

RECRUIT NY:

As part of National Volunteer Week, many fire departments will open their doors for the annual RecruitNY recruitment-based open house event. They will provide materials and information regarding volunteerism to interested parties. Those interested are encouraged to contact their local fire station to see if they are participating in the recruitment drive.

Where: Your local fire department

When: April 21 and 22

To find your local fire department, contact your county's Emergency Management Office.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Broome - (607) 778-2170

Cayuga - (315) 255-1161

Chenango - (607) 337-1862

Cortland - (607) 753-5064

Tioga - (607) 687-2023

(visit the website recruitny.org for more information.)

DID YOU KNOW?

Outside of NYC, an estimated 95% of all firefighters in New York are volunteers and the state has an estimated 97,000 volunteer firefighters.

Of the more than 1,100 ambulance services in New York, the vast majority are volunteers, and the state has about 33,000 volunteer EMS responders.



Did you know that there are almost 100,000 volunteer firefighters in New York, and the large majority of fire prevention and protection services are provided by volunteer forces?

Dear Neighbor,

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service providers are the protectors of our communities. When disaster strikes, in an overwhelming majority of circumstances, those who respond will be volunteers who donate their time and risk their lives for their friends and neighbors.

These volunteers provide services worth an estimated \$7 billion. Without them, localities would be burdened with even more financial responsibility, and local tax bills would skyrocket for residents and business owners. Therefore, not only do we owe them a debt of gratitude for keeping us safe, but we must also be thankful for the substantial financial liability that they help to minimize.

Unfortunately, many communities are facing a dire shortage of volunteer personnel. However, recruitment and retention efforts are underway, and there are a number of benefits that are available to volunteers, including the following:

- College Tuition Reimbursement,
- State Income Tax Credit,
- Real Property Tax Credit,
- Option to join Local Government Health Insurance Plan, and
- Length of Service Award Program.

Additionally, I'd like to encourage you to visit your local fire department on April 21 or 22 in order to learn more about volunteering. Please inform friends or neighbors who may be interested to inquire as well.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Gary D. Finch

A S S E M B L Y M A N

Gary D. Finch

New York State Assemblyman 123rd District

448 Legislative Office Bldg. • Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-5878

69 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021

(315) 255-3045

A S S E M B L Y M A N

Gary D. Finch

New York State Assemblyman 123rd District

Supporting The Southern Tier &
Finger Lakes Regions'

Emergency Responders



"In times of Emergency, We Can Count On Their Protection"

A S S E M B L Y M A N

Gary D. Finch

New York State Assemblyman 123rd District

They're just like the rest of us – normal people doing everyday jobs. But then they give so much more.

Volunteer emergency responders provide a vital service to our communities. They provide protection and are there to help us in times of emergency.

Supporting The Southern Tier & Finger Lakes Regions'

Emergency Responders

"In times of Emergency, We Can Count On Their Protection"

Why Should You Join?

In many New York State municipalities, emergency services are provided by volunteers, and communities are in need of assistance as volunteerism throughout the country decreases. Volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel save their communities a significant amount of money. Without new volunteers, many fire and EMS districts will be left with a lack of help. With so many areas relying on volunteers to provide emergency services, any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Besides the camaraderie that you will develop with fellow volunteers and the gratifying experience you will feel helping your

community, there are a number of benefits that volunteers are eligible to receive.

Once you meet the membership requirements and complete the required probation or training needs, you'll be eligible for social and organizational benefits, company and state-sponsored training, injury compensation, and often retirement benefits as well.

Volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who are active for the entire tax year are eligible to receive a volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker credit or real property tax exemption.

How Can You Help?

If you'd like to pursue a rewarding career as a volunteer firefighter, or would like to find out more about how you can help, you can call 1-800-FIRELINE or contact your County Fire or EMS Coordinator (numbers in Contact Information).

To learn about EMS training, go to <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/training.htm>.

