



MONMOUTH JUNCTION VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER INFORMATION GUIDE

This document is intended to provide background information to those interested in joining our team.

Inside, you will find information on the history of our Department, our organizational structure, membership requirements and benefits, and an explanation of the application process.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a valued member of our Department and we look forward to hearing from you.

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FROM THE CHIEF & PRESIDENT

Dear Prospective Member,

Let us be the first to thank you for taking the first step to becoming a Volunteer Firefighter. The Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Department has provided fire and rescue services to the residents of South Brunswick Township since 1924, which couldn't be done without the dedication of individuals just like you. Without question, it takes a very special person to become a firefighter, and is a commitment that is not right for everyone. But for those brave few that are willing to take on the challenge, you will develop a sense of pride and satisfaction knowing that you are truly making a difference in your community.

Please take the time to carefully read this guide, which has been prepared with the intention of giving you information to help you decide if firefighting is right for you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you think of any questions as you read this document. Our contact information is listed on the last page.

Thank you for taking the time to review this document and we hope you will decide to join our organization.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith

Scott Smith, Chief

Clifford Seyfarth

Clifford Seyfarth, President

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

At a meeting of the *Monmouth Junction Red Sox* baseball team on August 8th, 1924, a discussion took place on the number of serious fires that had taken place in the area over the last two years and the idea of forming a fire company was brought up. Mr. J.J. Ryan, president of the *Red Sox*, set August 15th as the date of a meeting dedicated solely for the purpose of forming a fire company. At the meeting, a motion was passed to hold a meeting open to the entire town in Al Lewis' movie theater on New Road (now Pierson Street) on August 24th, 1924. Thirty-four men from the community attended this meeting. Those men became the charter members of the Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Company.



MJVFD's First Engine
1925 Brockway LaFrance
Soda & Acid Fire Engine

Fast forward to 2024, the Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Department provides fire and rescue services to approximately 30 square miles of the 42 square miles that make up South Brunswick Township. Our coverage area includes the villages of Monmouth Junction, Dayton, and Deans, and includes many different types of residential, industrial, and commercial properties.

South Brunswick Township is divided into three separate Fire Districts. Each fire district is governed by five elected Fire Commissioners, who are responsible for providing fire protection to their respective districts. Each district contracts with a volunteer fire department for this purpose. Fire protection in Fire District #1 is provided by the Kendall Park Volunteer Fire Company. The Kingston Volunteer Fire Company operates in Fire District #3. And the Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Department protects Fire District #2. Each Fire Department receives their funding for equipment and operating costs primarily through a fire tax assessed on each property within their district.

Nearly 100 years after the first meeting of the charter members, the Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Department operates out of two fire stations and maintains a total of eight pieces of apparatus, including several additional command and support vehicles. Although the times have changed, the Fire Department continues to provide exceptional service to the community with a 100% volunteer force.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Department is divided into two separate leadership structures; the Operations side, and the Executive side.

Led by the Fire Chief, the operations side is responsible for the emergency response aspect of the organization. Whether it is responding to a fire alarm activation, a motor vehicle accident with injuries, or a working structure fire, the Line Officers of the operations side provide the leadership to mitigate the incident in a safe and efficient manner.

The Executive side of the organization, led by the President, is responsible for the administrative functions of the Fire Department, including financial planning and other general businesses responsibilities.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In the event of an emergency, the Fire Department is dispatched by the South Brunswick Township Police Department, which is the 9-1-1 call receiving center for the town. Since we are a volunteer organization and do not have scheduled duty shifts or career personnel at the station at all times, all firefighters are issued a pager. Firefighters are alerted to an incident through a series of tones and voice message over this pager. Upon receiving a call, firefighters respond to their designated station, put on their protective gear, and respond to the emergency with other firefighters aboard the appropriate fire truck.



Over the years, the response capabilities of the Fire Department have changed. While we continue to respond to fire emergencies, we also respond to numerous other calls for assistance. These emergencies include hazardous materials incidents and rescue calls, such as motor vehicle accidents where we utilize the “Jaws of Life,” just to name a few.

From 2019 to 2023, the Fire Department responded to an average of 600 calls per year, with a record 631 calls in 2022.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

In addition to the sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing you are helping those that are truly in need, the Fire Department offers a number of other privileges and incentives to its members.

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** All protective equipment, including fire resistive coat and pants, boots, helmet, gloves, and protective hood, are provided to all members upon joining. All of this equipment is kept at the station on your individual gear rack and provides the highest level of protection available.
- **Training:** At a minimum, all firefighters in the State of New Jersey are required to successfully complete the Firefighter I program at a County Fire Academy. In addition to regular Department training, those firefighters wishing to further their fire/rescue knowledge and skills can take classes at the County Fire Academies as they become available. All classes are paid in-full by the Fire District.
- **Uniforms:** Upon completion of Firefighter I, all firefighters are issued badges and two uniforms. The Class B uniform, consisting of a matching short sleeve shirt and pants, belt, and pair of boots, is worn to various community and public relations events. Firefighters will also be issued the traditional fire service Class A (full dress) uniform.
- **In-Station Fitness Room:** The fitness room at Station #20 includes two treadmills, a cross-country machine, multi-station weight machine, and free weights, just to name a few. Use of the fitness room is available 24-7 and provides all members and their spouses a convenient location to exercise without the hassle or expense of joining a gym.
- **Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP):** For every year of active service to the community, the Fire District contributes \$2,070 (2024 contribution) to a 401k-style retirement plan, which is fully customizable by the member through Lincoln Financial Services.
- **Clothing Allowance & Monetary Incentive Plans:** Up to \$900.00 for those that qualify.
- **Insurance Coverage:** All members receive full on-duty worker's compensation and accidental injury coverage. In addition, each qualifying active firefighter also receives a \$25,000.00 life insurance policy.
- **College Scholarship Program:** Firefighters in good-standing, and their children, are eligible to receive up to \$2,000.00 in scholarships.
- **Other Benefits:** Members also receive various other benefits, including free clothing items such as t-shirts and hats, as well as invitations to various social events held throughout the year, including picnics, holiday parties and our annual installation dinner.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

All prospective candidates must meet certain criteria to be eligible to join the Fire Department, which is listed below. To remain an active member, all firefighters must maintain minimum requirements of participation. These minimum requirements are listed on the next page, along with an average of these requirements over the last 3 years.

➤ **Active Firefighter – Applicant Requirements:**

- Live or work within South Brunswick Township Fire District #2.
- Be at least 18 years of age and not to exceed age 50.
- Possess a valid NJ Driver's License.
- Possess a High School Diploma or GED.
- Pass routine criminal background check.
- Pass a medical physical performed by the Department Physician.
 - *Note: Complete cost of physical paid for by the Fire District*
- Payment of the Department Initiation Fee (\$10.00).
- Upon acceptance into the Department, serve probationary period for 12 months and complete an approved Firefighter I course within this period.

➤ **Junior Firefighter – Applicant Requirements:**

- Live in South Brunswick Township Fire District #2 or have a parent or legal guardian that is an active member of this Department.
- Be 16 or 17 years of age & submit copy of Birth Certificate.
- Submit Consent Form signed and notarized by Parent or Legal Guardian.
- Currently attending or have successfully completed High School.
- Pass routine criminal background check.
- Pass a medical physical performed by family physician.
- Payment of the Department Initiation Fee (\$10.00).
- Upon acceptance into the Department, serve probationary period for 12 months.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Upon joining the Fire Department, Active Firefighters must maintain the following criteria:
 - *Incident Responses:*
 - Respond to a minimum of 20% of all Department calls (24/7/365), **OR** 25% of a 3-Shift Selection (primary work shift removed).
 - Over the last 3 years, firefighters would need to have made approximately 106 of the 532 calls (approx. 9 calls/month) the Department averaged annually to qualify for the 20% requirement. OR, when removing the daytime work shift, firefighters would need to have made approximately 71 of the 284 calls (approx. 6 calls/month) the Department averaged annually to qualify for the 25% requirement.
 - Note: These two different calculations are done to make it easier for firefighters to meet the response requirement by not penalizing for calls missed while at work. Firefighters can make *either* the 20% or 25% requirement to meet the incident response criteria.
 - *Training Sessions:* Typically held on Thursday nights.
 - Attend 70%.
 - Over the last 3 years, the Fire Department averaged 24 drills per year.
 - This means each firefighter would need to have attended approximately 17 drills each year.
 - *Regular Department Monthly Meetings:* 2nd Thursday of every month.
 - Attend 50%.
 - 12 meetings per calendar year; must make at least 6 meetings.
 - *Worknights:* Typically held on Thursday nights.
 - Attend 50%.
 - Over the last 3 years, the Department averaged 12 worknights per year.
 - This means each firefighter would need to have attended approximately 6 worknights each year.

To remain an active member, junior firefighters need to attend 25% of worknights, 50% of meetings, and 50% of drills. There is no incident response requirement.

Please do not hesitate to ask for clarification when reviewing the membership requirements.

APPLICATION PROCESS SUMMARY

- Meet with Membership Committee Chairman, Fire District Coordinator, or their designee to review application process and membership requirements.
- Complete routine criminal background check by the South Brunswick Township Police Department.
- Schedule and complete physical exam with Department Physician and submit completed application paperwork. *Note: Complete cost of physical paid for by the Fire District.*
- Upon review of all paperwork and approval by the Membership Committee, the prospective candidate will be admitted to the Fire Department as a Probationary Member and be issued a pager, Operating Guidelines Handbook, and firefighter “turnout gear.” Those new members without previous firefighting experience will review the County Fire Academy course catalogs to enroll in an upcoming Firefighter I class.



CONTACT US

Physical Address:

Station #20 (Main Station)
573 Ridge Road
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Station #21
481 Georges Road
Dayton, NJ 08810

Mailing Address:

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P.O. Box 22
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852

Phone Number: 732-329-2001

Website: www.MJVFD.com **OR** visit us on *Facebook* at
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