

MOUNT ANGEL FIRE DISTRICT



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER INFORMATION PACKAGE

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Mt. Angel Fire District (MAFD) is to protect lives, property, and the environment through emergency response services.

This mission is achieved through highly trained and dedicated Professionals in:

- Fire Prevention
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Suppression
- Hazardous Materials
- Natural Disasters.

History of the MAFD

The Mt. Angel Fire District, then known as "Mt. Angel Fire Department", was formed after the 23rd legislature incorporated Mt. Angel as a city in 1905 and Fred Schwab became the first Mayor. Mt. Angel had a fire department in the 1890s, but the formal organization was put in place with a city government in 1905.

Over the years the organization has changed many times, the Mt. Angel Rural Fire Protection District was formed in 1946 and contracted for fire protection from the City of Mt. Angel in 1947. In November 2003, the decision was made to consolidate the City and Rural District into one District. Currently the District protects approximately 35 square miles with one station and roughly 40 volunteers.

Fire Service Funding

Fire Service in Oregon is generally funded in two ways:

- Special Districts, like the rural protection, are funded by property taxes.
- Municipal departments are funded through the general funds of the city which can be a mixture of property taxes, sales taxes, and other revenue sources.

MAFD is funded by property taxes. MAFD is a volunteer organization except for 1.5 positions.

Today's Fire Service

The fire service of today is one of the most diverse and challenging professions. This diversity inspires most men and women to enter the fire service, both as volunteer and career professionals. Today's firefighter is trained to extinguish structure and Wildland fires, provide emergency medical care, respond to hazardous materials accidents, and natural disasters.

Services Offered

The MAFD provides and offers the following community services:

- Fire Response
- Emergency Medical Services
- Rescue Response
- Wildland Firefighting
- Fire Safety Inspections
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Public Safety Education
- Community Events

We are proud of the service we provide to the community and rural district and conscientiously and continuously seek ways to improve these services.

Application Process

Pickup a volunteer application packet

The volunteer application is included in the volunteer information packet which may be obtained from our business office at 300 Monroe Street, Mt. Angel.

NOTE: You must be at least 18 years of age and either live or work in the fire district.

Complete the Mt. Angel Fire District Volunteer Membership Application.

The Membership Application is a two-part form and must be filled out completely and returned to the Station.

- Part one: The Application
- Part two: The Authorization to Release Information

Both forms must be signed and dated. Your application will be kept on file for six months; it will be your responsibility to update this as necessary.

Background Investigation

We will obtain background information on each applicant in two ways:

- Driving history checked through the Oregon Dept. of Motor Vehicles
- Background check will be performed.

Volunteer Firefighter Interview

An interview will be scheduled after the background information has been received. The interview will be held at the Fire Station and you will meet with a panel (typically 3 or 4) of active Volunteer Fire Firefighters.

The interview consists of a series of questions that allows us to get to know you a little better, and a question and answer session that allows you to ask any question(s) you want to ask. You will tour the station and get an introduction to the fire apparatus. The entire process typically takes 30 minutes.

Physical

Each Firefighter candidate approved by the Interview Committee will undergo a physical evaluation and drug screen to determine if the candidate can perform the essential functions of the position. This evaluation and drug screen is paid for by the Fire District and performed by our physician. Appointment as a Probationary Firefighter is contingent upon passing the physical evaluation and drug screen.

Acceptance as a Mt. Angel Volunteer Firefighter

Upon successful completion of the above items, you will be given a schedule of training dates and welcomed as a Probationary member of our team.

Position Description

General Duties

The position requires a high level of training for firefighting activities. Volunteers are required to learn and operate equipment and apparatus, and perform hazardous tasks under emergency conditions. This may require strenuous exertion in environments involving smoke, fire, heat and cramped surroundings.

The general duties of this position include:

- Firefighting
- Fire prevention
- Emergency rescue
- Emergency medical services
- Hazardous materials incident response

Other general duties of this position include:

- Attending and participating in weekly drills and classes which are designed to study techniques and procedures used in responding to and executing the tasks dictated by an emergency incident
- Attending monthly meetings

The duties are performed under the general supervision of the Fire Chief and other Officers of the Fire District.

Essential, Physical, and Mental Functions of the Position

In addition to those physical and mental functions required to perform the duties set forth above, this position requires the following:

- The ability to pass standardized SCBA fit testing.
- The ability to don full personal protective clothing and equipment.
- The ability to carry a ladder weighing approximately 75 pounds; raise and extend the ladder; assist victims down ladders; and carry fire hose and heavy equipment up and down ladders or stairs.
- The ability to move and advance a charged hose line into a burning building, while standing or crawling on the floor. The ability to hold a flowing hose line for long periods of time and to shut off a flowing line and maintain control of the hose line.
- The ability to enter a building under adverse fire conditions, that will include smoke, extreme heat, and no visibility, wearing full protective clothing and an air pack with face piece. The ability to search for victims (sometimes searching by feel only), walking or crawling; and if a victim is found, to drag or carry the victim to safety.
- The ability to work in high places, open places, and confined places.
- The ability to operate a power saw in awkward positions, as on a sloping roof, and/or cutting from a ladder.
- The ability to use a variety of tools to remove walls and ceilings, requiring pulling and pushing motions with arms extended overhead for long periods of time, or to forcibly enter a building.
- The ability to perform fire and emergency medical duties while exposed to extreme cold and/or wet environmental elements.
- The ability to operate power extrication equipment to assist in patient removal from motor vehicles.
- The ability to lift and carry patients over rough or uneven terrain for considerable distances.
- The ability to bend, strain, stretch, contort, push, pull, twist, carry, walk with weight, or lift to remove a victim from a motor vehicle and place the victim on a stretcher.
- The ability to drive a medic unit or large fire apparatus during the day and night, using depth perception and peripheral vision in emergency situations, in congested traffic, and in unsafe road conditions caused by factors such as fog, smoke, rain, ice and snow.
- The ability to complete firefighter emergency rescue functions and tasks which are very physically demanding over a period of time without breaks, recovering quickly when given a short break.

- The ability to respond to an alarm, and awaken from a sound sleep and transition to full activity and exertion in a matter of minutes.
- The ability to perform basic emergency medical functions, once trained, such as performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation for extended periods of time.
- The ability to provide emergency medical response, remain calm, and be exposed to various diseases.
- The ability to hear and orally respond to verbal orders, calls for assistance, and radio communications, as well as the ability to hear, identify, and appropriately respond to various sounds in an environment of substantial background noises, such as sounds produced by structural collapses, backdrafts, breaking glass, other firefighters, sirens, traffic, and victims. The ability to shout orders, warnings and responses when necessary.
- The ability to read, learn, and remember new and updated detailed complex information, such as hazardous materials information, medical information, or changes in policy or procedures. The ability to apply information in a logical and precise manner.
- The ability to identify hazardous material codes by color.
- The ability to communicate and interact with a diverse range of people and deal with verbal and physical confrontations.
- The ability to interview people and gather information on their medical history or circumstances surrounding an incident.
- The ability to prepare incident reports, inspection reports, and medical reports either by hand or computer, using proper, detailed descriptions, and appropriate grammar.

Volunteer Firefighter Requirements

All Mt. Angel Volunteer Firefighters must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a legal U.S. Resident.
- Possess a valid Oregon Driver's License and a good driving record.
- Be at least 18 years of age prior to being considered for membership.
- Live or work within the boundaries of the Fire District.
- Successfully complete the Mt. Angel Fire District Recruit Training Program.
- Pass a physical exam and drug screen provided by the designated Fire District Physician.
- Participate in a minimum of fifteen drills and/or alarms per quarter.

Experiences and Expectations

Being a volunteer firefighter is not for everyone. It is not for the meek or timid, or for those who lose control of their emotions in times of crisis. You need more than just a desire to help others. You also need courage and dedication, assertiveness and a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges. This job will test your diplomacy and psychological skills to the limit, as well as your ability to size up a situation and deal with it. You will experience a wide range of human emotions and responses and you will be expected to react calmly and professionally. You are expected to maintain a positive public image at all times. You will train constantly to meet these challenges.

What the Mt. Angel Fire District Provides For You

- A complete set of approved firefighting equipment
- Alarm notification paging device
- State certified training
- Worker's compensation coverage
- Life insurance
- Volunteer point system
- All necessary training materials
- Mt. Angel Fire District uniform
- Annual fundraisers and family activities

Recruit Firefighter Training

The Recruit Firefighter program is delivered during the first full year as a probationary member. The Recruit portion of training is designed to deliver the essentials of basic firefighting. Training includes:

- Fire District Orientation
- Fire Behavior
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operation
- Firefighter Safety
- Ground Ladders, Ropes, and Knots
- Hoses, Fire Streams, and Water Supply
- Small Handheld Tools
- Fire Extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Search and Rescue
- Salvage and Overhaul
- Communications
- Sprinklers and Building Construction
- Fire Prevention
- First Responder Training and Public Education.

All of these subjects must be completed to receive NFPA Accreditation as a Firefighter I. This level of accreditation is required by our Fire District and must be obtained during the probationary period. The next level of training consists of Emergency Driving and Apparatus Operations.

Written and practical evaluations will be administered to all recruits and must be successfully passed. Training is primarily held on Wednesday evenings. Other drills may be called as needed. Attendance at all drills is mandatory during the Recruit Academy and Probationary Year.

Mt. Angel Fire District Social Activities

The firefighters and EMTs are also members of the Mount Angel Volunteer Firefighter's Association. At the conclusion of your probationary term, you will be considered for membership into the Association. During probation, you will be included in all Volunteer Association activities and assigned to assist with one of the primary social functions held throughout the year.

January

- Annual Meeting (Members & Honoraries)

March

- Bosses Night (Members, Honoraries & Bosses)

May

- Memorial Mass (Members & Honoraries)
- Ladies Night (Members, Honoraries & Guests)

August

- Annual Picnic (Members, Honoraries & Families)

September

- Oktoberfest (Fundraising Event)

November

- Pancake Breakfast (Fundraising Event)

December

- Adult Christmas Party (Members, Honoraries & Guests)
- Little Kids Christmas Party (Members & Family)
- Big Kids Christmas Party (Members & Family)

Other Events

- Monthly Social Meeting (Mt. Angel Firefighters)

Commonly Asked Questions

What are the training requirements for a Volunteer Firefighter?

During probation, Volunteer Firefighters are required to complete State certified Basic Firefighter training, First Responder, and Hazardous Materials training. After these segments of training are completed, Volunteer Firefighters attend weekly drills to maintain and increase proficiency.

If I have prior Fire or EMS training, will it count toward the District training requirement?

The Training Committee will examine each individual's prior training records and evaluate them on a case-by-case basis. You will have to challenge or complete the District training course.

How does the training I receive at Mt. Angel compare to that of other Fire Departments?

The State of Oregon's Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) accredits the training program at Mt. Angel Fire District. All training is recorded and filed for each member of the Fire District.

What is the cost of required training?

The above required training is provided free of charge to all District Volunteers.

Do Volunteers receive any compensation?

Volunteers are awarded points based on their responses and the drills they attend. These points are used to determine a reimbursement that all Volunteers receive at the end of each quarter.

Can I specialize in ambulance work only?

You may wish to be more heavily involved in EMS; however, all personnel are encouraged to continue training as Firefighters to remain proficient.

How long is probation?

The probation period is twelve months. During probation, you will be evaluated on your training performance, fire ground performance, and your temperament during emergencies. You can be dismissed during this time and there is no right of appeal.

Is a physical exam required?

Yes. Each firefighter candidate approved for probationary membership will receive a drug screen, and a complete medical and physical evaluation to determine if the candidate can perform the essential functions of the position.

Please retain this packet for your information and **RETURN ONLY THE APPLICATION PORTION.**
For further information, please contact the Station at 504-845-2438.