

## • Middlebury Fire Department •

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APPLICANT / NEW MEMBER INFORMATION - IF ATTACHED TO APPLICATION, PLEASE REMOVE & KEEP

***Thank you for your interest in joining the Middlebury Fire Department!***

• TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP: You are asked to obtain and completely fill out a Middlebury Fire Department (MFD) "Application for Membership". If one is not attached to this information sheet, an application can be downloaded from our website ([www.middleburyfiredept.org](http://www.middleburyfiredept.org)) or mailed to you – phone Mike Mayone of the MFD House Committee at 802-388-7401, or email him ([info@mikemayone.com](mailto:info@mikemayone.com)). To submit your application, you may hand-deliver it to any MFD officer, **or**, for the quickest processing, please (postal) mail the application directly to: **Mike Mayone, 8 Case St., Middlebury, VT 05753**

• Please indicate if you are applying for a position of Radio Dispatcher for *Station One* (downtown), or another position of specialized support. If you are interested in becoming a dispatcher or offering another form of specialized support, you will likely require a fraction of the training otherwise needed for firefighting.

**If there is no indication on the application, we will assume you are interested in becoming a FIREFIGHTER.**

• If accepted, you must comply with the MFD's requirement of a physical medical exam for each new member, to be completed and "passed". Annual physical exams are required for **all** members. This is for routine safety reasons and the cost is covered by the MFD. Good physical condition is a must for serious firefighting activity.

• You must be prepared to adhere to the Bylaws and Standard Operating Guidelines of the Middlebury Fire Department. A copy of these rules can be made available upon request (and is issued upon approval).

• If your application is accepted, you will serve your first year (approximately) on probation while completing the necessary training to move up to full membership. If the "*Firefighter One*" course isn't completed and passed within the first year, probation will usually be extended to allow time accordingly. During probation, you will be issued "turn-out gear" (fire coat, bunker pants, boots, helmet, gloves), which you will keep at the station, and a pager (fire radio receiver) to wear. Obeying all traffic laws, you are requested to respond to either Station 1 (downtown Middlebury) or Station 2 (East Middlebury) for all fire calls possible. Red (emergency response) light permits are **NOT** usually issued within the probationary period but *may* be issued by a chief officer after 6 months, under special conditions. When boarding an apparatus (fire truck) to respond from the firehouse, please understand that in *some* situations you may be pulled off a truck order to make room for more qualified personnel. An orange placard on your helmet will alert the officers present to restrict your participation in dangerous activities during your probation. At the scene, all members are required to report to the Staging Area for assignment. NOTE: you may train to drive fire apparatus if you are at least 21 years old but cannot become **certified** to operate apparatus unless your probation has been completed.

You will be required to attend all MFD monthly business meetings (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month, usually at 6:30 PM), all departmental training meetings (the last Wed. of each month, usually at 6:30 PM), and all special meetings and work sessions - unless excused by an officer. Listen for the 5 PM pager / radio test on Monday evenings for updates on upcoming events. Note that during "winter" months, October through March, dinner is prepared by committees of members and enjoyed at the monthly meetings; a \$5 fee per member is collected. **IMPORTANT:** should conflicts with training time arise, "*Firefighter One*" will take **priority** over departmental training, meetings, etc. During probation, the training requirements below must be observed.

• **Training Requirements:** As mentioned, you will be required to complete and pass the "*Firefighter One*" (FF1) course if you have not already taken it (or an equivalent course) before. The course is not difficult – sufficient time is allowed for you to become proficient and confident before proceeding to the next stage. The course **is**, however, somewhat lengthy. It *must* be to give you the knowledge and skills necessary to become an effective firefighter and carry out your duties as safely as possible. This course is REQUIRED by the MFD bylaws and is divided into two separate units, roughly *September through December* and *January through May or June*. There is ample open time during each unit to allow for holidays, hunting seasons and the like. You will meet once a week (usually Thursdays) in the evening, for about 3 hours each time (usually 7 to 10 PM), and an occasional Saturday. Total course time will be roughly 200 hours.

As mentioned earlier, there is additional departmental training on the last Wednesday of each month, usually at 6:30 PM (when not in conflict with the "*Firefighter One*" course). This drill time will allow you to become better acquainted with your fellow members, equipment, and department tactics and policies. Some of the best knowledge is gained by simply asking questions and discussing techniques and tactics during training drills. Please understand, there are no "dumb" questions... all members are happy to answer questions and assist new members in becoming better firefighters.

We sincerely **THANK YOU** for your interest in joining the Middlebury Fire Department!