



Congratulations! By obtaining this application packet, you have taken your first step toward a rewarding and gratifying position as a member of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. The purpose of the following information is to aid you in making one of the most important decisions you will ever face: whether or not to become a volunteer firefighter. The organization asks a lot **from** its members, but the organization gives a lot **to** its members in return. Below is a brief history of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, membership requirements, and some general information.

HISTORY

The Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company was founded in 1905. Efforts to organize a fire company prior to that date failed because of squabbles among the organizers. But in 1905, after a fire broke out completely destroying the Oriental Hotel, locals found the need for a contingent of firefighters and put their differences aside. The Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company as we know it today was borne out of that need.

The company was first housed in the old Methodist Tabernacle; ironically, that building caught fire and was irreparable damaged. The company was then moved to the corner of Dorchester Street and South Baltimore Avenue until money could be raised for a permanent structure. Once built, that structure was used until 1928 (it now houses the Ocean City Beach Patrol Headquarters) when it was exchanged for the current location of Station #2, 102 Dorchester Street.

Just as the mighty oak grows from the lowly acorn, so too have we grown. From a few members and a hand-drawn hose cart, the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company has developed into a fleet of apparatus housed in five stations, operated by more than 200 professional men and women. The 75 members of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary support the Cadet corps as well as all aspects of the company's operations.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Applications will be accepted from any person 18 years of age or older. Those individuals between the ages of 14 and 18 are invited to join our cadet corps, of which a separate application is necessary.

You must reside within the old Tenth Election District/First Due Fire District boundaries to apply for active membership.

Those living outside of the aforementioned boundaries with previous fire training may apply for associate membership.

City employees with previous fire training may apply for contributing membership.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Once one of the avenues for application has been fulfilled, simply complete the application, criminal background check authorization, and return to the administrative coordinator at the headquarters building, located at 1409 Coastal Highway.

After contacting your references, conducting your criminal background check, and a physical examination, an attempt to contact you, at the telephone number you provided on your application, will be made by the corporate secretary. You will be invited to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors (monthly on the first Wednesday, commencing at 7:00 PM) for a personal interview.

After a satisfactory personal interview, and a majority vote in the affirmative by the Board of Directors, you will be given a conditional offer of membership. The next individual you will be contacted by will be a mentor, assigned to you by the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. This individual will set up a time and place to meet with you and explain the remaining steps in the application process, including:

- Medical Evaluation (at no cost to you)
- Rookie School
- MFRI Firefighter I (a 108-hour course in basic firefighting)
- Probationary Member Requirements Sheet
- Probationary Period and Points System

THE DEMANDS

Firefighting is an ultra-hazardous, unavoidably dangerous undertaking. However, today's firefighter is no longer simply called to extinguish fires. Today's firefighter is charged with mitigating a multitude of emergencies. Examples of these types of emergencies include, but are not limited to:

- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Confined Space Rescue
- High Angle Rescue
- Water Related Incidents
- Motor Vehicle Entrapment Rescue
- Assisting Emergency Medical Crews
- Machinery Rescue

These calls are in addition to the numerous hours spent in regular business meetings, committee meetings, company drills, in station stand-bys, advanced training, and performing collateral duties. The position of a volunteer firefighter in today's world of ever-increasing societal demands requires discipline and sacrifice. While your family is fast asleep at three o'clock on a cold February morning, you may be walking the floors of a north-end high-rise searching for the cause of a fire alarm activation. While your friends are out celebrating the world championship of your favorite sports team, you may be helping a person who is trapped in their vehicle because of a crash. While your Thanksgiving dinner is getting cold, you may be assisting a medic crew on a full cardiac arrest. Emergencies know no holiday. Nor do they show preference to time of day, weather, or personal plans. In short, you may be called to action at any time, and being a member of a volunteer fire company, who is going to answer the call if you do not?

THE REWARDS

While much is asked of you and your valuable time, many benefits are bestowed upon you for those sacrifices. A list of benefits follows:

- **Financial**
 - Uniforms
 - VFIS insurance
 - Live-In Program
 - Liability insurance
 - Worker's Compensation
 - Reimbursement of expenses
 - Firefighter's Assistance Fund

- Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)
- Tax forms to report volunteer-related tax information
- Point System based upon performance – state tax deduction

- **Recognition**
 - Social functions
 - Annual awards banquet
 - Certificates and plaques
 - Pins denoting years of service
 - Personal / Professional references
 - Letters of appreciation and recommendation

- **Personal Improvement**
 - Free training
 - Academic credit
 - Personal advancement
 - Employment experience
 - Leadership development
 - Member Assistance Program
 - Reimbursement for out of town training
 - Access to information about interdepartmental job openings

- **Intangibles**
 - Nice people
 - Free parking
 - Camaraderie
 - Casual Dress
 - Meet new people
 - Sense of belonging
 - Motivated leadership
 - High quality members
 - Help serve the community

- **Facilities**
 - Kitchen
 - Laundry
 - Showers
 - Sleeping
 - Great apparatus
 - Excellent equipment
 - Computer / Internet access
 - Place to wash personal vehicles
 - Place to service personal vehicles
 - Use of facilities for personal events

I sincerely hope this information has been of use to you in your endeavor to become one of Ocean City's Bravest. Should you decide to continue on your journey, I am confident that the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company will take you places you never thought possible, and help you discover values within yourself that you never knew existed. If I may ever be of service in any capacity, please do not hesitate to contact me. Until then, I remain as always,

Respectfully yours,

James L. Jester
President



ACTIVE
ASSOCIATE
CONTRIBUTING

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Address _____

Home Telephone Number (____) _____ Social Security # _____

Cell Telephone Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Age _____ Hgt _____ Wgt _____ Eye Color _____ Hair Color _____

Driver's License # _____ State _____ Class _____ Exp. _____

E-Mail _____

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current Employer _____ Job Title _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Full Time Part Time

Previous Employer _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Full Time Part Time

REFERENCES

May not be current members of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Name	Telephone	Years Known
1.) _____	_____	_____
2.) _____	_____	_____
3.) _____	_____	_____

MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS (Recommended – Not Required)

1.) _____	FF# _____
2.) _____	FF# _____

PREVIOUS FIREFIGHTING/EMS RELATED TRAINING

Include location and dates of relevant information

MEDICAL/CRIMINAL

Do you currently have any medical condition(s) that would prevent you from performing any firefighter duties?

YES NO If yes, explain:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime and/or do you have any criminal charges pending against you?

YES NO If yes, explain:

I hereby authorize the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to investigate any and all statements contained in this application. To the best of my knowledge, all statements and answers which I have given are true, correct, and accurate. I further understand that any misrepresentation or omission of facts may result in the nullification of this application and/or subsequent membership based on its contents.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____

DATE OF APPLICATION _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR COMPANY USE ONLY

DATE OF INTERVIEW _____

DATE OF 1ST MEMBERSHIP VOTE _____

DATE OF PROBATIONARY REVIEW _____

DATE OF 2ND MEMBERSHIP VOTE _____

PLATOON ASSIGNED _____

Background Check Affidavit
Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Ocean City, Maryland

I give the personnel so designated by the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. my permission to perform a check of my personal background to determine my suitability for membership in the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. I understand that any inaccurate, incomplete or incorrect information provided on my part will be grounds for rejection of my application and subject me to prosecution for perjury to the fullest extent of the law.

Furthermore, I certify that I:

1. Am able to speak, read and write English;
2. Have not had my driver's license or privilege to drive suspended or revoked in any state within the last three (3) years;
3. Have never been convicted of arson, murder, rape or robbery,
4. Have not been convicted of any felony within the past ten (10) years;
5. Have not been convicted of the sale of controlled dangerous substances;
6. Have not been convicted of a sex offense, indecent exposure, theft, assault, possession of controlled dangerous substances or paraphernalia, motor vehicle homicide, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or other crime of morale turpitude within the last ten (10) years;

I do hereby swear or affirm, under penalties of perjury, the information submitted with this application is true and correct.

Applicant Signature

Date

Notary Signature

Date

Notary Expiration/Lic # and/
or Seal

Notary County/State

Application Checklist

Please be sure that all portions of the Application for Membership are complete **BEFORE** returning.

- PERSONAL INFORMATION** section complete?
- EMPLOYMENT HISTORY** section complete?
- REFERENCES** section complete?
- MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS** section complete?
(if applicable – not required)
- PREVIOUS FIREFIGHTING/EMS RELATED TRAINING** section complete? (if applicable)
- MEDICAL/CRIMINAL** section complete?
- Application signed and dated?
- Background Check affidavit signed, dated, and **NOTARIZED**?
- CERTIFIED** copy of Driving Record attached? (Can be obtained online via MVA - for Maryland Licensed Drivers)
- COLOR** copy of Driver's License? (Business secretary can assist you with this if you submit in person at HQ between 9a-4p)