

# Volunteer Firefighters Needed

The Bay City Fire Department is currently looking for a few dedicated volunteers. No experience necessary. We provide training through a blended training program that includes web based, classroom, and hands on training. Although our primary focus is structural firefighting, we also train on hazardous materials, safe vehicle operations, operating fire apparatus with a pump, wildland firefighting, traffic incident management, vehicle extrication, water rescue, rope rescue, and many other fire and rescue subjects. In addition to fire and rescue topics, we train monthly on pre hospital emergency medical subjects to assist our volunteers with continuing education for the maintenance of EMS licenses, while also helping us to improve our ems system performance while serving the citizens of Bay City.

Calls for Service, the reason we are here. After receiving the training and equipment to safely respond to calls for service, we get to go make a difference in someone's life. In 2016, we responded to 197 calls for service. These calls ranged from Large Fires and Life threatening Medical emergencies to Citizen Assists and other relatively minor incidents. When these calls come, our volunteers are presented with the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life in a way that few other vocations offer.

The Bay City Fire Department currently has 13 Adult and 1 Cadet Volunteers. About half of our department has less than two years of experience. This presents an opportunity for new volunteers to help us re build the volunteer corps toward our goal of 20 members, while also being able to step into the training programs that we have developed for our relatively new volunteers. As the current volunteers move from proficiency to expertise and mastery in various subjects, the new volunteers will take their place in working toward basic proficiency.

Besides our new and energetic volunteer corps, new volunteers will also be able to work with state of art equipment. We have three triple combination pumpers, each with a 1000 gallon water tank, 1500 gallon per minute pump, and a supply of various fire tools and hose loads. Besides the engines, we have a rescue/brush rig that responds to medical calls and various specialty rescue and wildland fire calls. In addition to our fleet, we have an inventory of rescue and fire tools that range from powered saws and hydraulic extrication tools to fire suppression, forcible entry and hand tools. We also have personal protective equipment (PPE) that is maintained to current standards. Besides personnel protective equipment such as structural firefighting turnouts that are issued to our volunteers, we maintain a substantial inventory of other protective equipment such a life safety ropes, harnesses and hardware, Personal flotation devices, and other water rescue equipment, portable radios for every team and usually every volunteer that responds to an incident, Thermal imaging cameras and Rapid intervention packs on our two primary first out Fire Apparatus. We will also be changing from our current low pressure self-contained breathing apparatus to a new state of the art high pressure systems, similar to those used by the other fire departments in the county.

The Department is also entering into several years of increased funding. The citizens of Bay City just increased our funding level starting with next year's budget. This higher level of funding will be used to hire a part time administrative and training assistant. This position is being designed right now to fit the needs of our department going into the next decade. We currently envision using our new employee to reduce the administrative work load that the volunteer officers currently undertake. It is our belief that as we reduce administrative work on Officers, they will use the newly found time to perfect their skills as officers, while also mentoring our volunteers toward promotion within the department.

We are looking forward to the next few years, and your assistance with maintaining the tradition of our department. If you are interested, or know of someone that would be a good addition to our team, please let us know.

Applications are available as requested. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by our Wednesday evening drill. Drills are held weekly at 7:30 P.M., and visitors are always welcome.

Additional information is also available via phone or email. 503 377-0233 or [firedept@ci.bay-city.or.us](mailto:firedept@ci.bay-city.or.us)

Darrell Griffith

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