

What is a fireman?

He is the guy next door - a man's man with the memory of a little boy. He has never gotten over the excitement of engines and sirens and danger.

He is a guy like you and me with wants and worries and unfulfilled dreams.

Yet he stands taller than most of us.
He is a fireman.

He puts it all on the line when the bell rings.

A fireman is at once the most fortunate and the least fortunate of men. He is a man who saves lives because he has seen too much death. He is a gentle man because he has seen the awesome power of violence out of control.

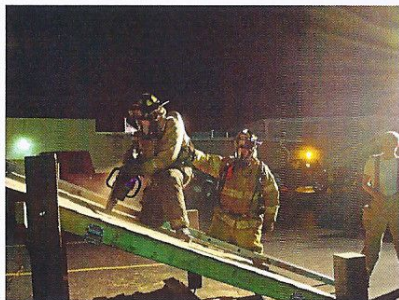
He is responsive to a child's laughter because his arms have held too many small bodies that will never laugh again.
He is a man who appreciates the simple pleasures of life - hot coffee held in numb, unbending fingers - a warm bed for bone and muscle compelled beyond feeling - the camaraderie of brave men - the divine peace and selfless service of a job well done in the name of all men.
He doesn't wear buttons or wave flags or shout obscenities.

When he marches, it is to honor a fallen comrade.

He doesn't preach the brotherhood of man.

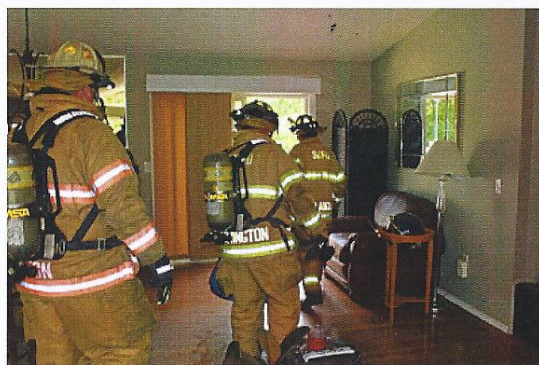
He lives it.

Author unknown



WHAT IF
NO ONE ANSWERED THE CALL?

CAN YOU FILL THIS UNIFORM?



It takes a special person to fill the uniform of
a VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER!

It takes someone with a desire to do something important for the community; someone with courage and dedication, who isn't afraid of hard work, who is willing to leave a hot meal and a good night sleep at a moments notice and accept the challenge of a difficult job.

"DUTY" IS DOING IT.
"PRIDE" IS WEARING IT.
"TRADITION" IS LIVING IT.
BY: ED J. ENRIGHT



**SERVING WITH
FEARLESSNESS PRIDE &
DEDICATION**

**SOUTH WHEATLAND FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

1851 S TAYLORVILLE ROAD
DECATUR, IL 62521

(217) 429-1031
(217) 429-4236 (FAX)

Are You Up for the CHALLENGE? Become a Volunteer Firefighter!

DEAR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

RECRUITMENT IS A MAJOR ISSUE WITH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND OURS IS NO DIFFERENT. NEARLY 75% OF ALL FIREFIGHTERS IN THE U.S. SERVE AS VOLUNTEERS, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS CONTINUE TO DWINDLE.

IN 1992 THE SOUTH WHEATLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT RAN 62 CALLS WITH A ROSTER OF 27 MEMBERS, 10 YEARS LATER THE DEPARTMENT RAN 122 CALLS WITH A ROSTER OF 18 MEMBERS. OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES RELY HEAVILY ON VOLUNTEERS AS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE FOR MANY DIFFERENT EMERGENCIES INCLUDING FIRES, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SITUATIONS, NATURAL DISASTERS, VEHICLE COLLISIONS AND RESCUE CALLS. THE SOUTH WHEATLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IS COMPRISED OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES EVERY DAY AND NIGHT WITH GREAT PRIDE SO THAT YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS CAN REST ASSURED.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE CONTINUE TO FACE STAFFING ISSUES. WE NEED MORE MEMBERS SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. WE PROMISE A LIFETIME OF REWARDS AND PERSONAL SATISFACTION.

REQUIREMENTS

- RESIDE WITHIN THE ORIGINAL OR CURRENT BOUNDARIES OF THE SOUTH WHEATLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 18 YEARS OF AGE
- PASS A BACKGROUND & DRIVERS RECORD CHECK
- HAVE NO FELONY CONVICTIONS
- POSSES A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE
- OWN AND MAINTAIN A PROPERLY LICENSED AND INSURED MOTOR VEHICLE.

FIREFIGHTERS

FIREFIGHTERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FIRE CALLS RANGING FROM STRUCTURE FIRES TO FIELD FIRES TO CAR FIRES. FIREFIGHTERS ALSO RESPOND TO MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS, HAZ-MAT INCIDENTS, AND ALL RESCUE CALLS. MEMBERS ARE PROVIDED WITH EXTENSIVE TRAINING AT NO COST TO THE FIREFIGHTER. THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES MEMBERS WITH THE LATEST IN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT TO INSURE MEMBERS SAFETY.

EMS

EMTS & FIRST RESPONDERS OFFER THE COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CARE AT THE BASIC LIFE SUPPORT LEVEL. MEMBERS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A LICENSED EMT. EMTS NOT ONLY PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO THE PUBLIC, BUT ALSO RESPOND TO VEHICLE COLLISIONS, CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS, AND ASSIST FIREFIGHTERS AT STRUCTURE FIRES.

