

Garden Valley Fire Department

New Volunteer Recruit Packet



208-462-3175

373 S Middlefork Road
Garden Valley, ID 83622

If your neighbor screamed out in distress, would you help?

If you answered yes, you probably have what it takes. When the people in our community need our help, we answer the call. You can be an everyday hero.

The Garden Valley Fire Protection District is dedicated to safe-guarding lives and property through education, prevention, and response to all emergency incidents.

The Garden Valley Fire Department responds to medical, fire (structure and wildland), motor-vehicle accidents and rescue (search, rescue and recovery) operations throughout the entire 400 square miles of the Garden Valley Fire Protection District.



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Positions

The GVFD uses the term “firefighter” as a catch-all term. 90% of our calls are non-fire, most are medical calls. The remaining calls are vehicle accidents or rescues. We are an integrated department that encourages multiple discipline learning. We are also a second family and support each other. When firefighters are out fighting a fire, medical responders go on standby. During a medical call, firefighters respond as well to help secure the scene and keep medical providers safe and assist with patient care. While you can focus on a single discipline the dynamics of a scene may require you to help in other areas.

- Firefighter
- EMT
- Driver
- Engineer
- Auxiliary



Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Be physically able to perform the tasks. (No physical test required*)
- Must have an insurable driving record
- Must not be registered as a "Sex offender" nor have convictions of any crime involving moral turpitude or sexual offenses
- Be of good moral character

Compassion and composure are valuable traits. You must stay calm and professional throughout the call.

Beer Bellies are welcome but- you should be able to stand for long periods, carry 50 lbs for short spans and be able to bend into awkward positions (kneeling, bending, stretching). Jobs are assigned ad-hoc based-on abilities and needs. Nobody is expected to perform beyond their abilities- responder safety is always paramount.

Training classes are Wednesday night from 7-9 PM. While there are no hard requirements, you should be willing to spend about 10 hours per week for training and running calls.

Benefits

Without question, the greatest benefit is the reward of helping others, individuals and the community at large. Few other callings give you the sense of pride and fulfillment of a volunteer firefighter. Calls can be tough but coming home knowing you saved a stranger's life, provided comfort to a patient in need or helped protect the homes of you neighbors is a reward like no other.

Become part of a second family. Volunteers and their families have a close bond. You learn to trust and depend on each other. Spouses, children and family members of volunteers become like a second family. All volunteers are part of the Volunteer Association. The association provides funds for BBQs, events, rewards and more- as decided by the volunteers.

The Garden Valley Fire Department provides training free of charge. You will learn Wildland Fire Fighting, Structure Fire Fighting, Rope Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Ice Rescue and so much more. If enough students are available, EMT classes and testing are also provided.

Toys! Cutting a car with the jaws of life. Using a huge cross bow to shoot a safety line across a river. Sitting atop a fire truck using the deluge cannon to send hundreds of gallons per minute onto a fire. While these are tools for an important job, they are cool to operate.

Pay-per-call. GVFD offers a pay-per-call program. You won't get rich, not even close. The current pay (\$10 per call as of this writing) is enough to cover your gas and drinks/snacks while on a call. The average volunteer may make about \$100 per month.

What to Expect

The department understands that people have jobs, families and lives. Volunteers are not required to stay at the station.

Volunteers are issued a pager and later a radio. When 911 is called, dispatchers will issue a page. "Garden Valley EMS, please respond to 123 Main St for a 50 year old male with chest pains". Volunteers hurry (don't speed) to the station.

On average we respond to one call per day. There is no way to predict when or where calls will happen. A week may go by with no calls. We may have 10 calls in a single day. Calls might be in the middle of town at noon or up a logging road at 2am. Some calls last 5 minutes, others 5 hours.

***Warning!** People don't call 911 to report happy events. The same aspects that make the job rewarding make the job tough. You will see death. You will see graphic trauma. You will interact with people going through the worst moments of their lives.*

GVFD respond to all types of calls. We fight raging wildland fires in 105 degree heat and we perform ice rescues in the dead of winter. Day or night, sun or snow- we respond.

Are you ready to protect your community and save lives? Call or visit the station (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) to take an exciting first step and join us. We are excited and eager to meet you.

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