



# Tyger River Fire Department

Reserve Program  
Information/Application  
Packet

# Tyger River Fire Department

## Reserve Program Information

The Tyger River Fire Department (TRFD) appreciates your interest in becoming a volunteer firefighter with our department. The TRFD is a combination department with full time paid, part time paid and volunteer firefighters. Our volunteer members make up the “Reserve Program”. The Reserve Program members have options regarding the level of service that they provide. Some members may be trained to assist with scene support activities while operating outside of the hazard areas. Other members can attain Firefighter I certification, allowing them to operate inside the hazard areas conducting search, rescue, fire attack, ventilation, and other interior activities. The Reserve Program will help you to attain the training and experience necessary to pursue a professional position in the fire service.

By becoming a volunteer firefighter for the TRFD, you will be rewarded with experiences you will never forget. Being a member of the fire service is an exciting and rewarding commitment to helping others while gaining skills and knowledge you would not otherwise have an opportunity to develop. We have the tools, training, and compassion to help our neighbors that are caught in emergency situations.

Firefighting requires strenuous physical exertion as well as acute cognitive abilities to recognize unsafe situations and avoid them. Many people are not well suited to participate in the inherently dangerous work a firefighter does. For this reason, the screening process for potential members of our department is rigorous.

This information packet will provide an overview of the requirements and process to become a volunteer with TRFD.

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### Requirements

- Minimum 17 Years of Age
- High School Diploma or GED
- Valid Driver's License (SC or NC)
- Criminal Background Check acceptable to the department officers
- Reside within five miles of the Tyger River Fire District
- 10 Year Driving Record acceptable to the department officers
- Ability to successfully complete the department PAT

### Application Process Overview

- A prospective member contacts the department indicating an interest in joining.
- The prospect receives this information packet.
- The prospect returns the application (attached) with required documents.
- A required background check will be conducted.
- The TRFD management team will review all documents and make a membership determination.
- A representative of the TRFD will notify the prospect of their membership status.
- For new applicants wishing to be drivers only (with prior experience), a South Carolina Department of Transportation physical will be required.
- Any applicants wishing to attain Firefighter I certification, will be required to complete an annual Firefighter physical. This physical will be provided by the TRFD.

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### Training Requirements

New members are required to complete some initial training prior to responding to emergency incidents. Most of it is required by various state and federal laws. This training totals a few hours and is very basic in nature.

New members who are not already certified firefighters are required to attend a significant amount of formal training prior to operating in the hazard zone on emergency scenes. TRFD requires a minimum of Firefighter I certification and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training to operate in a hazard zone. For scene support activities, Firefighter I is not required. The TRFD will provide you with the minimum training required for your desired activities. The training is broken down into several courses which are offered at various locations throughout the area. Many courses may be offered within the TRFD.

If the applicant has previous firefighting certifications that are Nationally Certified and Recognized, those courses may transfer and fulfill some requirements. The department will assist you in confirming which of your certifications would transfer.

A mentor will be assigned to help you in your journey toward becoming a full member. Among other things, the mentor will assist you with scheduling the required training.

Training is offered at no cost to the student, as long as, the student follows proper procedures and the requirements of the South Carolina Fire Administration (SCFA), Spartanburg County and TRFD. Students are generally responsible for their own transportation to training classes.

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### Member Responsibilities

As a public service organization professionalism and customer service are core values of the TRFD. Members are expected to always conduct themselves in a proper manner, whether on duty or not. Members must familiarize themselves with the policies contained in the TRFD Administrative Policies and Procedures and abide by them.

Volunteer members who violate department policies are subject to disciplinary action, up to, or including dismissal. Volunteer members are expected to put forth a reasonable effort in contributing to the department's mission and goals. All emergency responders in the department must complete annual training requirements. The specific training required depends on the member's level of certification that year.

Upon acceptance as a member an emergency responder must have a Hepatitis B vaccination or sign a refusal form.