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## **Frequently Asked Questions about Becoming a Volunteer:**

### **What are the requirements to become a volunteer?**

Become enrolled and successfully complete a countywide Recruit Academy; **or** within the past year have successfully completed a Recruit Academy elsewhere with written proof of such; **or** have been active within the last year at a fire department elsewhere; **and** be able to demonstrate competency in the basic evolutions found in the WSP FFI Modules I and II.

### **What is the time commitment for the countywide recruit academy?**

180 hours total! Classes for the countywide recruit academy are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Do I have to be certified or have a degree?**

No! Once you have successfully completed the recruit academy and have demonstrated competency, you will be able to participate as a volunteer.

### **Do you accept applications all-year round?**

No! Our application process begins approximately four (4) months prior to the beginning of the recruit academy (which occurs in the spring) and applications will only be accepted during this time.

### **What are the requirements once I become a volunteer?**

To remain in good standing, each volunteer must attend 50% of the drills (which occur on Monday evenings) **and** respond to 20% of your stations 911 calls.

### **When do volunteers do their training (aka drills)?**

Volunteers train together on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. When Monday falls on a recognized holiday, drill night moves to Tuesday.

### **Do you provide an EMT certification course?**

No! Contact Lower Columbia College (LCC) for a schedule of EMT classes.

### **What fire station will I volunteer out of?**

Volunteers are assigned to one of the six (6) volunteer stations, depending on where you live.

### **What do I need to do to become a volunteer?**

The first step is to fill out a volunteer application during our open enrollment period. Information and details of this can be found on our website ([www.c2fr.org](http://www.c2fr.org)). When you return your application, you must include a copy of your complete five (5) year driving abstract (obtained through the WA State Dept of Licensing), a copy of your high school diploma or GED and a copy of your valid Washington State driver's license.

### **What's next?**

Once your initial application packet is accepted, a general knowledge written exam, workability's test and oral interview will be scheduled for all volunteer applicants coming into the department; which is done at the time of the recruit academy. Moving past the interview process, a background check, physical exam and drug screen (paid by Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue) are scheduled and must be successfully completed in order to become a member of Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue.