



## **Benjamin Franklin Firefighter**

### **History of Volunteer Firefighting**

- Benjamin Franklin established the first volunteer fire department in Philadelphia in 1736.
- The first volunteer firefighter was Isaac Paschall of “The Union Fire” company created by Benjamin Franklin. The fire brigades had 30 volunteer firefighters.
- Some famous Americans who served as volunteer firefighters were: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, John Berry, Aaron Burr, Benedict Arnold, James Buchanan, and Millard Fillmore.
- In 1818, women began serving as firefighters. The first recorded female volunteer was Molly Williams, a black slave.



Ohio Department of Public Safety  
Division of Emergency Medical Services  
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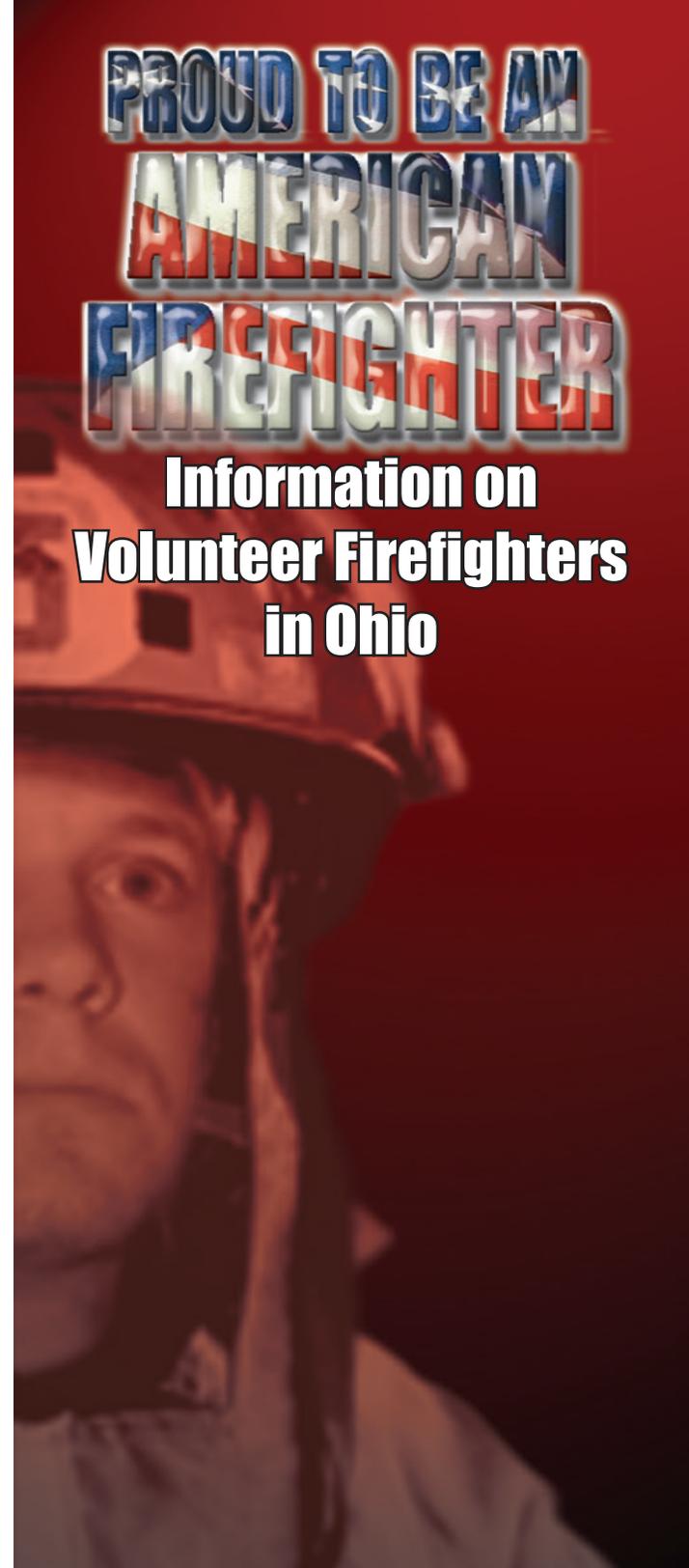


[WWW.PUBLICSAFETY.OHIO.GOV](http://WWW.PUBLICSAFETY.OHIO.GOV)

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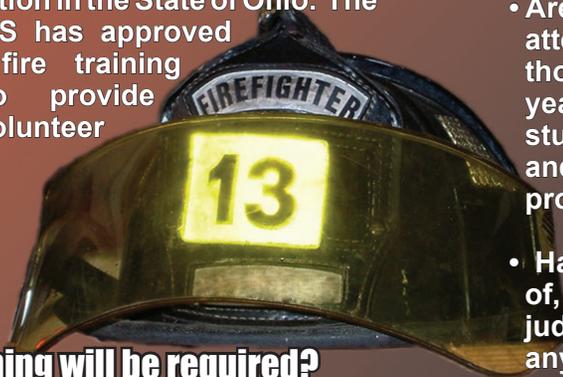
# **PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER**

## **Information on Volunteer Firefighters in Ohio**



# HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER IN OHIO

The Division of Emergency Medical Services establishes the training requirements to receive certification in the State of Ohio. The Division of EMS has approved 65 chartered fire training institutions to provide training for volunteer firefighters.



## What training will be required?

Your local volunteer fire department is in need of volunteers that are willing to take a 36-hour fire training course through the local chartered fire training program that will give you hands-on, practical and class lectures covering the basics of firefighting. The topic areas covered are:

- Fire Department Organization and Safety
- Fire Behavior
- Overhaul
- Personal Protective Equipment/SCBA
- Fire Hose, Appliances, and Streams
- Rescue
- Water Supplies
- Ventilation and Tools
- Ground Ladders

## Admission Requirements for Volunteer Fire Course.

- Are 18 years of age and are not attending high school, except those students who are 17 years old provided that the student is enrolled in the 12th and final grade in a secondary program.
- Have not been convicted of, plead guilty to, or had a judicial finding of guilt for any of the following:
  1. Fraud or material deception in applying for, or obtaining, a certificate issued in accordance with this chapter;
  2. A felony;
  3. A misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
  4. A violation of any federal, state, county, or municipal narcotics law;
  5. Any act committed in another state that if committed in Ohio, would constitute a violation.



## Contact Information If Interested in Becoming a Volunteer Firefighter

- State of Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal Ohio Fire Line at 1-800-FIRELINE.
- State of Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services at 1-800-233-0785 or [www.ems.ohio.gov](http://www.ems.ohio.gov).
- Your local fire department will be able to get you the information to get started in serving your community.
- Your local chartered fire training institution.

## Facts on Volunteer Firefighting

- Volunteers comprise 73% of firefighters in the United States.
- Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$36.8 billion per year.
- Recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters is the key issues in Ohio volunteer departments. Volunteer firefighters in the U.S. has decreased 5-10% since 1983.
- From 1980 to 2002, total calls almost doubled and mutual aid calls tripled.
- There are over 1300 fire departments in Ohio with 77% of those being volunteers.

