31st of that year. After this one-year suspension, he/she may reapply for membership.
- B. The member must take an active role in fire department activities, including fund-raisers.
- C. The member must comply with all department bylaws and standard operational guidelines at all times.
- D. The member must take proper care of all fire department equipment and property.

- E. The member must notify the Chief of any change in physical condition that might affect his or her ability to function or place him or her at a higher risk while involved in fire or EMS responses. At the discretion of the Chief, a doctor's statement medical requirements form may be required to ensure adequate physical condition to perform required duties.
- F. Any firefighter may be suspended for failure to carry out any or all of the above listed items, by recommendation of the Chief and Officers.
- G. Any member who does not wish to be a firefighter but wishes to be affiliated with EMS must hold and maintain at least an EMT level certification. He/She must also obtain 36 hours of training each year. This must include at least 24 hours of medical CE, 3 hours of HAZ-MAT, and 3 hours of BBP each year. The member must also comply with all other membership policy guidelines except those regarding firefighter training.
- H. The member must have a physical, a pulmonary breathing test, a TB test, and hepatitis B shots. The Safety Officer will keep these on record.