

# Board of Fire Commissioners Franklin Township Fire District 2

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## Membership Prospects Guide

2018



This document is to familiarize prospective members with the benefits and opportunities of joining one of the fire companies of Franklin Township Fire District Two. This packet will briefly guide and explain to you the minimum qualifications needed in becoming a member, and will also guide you through the admission process as well as giving you some background on the fire companies and organization. Thank you again for your consideration.

# Franklin Township Fire District Two

## MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTS GUIDE

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## FROM THE BOARD



We would like to congratulate you on taking the first step to becoming a valued member of our organization. We are committed to providing the highest quality and most efficient fire and rescue services to our community.

As a member of our organization you will learn many valuable skills as well as enhance your self-esteem, personal satisfaction and pride. As with any organization you will get out of it what you put into it. However, being a volunteer firefighter is not for everyone and your commitment should not be taken lightly.

For that reason, we have put together this guide that explains the many aspects of what it takes to become a member of our organization. Please take the time to read this guide to get a thorough understanding of the commitment you are considering.

Our goal is to give you all the information you need to make an educated and informed decision. If you have any questions during the process, please don't hesitate to contact either Sandy Accardi or Chris Butler.

Thank you again for your consideration.

*Commissioner's*

Commissioner's  
Franklin Fire District Two  
732-422-6744





## WHY VOLUNTEER?

You may ask yourself this very same question; and the answer is not always the same for everyone. Different people volunteer for different reasons; community service, neighbors helping neighbors, and the satisfaction of knowing that you made a difference are all good reasons to volunteer. Action oriented people enjoy the excitement and adrenaline rush that emergency services has to offer. Some see the volunteer fire service as an alternative to 'driving a desk by day' – by allowing them to 'drive a fire truck at night'! The Fire Companies of district 2 like many other organizations are 100 percent volunteer, and we depend on people like you to keep us going strong.



We realize that firefighting is not for everyone, but we believe that volunteering can be. There is plenty of work to be done on or behind the scenes – including running the business of delivering emergency services or the day to day running of a fire company. The personal rewards and satisfaction received from what we do is often beyond description. There is the sense of accomplishment when you control a building fire, compassion for accident victims, and fulfillment from teaching fire safety. The National Volunteer recruitment slogan really says it all:

*“What if no one answered the call?”*

Think about it? What if no one came? Who would come to the rescue? We face this problem every day, and we do everything we can to ensure we make it to every motor vehicle accident, every house fire, and every fire alarm; you never know who will need help next; it could be your neighbors, friends or even family.

The bottom line in our business is measured by the loss of life, pain and suffering, and the property damage we have prevented and reduced. Volunteering in emergency services is one of the most important decisions you may make. We hope that you give this decision the time and serious consideration it deserves, and decide to join our ranks.



## ABOUT US



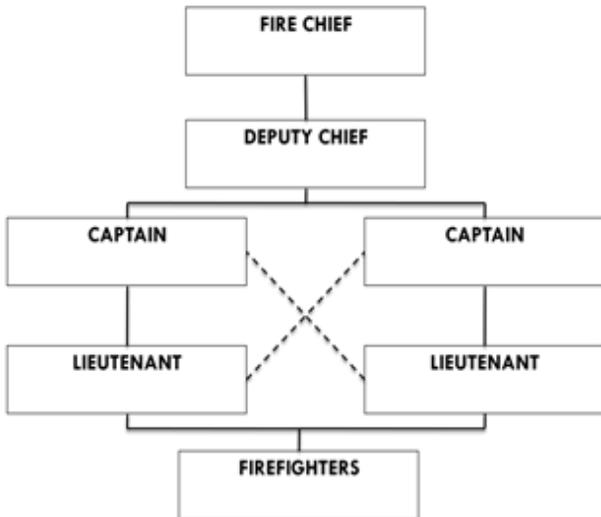
The Fire Companies and fire district were formed to serve the residents of Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey by a team of volunteers that comprised mostly of neighbors, friends, and even family members. We are located between Princeton and New Brunswick in central New Jersey.

There are three (3) fire companies that operate in Franklin Fire District 2, which serves the southern portion of Franklin Township. There are four (4) fire districts in Franklin Township with each one serving a different area of the town. These fire districts serve as the primary income for equipment and operating costs, like the police our funding comes from taxation therefore there is little need in fund raising. Because fire equipment and tools cost so much, and the operating costs of running a fire company are so high the fire districts help support the fire company's financial needs.

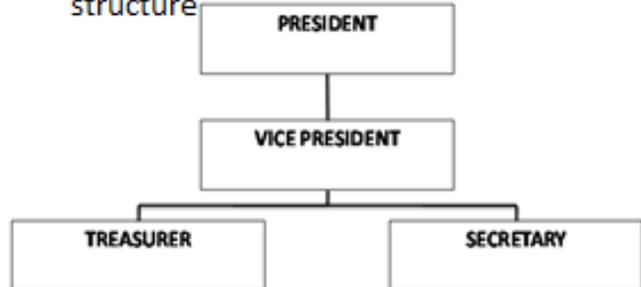
The three (3) fire companies in district two are Franklin Park, Griggstown, and Little Rocky Hill. Each company is unique in their own way but operate together in the district to serve the needs of our community. They train, attend events, and respond to emergency calls together. Our fire apparatus are located at the three (3) stations and include Four (4) Class A Engines, one (1) Rescue truck, one (1) Ladder truck, one (1) Brush truck, two (2) Tankers, two (2) Swift water boats, and three (3) Utility vehicles. We are on call 24 hours a day-everyday, and just like our paid counterparts we must be ready for any type of call at any time.

# STRUCTURE

Typical operations command structure



Typical Executive command structure



Like many other businesses, there are two very different yet very unique units that make up each fire company. There is an executive line and an operations line; both play important roles in the operation and running of the fire company. On the executive side you have a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The president serves as the Chief Executive Officer or CEO of the company.

You then have the operations side of the fire company which is run by the fire chief who serves as the Chief Operating Officer or COO of the company. The fire chief oversees and runs the chain of command system which is shown above. The fire chief is also responsible for all fire ground operations and command, along with safety for all firefighters and personnel working at an incident. It is important that the chain of command is always followed, this allows for the safety of all emergency personnel working at the scene. As you can see from the above chain of command, everyone reports to one person, this insures safety and accountability at an incident.





## RESPONSE PROCEDURE



Unlike career departments, we don't have scheduled duty shifts where you would stay at the fire house and wait for a call to come in. Instead, we are dispatched through Somerset County Communications Center via Motorola pagers that are issued to each member. When a call is reported through the 911 system, dispatch notifies us through our pagers. By a series of tones and voice notification we are alerted that a call has been dispatched and we are given the location. At that time, all firefighters report to their designated fire house, gear up and take out the appropriate equipment with a driver and line officer. Only chief officers are to report directly to the scene, all other personnel are to report to the fire house.

We respond to all different types of calls including, structural fires, motor vehicle accidents, car fires, and hazmat spills. We are also trained in the use of the Jaws of Life and are dispatched to all motor vehicle accidents with entrapment for victim extrication.



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Franklin Township Fire District Two mission is to be a leading emergency service organization by:

- ✚ Meeting the needs of our community in fire suppression, rescue and fire prevention education
- ✚ Utilizing and improving the dedication of our members
- ✚ Constantly working to improve all our services, operations and facilities

In carrying out this mission, Franklin Township Fire District Two will:

- ✚ Work as a team to take full advantage of our skills, knowledge and creativity
- ✚ Encourage the professional and personal development of our members
- ✚ Give top priority to firefighter safety
- ✚ Communicate openly and honestly to all of our members and the community to inspire trust and confidence



## ➤ OUR VISION

- ✚ To be community based and oriented.
- ✚ To treat people with the consideration and compassion they deserve in their time of need.
- ✚ To encourage, educate, develop, and promote our youth in the community.
- ✚ To treat fellow members and firefighters with respect and admiration.
- ✚ To appreciate our members for their dedication, recognize them for their contributions, and reward them for their achievements.
- ✚ To be recognized as leaders in our industry, and our community.



## 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 effort. Our membership is split into the following divisions:

- ✚ **Fire/Rescue** - If getting hot, dirty, and physical is your game - this is for you. We offer virtually unlimited opportunities to explore the exciting world of firefighting and the training to do it safely. Whether you only assist on the outside - or run in to the fire as others are running out - there's plenty for everyone to do on the fire ground.
- ✚ **Administrative** – Administrative members provide administrative support in running the business of our busy fire department. From accounting, secretarial, computer, public relations, community education and administrative functions - there's plenty to do behind the scenes. Anyone who does not have the desire to participate directly in emergency services, or those who cannot meet the physical demands for active membership are encouraged to serve our department in this capacity. Administrative members do not participate in any emergency responses nor are they required to attend the required training under our operations division.



## BENEFITS

- ✚ **Training** – You provide your commitment of time and we will provide you with all of the necessary training in certifying you as a FIREFIGHTER in the State of New Jersey. In addition to the necessary classes needed for certification, any additional class you would like to take to further your education in the fire service and getting your CDL will also be paid for by the fire district.
- ✚ **Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)** – This program awards you for your years of time and service committed to the fire company. For every year of service in good standing, the fire district will contribute over \$1600.00/year into a retirement stock portfolio of your choosing. This program works similar to a 401K plan.
- ✚ **Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)** – When joining the fire company, you will be issued a set of bunker gear that will include: a fire resistive coat, pants, boots, Nomex hood, and fire helmet. Upon completion and graduation from fire school you will be fitted for a new set of latest technology bunker gear and a new helmet that proudly shows your fire company name and station number.



- ✚ **Uniforms** – Upon completion and graduation from fire school you will be fitted for one (1) Class B duty uniform which will include: one long and one short sleeve shirt, one pair of pants, a belt, and a pair of boots. You will also be fitted for a Class A dress uniform which is styled after the FDNY dress uniform.
- ✚ **Social Events** – Each member and a guest will enjoy an annual installation dinner which is held every February to recognize the past year's accomplishments of the company and its members, and to celebrate and swear-in the newly elected executive and line officers. There are many other social outings that go on throughout the year that include a summer picnic, fishing trip, and our annual family holiday party.
- ✚ **Fitness Program** – Because your health and wellbeing is important to us, each member is invited to attend a twice a week strength and conditioning class conducted by a professional trainer that specializes in Firefighter, EMT, and Police training.
- ✚ **Other Benefits** – In addition to the duty and dress uniforms you will receive, the fire company's also purchases T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats and other items that get distributed to the membership at no cost to each member. You will also become a member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association which will allow you to qualify for different types of benefits, and will allow you to go down to the New Jersey State Fireman's Convention in Wildwood every September.
- ✚ **Insurance** – We know that firefighting is dangerous; and because of this we have insurance policies that insure each member to \$25,000.
- ✚ **Physical's** – Each member will receive a full physical periodically that meets standards set forth by Public Employees Occupational Health and Safety Administration and The National Fire Protection Association.

## THE PROCESS

- Come in to any of the fire companies and fill out a membership application.
- Submit the application and sit down for a short interview.
- Once the interview is complete, attend Four (4) scheduled station events to get an idea of what we do.
- Get a background check and be sent to get a physical at no charge by the District's physician.
- Upon receipt of a clean background and being cleared by the districts physician, you will be voted in by the board of fire commissioners.

- You will then be sworn in as a probationary member of the respective Fire Company at their next regular monthly meeting.
- Once you've been sworn in, you will remain as a probationary member for one (1) years' time which at that point plans will be discussed on when you will be enrolled into the NJ State Firefighter I class at the selected Fire Academy.
- On completion and passing of Firefighter I you will be fitted for a new Class A and Class B uniform along with new bunker gear.
- Once that year has been completed and you are active in good standing you will become a full fledge member of the respective Fire Company.

## ➤ CONTACT US

### Physical Address:

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Franklin Park, NJ 08823

### Mailing Address:

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