

Yankton Volunteer Firefighter

Job requirements and expectations

All applicants must be between twenty-one (21) and forty-five (45) years of age.

Selected applicants will have a scheduled interview with the Yankton Volunteer Fire Department Executive Committee

As part of the interview process, applicants will perform a standard physical ability test. This test will include (but not be limited to) donning firefighter structural bunker gear, donning a self-contained breathing apparatus with facemask, carrying a hose pack for a minimum of 50 feet, and climbing a ladder while wearing gear.

If selected to become a member of the department, the candidate will be required to pass a physical exam with a physician at the Yankton Medical Clinic. The cost of the physical exam will be incurred by the Yankton Volunteer Fire Department. All firefighters must then submit to a physical exam on an annual basis.

The candidate will be required to attend and complete South Dakota firefighter classes, which will be held at the Yankton Fire station. Dates and times of the training will be determined according to several factors, including the convenience of the new candidates and instructor's schedules, an appropriate timeline, and any other necessary factors.

Each candidate will be secretly voted on for acceptance by the entire active body of firefighters after six months of employment. The candidate must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote in order to continue his or her 12-month probationary period. If the candidate does not receive the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, they will be dismissed from the fire department immediately.

All firefighters are expected to attend as many meetings and regular training nights as possible. Nearly every Monday night is set aside for fire department activities, according to the following schedule:

1st Monday of the month: Executive committee meeting at 7:00 PM. The executive committee consists of the fire chief, deputy chief, first assistant chief, second assistant chief, four (4) fire department captains, three members-at-large voted in on an annual basis, and the four (4) officers of the firefighter's association, including the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

2nd Monday of the month: Fire department training drill at 7:00 PM.

3rd Monday of the month: Fire department business meeting at 7:00 PM.

Last Monday of the month (4th or 5th Monday, depending on how many Mondays in the month): Fire Department training drill at 7:00 PM

Firefighters are also expected to participate in special events, including the annual fire department open house, fire prevention week activities, the annual fire department dance, dance ticket pre-sales, boss appreciation supper, retired firefighter's supper, and any other events that may be scheduled during the year.

Firefighters should make every effort to attend as many fire calls as possible, regardless of the time of day or the nature of the call. An ideal situation would be to have the firefighter's regular employer allowing the firefighter to leave during working hours to respond to fire calls.

Firefighters may respond directly to the scene of a fire in their personal vehicle if the call is in the Yankton city limits. For all motor vehicle accident calls and for all fire calls outside of the city limits, firefighters will respond to the closest appropriate fire station. This could be Station One at 5th Street & Douglas Avenue, Station Two at 23rd Street and Cedar Terrace, or the Lake Station on Highway 52 just west of 435th Avenue. When responding to a fire call, firefighters are allowed to flash a blue emergency light in their vehicle, *but are expected to follow and obey all traffic laws and signals while responding*. Firefighters responding directly to the scene should have appropriate turnout gear with them.

All firefighters are paid \$10.00 (ten dollars) for each fire call they respond to. In addition, firefighters are paid \$10.00 (ten dollars) for each training drill they attend. Paychecks are issued annually, at the November business meeting.

New candidates must always keep in mind that they are on probation for twelve (12) months, and must obey proper orders given to them by other firefighters. New candidates are considered fresh to the department and likely will not be placed on the rescue truck or any first-out fire trucks until they have passed the current South Dakota Certified Firefighter course and have been a member for at least six months. Previous experience or status with any other fire department is irrelevant in the training process and probationary period of the Yankton Volunteer Fire Department.