

New Volunteer Information and Application



O'Neill Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

401 E. Fremont

O'Neill, NE 68763

ovfd68763@gmail.com

Thank you for considering volunteer membership with the O’Neill Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department (OVFR). Our application period is always open at the discretion of the Fire Chief. OVFR is always looking for highly motivated individuals that are willing to donate their time and effort to help improve the lives of their neighbors throughout O’Neill and the surrounding area. OVFR serves both the City of O’Neill and the surrounding O’Neill Rural Fire District #3.

Applicants must meet the following criteria at the time of admission to OVFR (other criteria must be met following admission to OVFR):

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED.
- Must possess a valid Nebraska operator’s license.
- Must submit to a criminal records check.
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States.
- Must have a strong motivation to learn.
- Must be in good physical condition and be of sound character.

As a member of OVFR, you will be required to attend monthly membership meetings, which are held on the second Monday of each month, as well as monthly training/work events, which are held the fourth Monday of each month. Other training events may also be required.

Successful firefighter applicants will be required to attend Introduction to Firefighting at the Nebraska State Fire School within 18 months of admission to OVFR, unless an exception is granted.

Successful emergency medical services (EMS) applicants will be required to obtain emergency medical technician (EMT) certification within 18 months of admission to OVFR, unless an exception is granted.

Volunteer applicants must realize this will be a physically, emotionally, and psychologically demanding job. It takes a highly motivated person to perform in fast-paced, often fast-changing environments that will test your limits.

Volunteer Firefighter and/or EMS Provider Job Description

General Purpose

- To perform skilled work in the control, prevention, and suppression of fires and to provide medical care and transportation of sick or injured patients to appropriate medical facilities, all within the scope of OVFR policies and procedures.

Supervision Received

- Work under the general guidance and direction of the officers within the department.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Perform physically hazardous and mentally stressful tasks under adverse conditions.
- Work effectively as part of a team.
- Respond to fire and/or emergency medical calls.
- Determine the nature and extent of the emergency and provide for response and deployment of adequate resources to properly handle the emergency.
- Aid and administer basic levels of medical care to sick or injured patients according to local and state medical protocols and practices.
- Drive and operate fire apparatus, ambulance, or other specialized department vehicles.
- Rescue victims from fire, vehicles, drowning, accidents, and other harmful conditions.
- Suppress and extinguish fires; perform duties in compliance with all proper fire equipment and extinguishing procedures; calculate proper fire hose pressures; monitor fire suppression and rescue equipment.
- Operate and maintain various power tools such as saws, ventilation fans, extrication equipment, and others.
- Lay hose lines, adjust water and pressure streams, place and climb ladders, ventilate buildings, rescue persons, place salvage covers, and perform clean-up operations.
- Access, package, extricate, and transport sick and injured patients from a variety of environments, including, but not limited to, burning buildings, wrecked vehicles, confined spaces, water, wilderness areas, and high and low angle areas.
- Prepare and maintain records and reports regarding fire alarms, emergency medical calls, fire prevention inspection, public education activities, and supplies.
- Perform maintenance and repair as needed on department assets.
- Communicate clearly using mobile and portable radios and other communication devices.
- Participate in training, drills, and classes pertaining to firefighting, emergency medical practices, hazardous materials, special rescue techniques, and other continuing education programs.

- Participate in safety inspections, public education programs, public safety programs, community service activities, and other programs or projects as assigned.
- Learn the geography of the city and rural fire district, including the location of important assets and the street/road system.
- Be able to lift heavy loads.

Certifications and Qualifications

Successful applicants will be required to obtain and maintain the following certifications and qualifications.

- Must possess and maintain a valid Nebraska operator's license.
- Must complete the OVFR orientation program.
- Must obtain and maintain HAZMAT Awareness certification.
- Must obtain and maintain current NIMS/ICS qualifications for levels 100, 200, and 700.
- Must complete the OVFR HIPPA training.
- Must obtain and maintain BLS (CPR) certification.

Benefits and Compensation

- This is a volunteer, unpaid position.
- EMTs and ambulance drivers are compensated per transport. The compensation rate is set by the City of O'Neill and O'Neill Rural Fire District #3.
- The City of O'Neill provides a \$10,000 life insurance policy for each member.
- The State of Nebraska Line of Duty Compensation Act provides a line of duty death benefit of \$250,000 beginning in 2022 and adjusted every year thereafter based on the Consumer Price Index.

Volunteer Application Checklist

To help guide you through the application process, listed below are items that must be included with your application.

- ___ Completed, signed Volunteer Membership Application.
- ___ Copy of current, valid Nebraska operator's license.
- ___ Copy of any certifications you hold (e.g., Firefighter I, EMT, etc.).
- ___ Signed Employer's Acknowledgement & Consent form.
- ___ Submit all documents via a method below:

Drop off at City of O'Neill offices

Mail or email to O'Neill Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

Hand-deliver to any OVFR officer

Application Process

Once your application is submitted, you can expect the following steps in the process. This process typically takes 1-2 months from your interview.

1. Your application will be reviewed by the Fire Chief and/or other officers.
2. A preliminary interview with the Fire Chief and/or other officers may be held.
3. If no preliminary interview is held and you meet the initial requirements, you will be notified to appear at OVFR's monthly meeting for an interview with the membership.
4. Following your interview, the membership will make a recommendation to the Fire Chief as to whether you should be admitted to OVFR. The membership's recommendation may be made at that meeting following your interview or at a subsequent meeting.
5. After receiving the recommendation of the membership, the Fire Chief will decide whether to admit you to the department or deny your application.
6. If the Fire Chief admits you to the department, your membership must be approved by the O'Neill City Council for you to be covered by the city's insurance. Even after your admission by the Fire Chief, you may not respond to emergency calls until approved by the city council.
7. Once approved by the city council, you will begin a six-months probationary period.



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Volunteer Membership Application

Full Name: _____

Nebraska Operator's License No.: _____

Residential Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Previous Address (for last 3 years if different from above):

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Cell Carrier: _____

Email Address: _____

Current Employer: _____

Please answer the following questions:

1. Are you at least 18 years of age? Yes _____ or No _____

1.a If no, what is your date of birth? _____

2. Do you possess a high school diploma? Yes _____ or No _____

2a. If no, do you have a GED? Yes _____ or No _____

3. Are you legally authorized to work in the United States? Yes _____ or No _____

4. Have you ever been convicted of a crime (felony or misdemeanor) or a moving traffic violation?

Yes _____ or No _____

5. Do you presently have charges pending against you for any crime or moving traffic violation?

Yes _____ or No _____

If you answered "Yes" to question(s) 4 or 5 above, please attach a detailed explanation.

Please check the position(s) for which you are applying:

Firefighter _____ EMT _____ Firefighter & EMT _____

Reason(s) for Applying: _____

Past Experience in Emergency Services: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Relationship to You: _____

I hereby affirm that this application contains no willful misrepresentation or falsifications and that this information given by me is true and has been completed to the best of my knowledge and belief. I do give permission to the O'Neill Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department to complete a background check on me. I am aware that should an investigation at any time disclose my misrepresentation or falsifications, that this may be cause for rejection and/or termination.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Note: Submit only the Volunteer Membership Application, the copy of your valid Nebraska operator's license, the Employer's Acknowledgement & Consent, copies of any certifications, and any explanation required for affirmative answers to questions 4 or 5 of the application. The remainder of the packet is for your information and should be kept for future reference.

Employer's Acknowledgement & Consent

I acknowledge that _____ is an employee of _____, and that I have been informed that he/she has applied to volunteer with the O'Neill Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department. I understand that, if admitted to membership with OVFR, my employee may be called upon to respond to emergencies during work hours. I consent to my employee volunteering with OVFR.

Signature of Employer

Date