

Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department

Requirements for Membership (Revised 2.25.10)

Eligibility. Any person of good character, in good health, and at least eighteen (18) years of age and who has for at least two (2) years resided in the area served by the corporation, and who has met the standards of the current application form, shall be eligible for election to probationary membership, provided a vacancy exists. The Chief shall have the power to waive the two-year residency requirement at his discretion.

Membership Limitation. The number of active duty members shall not exceed thirty-five (35). If no vacancy exists, any eligible person who has been proposed for membership shall be placed on a waiting list kept by the Secretary.

Election to Membership. A proposed member must be sponsored by three (3) active duty members and must attend at least four (4) meetings of the corporation as a guest. Two business meetings and at least 4 trainings are recommended. Application must be filled out 2 weeks prior to election. Sponsors need to sign and present to chief with their approval. Election requires a simple majority vote of the active duty members. Election shall be at a regular business meeting by secret ballot. A Live Scan Test (paid for by the department) is mandatory within two weeks of being voted in as a new probationary member.

Probationary Status. A probationary member must attend at least twelve (12) training meetings and four (4) regular meetings of the corporation during the six (6) month probationary period. If the unusual circumstances exist, the probationary member may seek an equivalent alternative arrangement which satisfies the intent of these requirements and which meets the approval of the department Chief and the Training Officer. If these requirements are not met, the probationary member shall be disqualified in writing by the Secretary. The probationary member may speak at meetings, but shall have no vote. The probationary member's sponsors shall orient the probationary member concerning equipment, policies and operations of the corporation. The probationary member shall be familiar with methods of fire fighting and control to the satisfaction of the Training Officer and Chief prior to be eligible for active duty membership.

Active Duty Membership. The requirements of an active duty member are as follows:

- (a) Minimum attendance of fifty percent (50%) of all weekly training meetings.
- (b) Minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) response to all emergency calls.
- (c) Maintenance of a current CPR card.
- (d) Maintenance of a current first responder's first aid card.
- (e) Maintenance of a Class B driver's license (the special license required to operate fire apparatus), or EMT certification, or successful graduation from the Firefighter Academy.

(f) Maintenance of current fire department standards for immunization.

(g) Completion of the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC).

The Training Officer is responsible for ensuring that all active duty members are in compliance with these requirements. The Chief shall review the records of each active duty member twice per year to ensure compliance with the above requirements. Members who are not in compliance with these requirements will be notified at six month intervals. Two consecutive notices will be cause for removal from active duty status and placement on the reserve list at the discretion of the Chief. Any member performing strictly clerical or radio work is exempt from the above requirements.

Most of the training is done on regular drill nights, Wednesdays 1900-2100 hours.

Firefighter training is ongoing throughout the year. In addition, there are opportunities to train in Cliff Rescue and Ocean Rescue. Riggers meet the second Tuesday of each month at 1800 hours and Ocean Rescue Boat Operator/Crew meets the first weekend of each month. Days and times vary based on tides.