



ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. # 1

P.O. BOX 786 | ESSEX, CT 06426

The Essex Fire Engine Company #1 is a 100% volunteer organization proudly serving the residents and businesses of the Town of Essex. In addition, we are called on to support surrounding towns for mutual aid calls. Established in 1833, the department was tasked with providing fire protection services to the town and have done so since that tie solely through the hard work of many dedicated volunteers. As time has passed and the town has grown, so have the demands on the organization. On an annual basis, the department responds to hundreds of requests for service. This does not take into account the many hours spent training, maintaining equipment and ensure we are in a constant state of readiness. In addition to providing fire protection, the department operates as one of the first responders in town for Emergency Medical Services. We provide rescue services on land, on water and even rescue the occasional cat from a tree.

One of the tools a firefighter uses when responding to fire calls is a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC). If the call is a fire alarm with no visible fire, we use the TIC to find any hot spots not easily visible. During a structure fire, it helps us see through smoke and monitor the fire's spread, so we can quickly extinguish fire and save lives. The TIC can also be used during the overhaul of a fire scene as it is useful in rapidly identifying hot spots and lingering embers to stop the spread of the fire. This minimizes the extent of additional damage that must take place to open walls, ceilings and floors to ensure complete fire extinguishment. Other uses for the TIC include:

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSES: Handheld TICs can be an extremely valuable tool for firefighters to use in conducting their initial and on-going size-up of a hazardous materials incident. Whether the liquid product is on the ground or on water, the TIC helps identify the exact location and potential path of spread allowing us to respond faster and more efficiently.

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES: When firefighters respond to motor vehicle crashes, especially at night, they can encounter many unseen hazards or problems. A TIC can be an effective tool for creating a safer working scene. The TIC identifies any spilled fuel or other hazardous material. It helps us locate any victims possibly ejected from the vehicle or any child who may have wandered away from the scene.

OUTDOOR SEARCH AND RESCUE: Increasingly, firefighters are called upon to assist in the ground search for missing adults or children. Because the TIC detects the heat produced by the human body, it enables the searcher using it to see through light foliage, into the shadows in heavily wooded areas and into the limited visibility caused by fog and other weather conditions.

We would like to outfit each Chiefs vehicle and replace the TICs on all of the apparatus. Total of 10.

The Essex Fire Department is a critical and integral part of our town of Essex. We provide top quality public safety services through a 100% volunteer organization dedicated to service.

100% Volunteer since 1833

BENEFITS TO MEMBERSHIP

WE NEED YOU!

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. # 1

100% VOLUNTEER

Benefits to membership in Essex Fire Engine Co. #1

- Join a tradition of volunteers since 1833 and serve your community
- Gain skills you can't learn elsewhere
- Free Training on your schedule
- Make new friends
- Being a part of a global brother/sisterhood
- Partial property tax abatement*
- Monthly pension* (vests after 10 years of service)

*Minimum annual service requirements apply to pension and tax abatement. Ask us for more information.



Join us if you are interested in:

- Firefighting
- Emergency Medical Care
- Driving Firetrucks
- Ice and Marine Rescues
- Giving back to your community
- Teaching public safety and education
- Specialized Training



membership@essexctfire.com
essexctfire.org/membership

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Volunteers since 1833

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Interested?

Contact us at:

membership@essexctfire.com

MEMBERSHIP FAQ's AND APPLICATION:

essexctfire.org/membership

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:

facebook.com/essexctfire

WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?

Volunteers of any experience level, age 15 or older are welcome.

No experience? No problem. Most of our members started with no experience. The department provides all necessary training at no cost to members.

Junior members are also welcome (age 15 to 17). Junior members are limited on the emergency scene (i.e. they cannot perform interior structural firefighting) but they gain valuable experience and training.

There are no verbal or written exams necessary to join. Each new applicant is just required to have a physical and background check completed as part of the membership process.



Misconceptions about volunteer firefighters

Misconception #1: I don't work in town or I don't have a flexible schedule. I can't respond to calls 24/7.

Fact: While some of our members do work in town, many work outside of Essex and only respond to calls when not working or not busy with other organizations and activities.

We tell our members that their priority should be family first, job second, and the department last.

There are no shifts or set schedules that volunteers must attend. Volunteers for Essex respond when they are able and available.

We just ask that members make every effort to make a percentage of the calls, training, and other events over the course of the year.



Misconceptions about volunteer firefighters

Misconception #2: There aren't that many fires these days, why does the fire department need more people?

Fact: The Essex Fire Engine Company does much more than put out fires. We serve the community in a number of other ways such as community outreach, education and medical. We even support surrounding towns with mutual aid for larger events.

These days, the number one call is for medical emergencies. While Essex also has a separate ambulance squad, the fire department is routinely dispatched to medical emergencies, since we can respond directly from our homes to the emergency and provide life-saving care.

In 2019, we were very busy with over 500 calls of which 351 were medical, 102 were fire (or fire alarms), and 69 were other public service calls. So, we can use your help!

Contact us at:

membership@essexctfire.com

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essexctfire.org/membership

