

EXCELL TO PROTECT EACH OTHER

Training Program Description

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 10

Training Program Description

General:

The Training Program is divided into 3 elements. The District has an appointed Training Officer and Medical Officer that will provide you support. If you have question on the training program please contact for assistance.

Training Expectations:

The District expects each citizen that accepts an appointment as a Firefighter to meet the responsibilities of the position. The District operates on the philosophy that we must each take responsibility for our own training. Officers are there for your support. If you are not able to make required and or scheduled training you have a responsibility to notify the District office or your officer and initiate the make-up process. The ultimate goal of training is to provide you the necessary skills and knowledge to operate in a safe manner on the emergency scene.

Firefighting requires teamwork. Firefighters that neglect the training responsibility put their fellow firefighter at risk; therefore we are all counting on each other to protect us as we meet the public needs.

Training Program Elements

1. Initial Training
2. Skill Maintenance Training
3. Enhanced Training

Following is an explanation of each element.

Initial Training:

All members are required to have initial firefighter, medical and driver training. The District provides all the initial training at no cost to the Firefighter. The District only requires that you successful attend and complete the training. It is recommended that you complete the following training within you one year Probationary period. The initial training program includes the following elements.

1. Basic Firefighter 1 Module I and Module II - 80 Hours – 110 Hours

This training can be attained in two ways. Recruits can attend the Whatcom Recruit Academy and if that is not possible the District will conduct recruit training equal to the County program. Included in the training are basic firefighter skills, Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations level and 1st Aid, CPR. The training is conducted over approximately 8 weeks. During the 8 weeks there are two 3 hour evening training sessions and one or two weekend training sessions. In addition the recruits will attend the

State Training Academy on a Saturday and Sunday to complete search and rescue training and live fire training.

2. Basic Medical Training

The medical training includes one of two courses. The 1st Responder course is approximately 80 hour or the Emergency Medical Technician is approximately 120 hours. The training is normally scheduled similar to the basic firefighter training. With 2 weekday evening classes and one weekend training session.

3. Basic Driver Training:

Driver Training normally starts after the basic Firefighter Training. At the conclusion of the Basic Firefighter training an Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention program of 8 hours is required. Recruits will then team up with an officer of the District to practice driving around the District. After the Officer verifies training skills, you can be checked off and then must complete a classroom training and practical training on pump operations. At the conclusion of the drivers training and the pump training you can be certified as a Driver operator.

Skill Maintenance Training

The skill maintenance training is conducted at the Fire Department on Monday evening from 7:00 PM until 10:00 Pm. In some cases the training will start at 18:30 hours. The skill maintenance training will cover all the firefighter, driver operator and medical skills that were learned initially. The Firefighters have established a overall annual attendance for the district of 70%. For the protection of your peer firefighters please do your part to meet this goal.

The purpose of skill maintenance is to assure each firefighter operates safely and maintains the skills to accomplish the job. The District provides an annual training schedule. Much of the skill maintenance training is required and if missed may jeopardize you ability to respond as a firefighter. The required training can be made-up in some cases if you are not able to attend.

Enhanced Training: (Optional)

The enhanced training element includes new skills and education that you may attend. It is intended to enhance your capability to provide fire and life safety skills to meet the demands of emergency operations. Following are some examples:

1. Wild land Firefighting
2. Rope Rescue
3. Fire Investigation
4. Firefighting Tactics
5. Inspection