



# Isn't this where you want to be?

- *Challenge, adventure, excitement*
- *Contribute to your community*
- *Great training*
- *Strong sense of accomplishment*
- *Be part of the team*

**Did you know?** When emergencies happen, our community depends on ***people like you!***

***In Meadow Lake, as in most communities, volunteers drop what they are doing - at home or at work - to respond to fires, motor vehicle collisions, rescues and many other types of incidents.***



***The fire and rescue service is one of the most diverse and challenging professions imaginable.*** It is this diversity that inspires many men and women to enter this profession. Imagine having to train for situations such as building fires, hazardous chemical spills, medical emergencies, vehicle crashes, wildfires, ice rescue and almost any other emergency situation. These challenges must be met by committed firefighters who respond to calls day or night, in rain or snow, under stressful circumstances. All of these factors contribute to a personally rewarding volunteer experience and a great sense of accomplishment.

***If not you . . . then who?***

**You need to have more** than just a desire to help people and to give back to the community, though. You also need courage, dedication, and a willingness to learn new skills and face new challenges. The fire and rescue service is not for the timid, nor is it for those who lose control of their emotions during times of crisis. We perform hot, sweaty, dirty, strenuous work, often in uncertain and hazardous environments. The personal rewards and satisfaction received from the fire and rescue service are often beyond description. Accomplishment, compassion, gratitude and fulfillment are only a few of the words firefighters use to describe their feelings about their profession.

## **Requirements**

- Class 5 Drivers License
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Ability to understand and communicate in English (written and oral)
- Physically and mentally able to perform the tasks/duties of the job
- Able to commit to training and respond to emergency calls
- Live and/or work in the response area
- No conviction of a criminal offense
- Favourable references

## **Responsibilities**

- Attend training
- Work as part of a team to respond to emergency situations
- Protect citizens in times of crisis
- Perform the duties of emergency responder, fire suppression, and public education as assigned
- Learn the skills of an emergency responder
- Respond to a broad range of emergency situations
- Provide lifesaving first aid care
- Be a community role model
- Upgrade and maintain skills, knowledge and physical fitness
- Help maintain fire station and firefighting equipment

***If you are not physically able to become a firefighter, your talents are still welcome in fire prevention, youth programming, radio communications, fundraising, community volunteering and other roles as a member of the Auxiliary.***

***If not you . . . then who?***

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **When are training nights?**
  - Fire Practice is Tuesday nights
- **What is the MLFD's call volume?**
  - The department typically responds to more than 120 calls each year.
- **How do you know when there is a call?**
  - Firefighters are dispatched to emergencies via cellphone apps and text messages, and respond to the fire hall when alerted.
- **Why become a firefighter?**
  - There are many reasons to consider joining MLFD. For starters, it's fun! It's also a great way of contributing to your community. You will learn many new skills, and experience things you never would otherwise. Plus, you'll make new friends that you're likely to have for the rest of your life.
- **Who can become a firefighter?**
  - Just like the communities they come from, MLFD is made up of people from all walks of life. There are men and women from all cultural backgrounds, age groups and professions. As long as you're over the age of 18, you can apply to join as a volunteer. Interested, committed youth may become junior firefighters and take part in training along with the crew.
- **I'm not sure I have the time...**
  - The time commitment is significant. Regular members practice 3 hours every other Tuesday evening. Additional training is scheduled at various times, often on alternate Tuesday evenings or on weekends. We also provide a variety of volunteer services to the community. And, of course, there are the emergency calls, which can be brief or prolonged and completely unpredictable.
- **How do I become a member?**
  - The process is easy. First, pick up an application form at the fire hall or city hall.
  - Once you've filled out and submitted an application form along with a criminal record check and a driver's abstract, you'll be invited to an interview. If successful, you will be invited to begin training as a probationary member.
- **What kind of training is there?**
  - If you're accepted as a volunteer, you'll have to complete the MLFD recruit training program. This program will teach you about the fire service, safe work, the equipment we use and how we deal with fires and other emergencies. More advanced training follows, and the training continues indefinitely. Most training is conducted locally, at the fire hall and also online.
- **What are the physical requirements?**
  - Firefighting can be strenuous and requires good physical fitness. Members need to be able to raise ground ladders, hoist equipment, climb stair wells, drag water filled hose lines, swing axes, operate equipment and perform myriad other tasks, all while under the stress of an emergency situation and wearing up to 40 lbs of personal protective equipment.
- **Are there opportunities for advancement?**
  - Yes! You can advance through the officer ranks, first becoming a Lieutenant. You can become an Instructor, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, Technical Rescuer, Public Educator, and more! Also, many of our recruits have gone on to full-time emergency services careers in EMS, Policing and fire departments.
- **What if I want to know more?**
  - Talk to members of the department or stop by the Fire Hall. You can also contact us for more information. Email: [firechief@meadowlake.ca](mailto:firechief@meadowlake.ca)

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