

Croton Falls Volunteer Fire Department

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Who provides fire protection to homeowners and businesses located within the Croton Falls Fire District?*

A: Fire protection in the Croton Falls Fire District is provided by the Croton Falls Volunteer Fire Department ("CFFD"). CFFD has two firehouses – one located at 1 Sun Valley Drive in Croton Falls, and the second at 301 Titicus Road in North Salem. The CFFD has sixteen (16) vehicles and boats (a/k/a "apparatus") ranging from chief's cars, engines, tankers and a ladder truck to a rescue truck, an all-terrain vehicle and general utility vehicles. Apparatus are divided between the two firehouses to ensure prompt response times and maximum protection for the fire district.

Q: *Who pays for services provided by the CFFD?*

A: All members of the CFFD are unpaid volunteers. Like you, members and their families live in or near the Town of North Salem (which includes the villages/hamlets of Croton Falls, North Salem and Purdys). Apparatus, firehouses and other equipment are paid for by the Croton Falls Fire District which is funded by a tax paid by residents within the fire district that includes the Town of North Salem and portions of the towns of Carmel and Southeast.

Q: *Does the CFFD provide services other than fire protection?*

A: The CFFD responds to almost 700 calls every year. Roughly half are fire related (e.g., actual fires, activated smoke alarms). The remaining consist of medical calls (e.g., injured/ill persons), motor vehicle accidents, flooded homes, and the occasional animal rescue. In addition to being trained as firefighters, many CFFD members are trained as Emergency Medical Technicians ("EMTs").

Q: *What are the requirements for joining the CFFD?*

A: Active members must reside or work within or close to the fire district, be at least 16 years old and be of good moral character. Members must also pass an annual physical exam (paid for by the fire district) and take annual safety training.

Q: *Do I have to go into burning buildings if I become a member?*

A: There are many roles to play in a fire department and all are important. Interior firefighters who enter burning buildings are backed by exterior firefighters and fire police officers. Each role is needed to ensure that fire operations are performed safely and that crews have the required support. You do not have to be an interior firefighter to perform a critical and important role in the CFFD.

Q: *What training will I receive if I join?*

A: We will train you at our expense. Members receive in-house training and training provided by the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services at its Fire Training Center in Valhalla. There is required training that all members must take to ensure they are capable of performing their duties safely and competently. Ultimately, the level of training required will depend on the role you choose in the department.

Q: *What time commitment is required from me if I join?*

A: Initially, being active in the CFFD requires a significant time commitment from members. We hold training drills on Monday nights that you should plan to attend on a regular basis. The number of calls you respond to and your involvement in other Department activities is up to you. We are all volunteers and have to balance the needs of work, school and family with those of the Department.

Q: *Why should I join the CFFD?*

A: The benefits are many. Joining the CFFD provides an opportunity to become more deeply involved with your community. You will be providing a critical service and will be helping fellow residents in times of great need. You also will be joining a team of dedicated men and women who are committed to supporting each other and serving the community. Also, surprisingly, being an active member is exciting and fun. You will respond to a variety of situations, develop new friendships and learn of capabilities you may not know you possess.

Q: *How do I learn more about becoming a member?*

A: Call the Chief's office at (914) 276-0627 or talk with a member you know. You also can find information about the Department on our website: www.crotonfallsfire.com. There are many opportunities to serve and we appreciate your interest.