

Where Does My Fire Protection Come From?



Neighbors Helping Neighbors To Protect Life and Property

You may have seen the movies *Backdraft* or *Ladder 49*. Maybe you've caught an episode of *Chicago Fire*, *Station 19* or *911*. Certainly some of you remember the 1970s television series *Emergency* or seen documentaries about the *World Trade Center on 9-11*.

Most images on television, in movies and in books are those of career or paid firefighters. They work, eat and sleep at the fire station. The alarm rings, and off they go to the emergency.

Is that the image you have? Unfortunately, that's not the case throughout most of the country. Nearly 72 percent of the 30,000 fire departments in the U.S. are volunteer departments. Here's how your Fire Emergency Services works. There are three parts of the fire protection triangle equation.

Our Local Governments The Fire Department The Community

Let's take a look at the responsibilities of each one.

Our **Local Governments**, Warren County and the Town of Warrenton, contract with the Fire Department to provide services to the Central Warren Fire District, the Town of Warrenton and as mutual aide support to other emergency services. They help by utilizing tax dollars to provide the Fire Department funds to provide needed equipment and training.

The **Fire Department** is the human resource, responsible for answering the community's calls for help. Every week they perform checks of all equipment and train for emergency situations. They are **volunteers**. They leave their jobs and the dinner tables, and they get up in the middle of the night – all to help a neighbor in need.

Most important, there is the **Community**, which also has responsibilities for fire protection. The first is practicing fire safety at home. The second is electing commissioners and paying a fire tax to help cover fire department's costs. The third and largest responsibility of the community is to volunteer.

In the fire service, we learn about the fire triangle: fuel + heat + oxygen = FIRE. If you take one element out of the equation, the fire goes out. If you remove one of the components in our fire protection triangle, the fire gets bigger, people lose their property and some may even lose their lives.

Currently, there is an imbalance in the fire protection triangle.

- ❖ The **Local Governments** manage tax dollars and budgets to supply funds to the Fire Department.
- ❖ The **Fire Department** uses and maintains the equipment and answers the community's calls for help, although it is struggling to do so.
- ❖ The **Community** pays the taxes, but here is where the breakdown of the triangle begins. The **human resources** are not being provided to the fire department.

This is hard on the few who are volunteering, and leaves both the fire department and the community at risk. The same jobs normally done at an emergency scene by 15 to 30 career firefighters still needs to be done, even if there are only 5 to 8 volunteer firefighters.

This causes undue stress on the firefighters and threatens lives. This imbalance also creates more property threats, since a few volunteers can only do so much.

Ask yourself, "What am I doing on Thursday nights that is more important than learning how to save lives?" or "Could I live with the fact that my neighbor's house burned or they lost their lives and all I could do was watch?"

You support the firehouse, the trucks and all the equipment. Be more than just a supporter – be a member.

What are the Benefits?

- You could save a life.
- Need more? Remember,*
- That person could be a family member or friend.
- Not enough? Consider*
- \$170/month for life at retirement after 20 years of active service.

Sounding a bit better? What about

- \$10,000 life insurance policy
- \$100,000 accidental death/dismemberment policy
- Free station clothing
- Free training
- Free use of the fire station including high speed internet access & use of gym and exercise equipment & access to the ice machine
- Recognition/WRFD Bucks
- Membership with benefits in related organizations
- Being someone's hero

But most important,

- You could save a life.

**Thank you for your support
of the
Warrenton Rural Volunteer
Fire Department**

COME JOIN US!



Come visit us to learn more about membership in our fire department. Although we do not man our station 24 hours a day, if you see the station open, please stop by. Our members will be happy to discuss our department.



If you are a member of another fire department or emergency service organization, volunteer or career, we invite you to join our department if you live or work in our response district. We need your help as well!

If you have specific questions or to request an application, please contact Chief Walter Gardner (252) 213-3034

YOU'RE INVITED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN THE
WARRENTON RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



“Serving the Central Warren Fire District and the Town of Warrenton”



236 S. Main St., Warrenton, NC 27589

There are talented people in our community that can offer our volunteer organization much needed skills to make our fire department run more efficiently and serve our community better.

Fighting fire is not for everyone, but there are many jobs within our department that support our emergency service responses. Of course, primarily we are looking for men and women that have an interest in learning the skills necessary to become a firefighter.

Do you like working on cars and trucks, if so we need you.

Do you like operating a computer, if so we need you.

Do you get excited when you see a fire truck pass by or wonder where that ambulance is going and would like to help, we need you.

Do you like cooking, eating, fun, and fellowship, we need you.

Do you like involving your family in your activities, we have a place for them and we need you.

Do you want to join a brotherhood of individuals that work together as a team to better our community and help our neighbor, we need you.

Don't let your age or gender hinder you from helping!

Membership is by application with support documents reviewed by the department's Board of Directors, 3 visitations, and then if appropriate, voted on by the membership. If accepted, there is a six month probationary period to give you and the department an opportunity to develop a relationship that feels right for each.

As a volunteer, you not only agree to volunteer for service, but you also volunteer to follow the policies, procedures and regulations that make you a safe and productive member.

Come join these current volunteers:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Calvin Alston | Corrections Officer |
| Cody Ayscue | Firefighter/EMT |
| Linda Baker | Pharmacist |
| Joel Bartholomew | Firefighter/EMT |
| John Blalock | Retired |
| Mary Helen Boone | EMT |
| Lee Edmonds | Firefighter/EMT |
| John Franks | E911 Telecommunicator |
| Brian Gardner | Electrician/Fire Alarms |
| Walter Gardner, Jr. | Insurance Agent |
| Julian Greene | Youth Counselor |
| Rebecca Harris | Insurance Agent |
| Karl Hehl III | Firefighter/EMT |
| Louis Jones | Distribution Warehouse Mechanic |
| James Moody, Jr. | Automotive Sales Manager |
| Walter Powell | Retired |
| Nicholas Price | Medic |
| Zachary Sampson | Student/Excavation |
| Bryan Shearin | Sheriff Deputy |
| Don Stith | Chaplain |
| Renee Teel | Construction Consultant |
| Corey Terry | Mechanic |
| D K Trotman | Firefighter |
| David Trowbridge | Excavation |
| DaVante Williams | Restaurateur |
| Harry Williams III | Land Surveyor |

As of 09/01/2019

“We also have openings in our Fire Dept. Auxiliary, Junior Firefighter Explorer Program (ages 14-18) & as Red Cross Volunteers in Shelter Management and Disaster Assistance Teams.”