

Escambia County Volunteer Firefighter

Frequently Asked Questions

What volunteer opportunities are available with Escambia County Fire Rescue?

Our department has a need for volunteers in the following areas:

- Volunteer Firefighter - Engages in direct fire and rescue activities.
- Medical First Responder – Provides medical care at a variety of medical emergencies.
- Volunteer Support Personnel - Operates outside of the hazard zone to support other firefighters. Examples include operating the Air Truck, staffing the Rehab Station, Assisting at Command Vehicle, administrative office support.

What steps are there in the volunteer application approval process?

Approval to become a volunteer consists of these steps:

- Submit Application to Training Division
- Interview and Recommendation by Command Staff
- Physical Ability Test (PAT)
- Criminal Background / Driver's License Check
- Medical Examination/Drug Testing
- Approval by Chief of Training

How long does it take the application process to be completed?

The time to process your application after we have received it varies; however, it usually averages four (4) to six (6) weeks. The majority of this time is spent awaiting your medical examination appointment and obtaining those results. A lot of it depends on your motivation!

Where can I get an application to become a volunteer firefighter?

A person desiring to apply to become a volunteer firefighter with Escambia County Fire Rescue (ECFR) has two options; you can complete an electronic (on-line) application or paper application.

To access the “on-line” volunteer firefighter application, go to the following address;

<http://myescambia.com/home/news/escambia-county-fire-rescue-volunteer-opportunities>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the “Volunteer Firefighter Application”. You can complete the application on-line or print a copy then complete. Upon completion the application can be emailed to volunteerfirefighter@myescambia.com.

Copies of the “paper” volunteer firefighter application are available at any Escambia County Fire Station and Escambia County Fire Rescue Administration.

To determine the location of the nearest fire station to your home address you can use the "Fire Station Locator" link on the ECFR Volunteer Opportunities page.

Escambia County Fire Rescue Administration is located in the Escambia County Public Safety Building, 6575 North W Street, Pensacola, FL. Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

Completed applications can be returned to any ECFR Fire Station or ECFR Administration. Application will be forwarded to the ECFR Training Office for processing.

What information do I need to submit with my application?

When you submit your application, we will need your Florida Driver's License number, and copy of High School Diploma or GED. Proof of High School Diploma or GED Certificate required to become certified as a volunteer firefighter*.

* (If applicant is 18 years old, presently enrolled in high school or GED program and maintains a 2.0 or higher Grade Point Average (GPA), this requirement will be waived)

Who sets the requirements to be a volunteer firefighter in Escambia County?

All requirements to become a volunteer firefighter for Escambia County are governed by the requirements of the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, Florida Statutes 633, Florida Administrative Code 69A-37 and the Escambia County Fire Services Unification Plan.

Is there anything that could prevent me from becoming a volunteer firefighter?

Escambia County Fire Rescue orders a criminal background check and a MVR (Motor Vehicle Record) check on all applicants. An applicant who has a criminal history which makes them ineligible under Florida law will not be allowed to become a volunteer firefighter. An applicant whose driving history does not meet the requirements of the Escambia County Fire Rescue Policy may be rejected.

Volunteer applicants will be interviewed as part of the application process. Escambia County reserves the right to reject any applicant based on the results of the interview, background check, physical examination or drug test.

Is there an age requirement to be a volunteer firefighter?

You must be 18 or over to volunteer with Escambia County. Florida Administrative Code requires a firefighter to be 18 or over to attain minimum standards.

Do I need to have a medical examination and what medical testing is done as part of the application process?

Yes, you will be required to take a medical examination. The medical examination complies with requirements set forth in NFPA 1582 (Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments). All components of the primary medical examination are paid for by Escambia County. However, if you are referred to

another physician for clarification of any medical situation, the cost of such visits and treatment is not paid for by Escambia County.

Does Escambia County provide my uniforms and equipment?

Escambia County provides all of your uniform and safety equipment needs free of charge; however, you are responsible for the safekeeping of these items.

How do I know what fire station I would be assigned to?

You will have the choice of which fire station you will be assigned to. Most volunteers choose the station closest to their residence.

What other duties are expected of me as a volunteer?

In addition to responding to emergency calls, you are expected to attend training and meeting nights, and to perform the station duties assigned by your officer.

Am I able to ride at other stations or am I limited to the one I am assigned to?

Yes, once you have been accepted as a volunteer, you may ride at any other ECFR station.

I heard that I must be certified as a Florida State Firefighter I to remain as a volunteer firefighter. How long do I have to complete that program?

Yes, you must become at least Firefighter I certified within eighteen (18) months as required by Escambia County Fire Rescue policies. Volunteers who are unable to attain Firefighter 1 certification will be restricted from certain firefighting activities and may be removed from the volunteer roster in certain situations.

Does Escambia County pay for my training or school classes to become a volunteer?

Dependent on fund availability, Escambia County *may pay* for your training and school classes; however, you must be active and in good standing as a volunteer.

If I volunteer for Escambia County, does this guarantee that I will get a career firefighter job with Escambia County when positions are open?

No. Volunteering as a firefighter with Escambia County does not guarantee that you will be hired as a career firefighter by Escambia County; however, all volunteers are welcome to apply for any open positions.

Under what circumstances would a volunteer firefighter be removed from the member roster?

Volunteers that have not been active for an extended period of time will be removed. Each situation is taken on a case by case basis. Criminal offenses are justification for immediate release. As part of a uniformed Fire Rescue service, all members must

comply with County Fire Rescue regulations. Volunteers may be removed at any time at the discretion of Command Staff.

How do volunteer firefighters get dispatched to calls?

Via pagers and/or radio. After a page is initiated by the Escambia County Communications Center, volunteers proceed to the appropriate station and respond with the requested apparatus. Volunteers are then part of the ICS for the duration of the call and follow the instructions of the Incident Commander.

As a volunteer, am I expected to report to duty during times of disaster such as hurricanes and tornadoes?

Yes, you are expected to report to duty during these times as your schedule allows. Emergencies of this nature increase the demand for volunteers and all personnel are necessary components of the recovery process.

Are Volunteers covered by Workers Compensation Insurance?

Yes, while on duty and responding to calls.