

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

ExNoRa

(VFS)

called shortly as



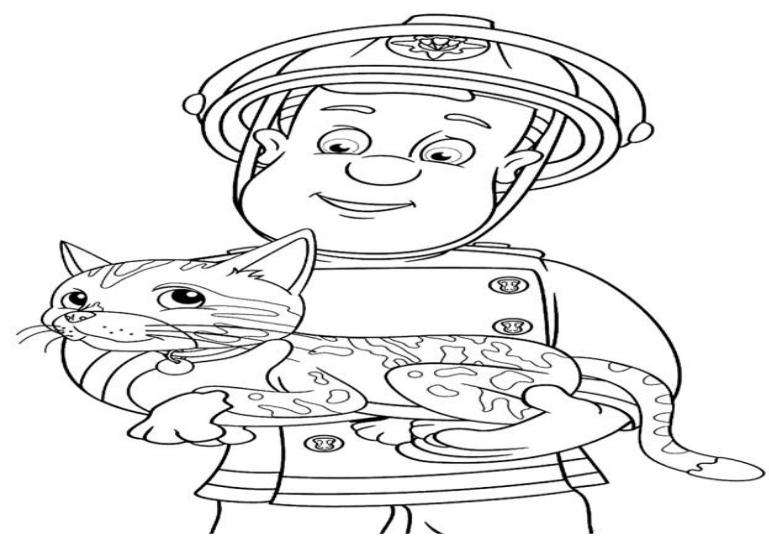
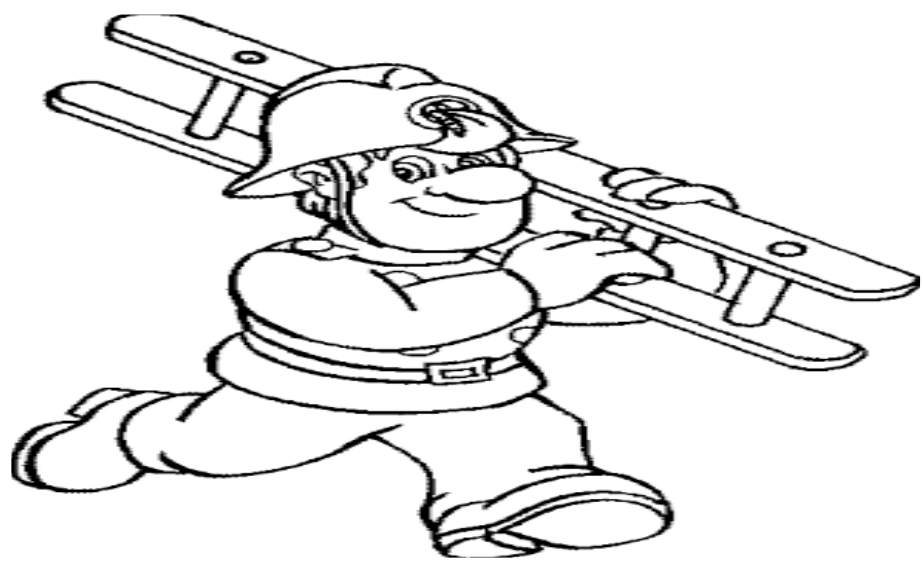
DARE FIRE





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Volunteer Fire Service ExNoRa (VFS)

is composed of volunteers who after training by GOVERNMENT FIRE DEPARTMENT perform fire suppression and other related emergency services for a local jurisdiction. A **Volunteer Fire Service** can act in support of a GOVERNMENT MANAGED FIRE DEPARTMENT , or it can act as the primary response agency in an area where there is no GOVERNMENT FIRE DEPARTMENT (GFD) after being trained by the GFD with their approval

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa

It is a reality that most of the small towns and villages in developing nations have no GOVERNMENT FIRE STATIONS . When a fire occurs the fire-fighters and fire engines should travel hours from the Revenue District Head Quarters to the fire accident place. It was found out mostly it was too late. Hence Volunteer Fire Service (VFS) called shortly as FIRE DARE

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa FIRE STATIONS

Even where there is a full-fledged GOVERNMENT FIRE DEPARTMENT , they suffer due to paucity of regular fire-fighters . Some times a series of fire accidents happen or at the same time and are not able to cope up with the demand, They can register the Fire Dare **ExNoRa** VOLUNTEERS to complement and supplement the challenging task of the Official Fire Department . They can themselves establish **VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa FIRE STATIONS**

They should provide them basic and minimum fire fighting equipments

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa

The term "volunteer" contrasts with career fire-fighters who are fully compensated for their services by the GOVERNMENT. Some volunteer fire-fighters may be part of a combination fire department that utilizes both full-time and volunteer fire-fighters. In this way, a station can be staffed 24 hours between volunteer and career fire-fighters. Both provide essential staffing on apparatuses during their assigned staffing hours.

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The term "volunteer" may also be used in reference to a group of part-time or **on-call** fire-fighters who may have other occupations when not engaged in occasional fire-fighting. Although they may have "volunteered" to become members and to respond to the call for help, they may be compensated towards out-of-pocket expenses during the time they are responding to or attending an emergency scene, and possibly for training. An on-call fire-fighter may also volunteer time for other non-emergency duties as well (training, fundraising, equipment maintenance, etc.).

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Volunteer fire-fighters go through some or all of the same training as career personnel do. When volunteers join a department, they often sign up for fire-fighting classes and other certifications that teach them what they need to know to become a volunteer fire-fighter. Examples of these certifications include Fire-fighter, Emergency Medical Responder, and Emergency Medical Technician. Volunteers should complete a certain period of in-house training. During this time, often called the probationary period, the recruit is known as a probationary fire-fighter, . Once the probationary period is complete, the member is eligible to become a fire-fighter.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa may be financially supported by taxes raised in a city, town, county, fire district, or other governmental entity, as well as corporate and other private donations, Corporate CSR sponsorship, grants, and other assistance fire-fighters' associations.

With these funds the **VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa** acquires and operates the fire-fighting apparatus, equips and trains the fire-fighters, maintains the firehouse, and possibly also covers insurance, worker's compensation, and other post-injury or retirement benefits. A **VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa** (or its governing entity) may also contract with other nearby departments to cover each other in a mutual aid (or automatic aid) pact as a means for assisting each other with equipment and manpower, when necessary.

Fire Emergencies

- Just like their paid counterparts, volunteer firefighters respond to residential, business and other structural fires. They work to suppress the fire using a number of means, including laying water lines, putting up ladders, creating necessary ventilation and entering the property, if necessary. Volunteer firefighters report to their station's Head or company officer to receive instructions. Depending on the station, volunteer firefighters may drive the fire trucks to the scene or drive their own vehicles. Volunteer firefighters also operate different firefighting apparatus, including hoses, ladders, axes and saws.

Emergency Medical Services

- Volunteer firefighters respond to other emergency situations, such as car accidents and natural disasters. Volunteer firefighters rescue victims and provide first aid, including CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), mouth-to-mouth breathing and wound care. Because of the high level of first aid care required, all departments require firefighters to obtain Emergency Medical Service (EMS) certification. When administering first aid, volunteer firefighters must attempt to speak to the victim or other witnesses to determine what happened. They must also try to find out if the victim has any previous medical issues that may affect emergency medical treatment.

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

ExNoRa Responsibilities

- Voluntary Firefighters divide their time between fire prevention and fire response. Routine activities include inspecting buildings for fire code violations, presenting fire-safety programs in schools, maintaining firefighting equipment, evaluating practice drills and attending hazardous materials training.

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

ExNoRa Responsibilities

- Physical stamina is needed to climb ladders, carry hoses, break down doors, operate pumps, set up hydraulic jacks and open fire hydrants. Voluntary Firefighters also assist police with search and rescue operations. Exhaustion, dehydration, smoke inhalation and muscle strain may occur, especially when a rash of fires break out. VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE may be injured when handling emergency situations, such as extricating an accident victim inside a mangled car along a busy freeway. VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE Firefighters may be emotionally traumatized if they were unable to save people trapped in a burning house.

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RESPONSIBILITIES – PHYSICAL

- Because of the job's physical nature, volunteer firefighters must stay in good shape and pass a physical abilities test and medical examination before working. During a fire or emergency, a volunteer firefighter may have to knock down doors or walls, carry large pieces of debris or pick up victims and carry them to safety. Fighting fires often involves crawling through extremely hot, smoke-filled and hazardous conditions and volunteer firefighters must have the necessary lung capacity and physical strength.

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa

Expanded duties

Depending upon the location and availability of other services, a **VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa** may be responsible for controlling structure fires as well as forest fires. Because it may be the only emergency services department for some distance, a rural VFS may also be fortunate to include community first responders, emergency medical technicians, Hazardous Materials response, and other specially qualified rescue personnel. Law enforcement officers may also be trained in these related duties and overlap with the VFS. The VFS may also have duties as the local fire inspectors, arson investigators, and as fire safety and prevention education, in addition to being the local civil defense or disaster relief liaison.

Emergency response

A volunteer of **VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa** is normally reached the same way as other emergency services, such as by calling 101. A central dispatcher then calls out the VFS, often through equipment such as pagers, radios, or loud signals, such as a fire siren. Average response times are longer than with full-time services because the members must come from different distances to the station or to the incident. Such departments often have a fixed number of firefighters on staff at any given point in time, which sometimes equals the minimal numbers recommended.

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Some volunteer fire departments allow the use of Courtesy lights or emergency lights and sirens by its members. In most states that allow both lights and sirens, this is a red light and siren that gives the responding member the same privileges as other emergency vehicles. In other jurisdictions, this may be a green or blue light without a siren. The use of such equipment varies from fire district to fire district based on need for fast response, distance that members live from the fire station, the size and amount of other traffic in the fire district as well as local and state law. Some departments restrict or prohibit use of such emergency lights, even when allowed by state law, due to the increased risk of traffic accidents involving volunteers responding in emergency mode. In some states, volunteer firefighters and EMTs are eligible to receive specialty license plates for personal vehicles that identify them as trained emergency services personnel.

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TRAINING

Operational volunteer fire department members receive some form of training, either in a formal or informal setting, depending on the state and regulatory authority. The level and type of basic and specialty training varies across the country. The National Fire Protection Association(NFPA) has several published standards for fire fighter qualifications and training, including Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems, and Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications . These standards apply to both volunteer and career fire fighters.

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ExNoRa Training

New members are referred to as "recruits," "rookies," "probies" (short for "probationary"), or even "red hats" in some departments that require the recruit to wear special gear or markings (such as a red helmet in some departments) to denote their ranking. Some departments allow (or even require) new recruits to ride along on fire apparatus as observers before undergoing the rigors of further fire training.

Fire fighters typically progress through formal Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II training in accordance with national standards.

Specialty training can include wild-land firefighting, technical rescue, swift water rescue, hazardous materials response, vehicle extrication, FAST team, fire instructor, fire officer and others.

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Open house

A VFS may hold an "open house" at their station. The event serves many purposes including demonstration, training, drill, fundraising and recruitment. There is no particular format for the VFS open house. It can be formal or informal. The goal is to get public involvement in the VFS efforts. It is recommended that the open house should include demonstrations of equipment and show and tell. This allows the public to understand how the volunteers are organized in their local community and it is used as a public relations tool. The combination of demonstrations and drills allow the public and prospect volunteers to see volunteer fire fighters in action while they are participating in the practices.



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4 Traits That Make or Break a Volunteer Fire Department

- 1. Sufficient Training**
- 2. Pride**
- 3. A System for Input and Feedback**
- 4. Devotion and Dedication**

1. Sufficient Training

- Training is the foundation of a good department. It is so vital that without it an organization is doomed. I am not just speaking of in-house training and hands-on approaches.
- Departments need to take advantage of other training that is available to them.
- FEMA, for example, offers a wide variety of valuable training materials and courses through its website, allowing firefighters to gain more knowledge in their off-time.

Why Training Is Important and What Kind Is Most Effective

- The more we know as firefighters, the better we are suited to perform our jobs. I am seeing more and more departments shy away from hands-on classes, preferring training in the classroom.
- While classroom training does have its place, it does not simulate the real-life events and scenarios that we are going to face out in the field. If a firefighter knows they will be using using a thermal camera on fire ground operations, they should take it out and go around the community to get used to the device.

Training, People, and Leadership:

- It is also important to find people who want to train and get better as a unit. These are the ones who should take leadership roles in the department and be on the front of the attack during a fire.
- In my experience, I've found that volunteers often ignore specific classes simply because they find them boring or don't think they will be helpful. This is a rather silly thought if you ask me.
- All training can make us better at what we do.

2. Pride

- Every volunteer firefighter should take pride in their department and in the community they serve. Remember that it is never about the chief or about the members of the department. It is always about the community we serve and protect.
- The community needs to have faith in you both as a firefighter and as a person. Even something as simple as handing out flyers to people will show that you care enough about them to go the extra step.

Ways to Show Pride in Your Department:

- Keep your station clean and respect others that have to work from it.
- Be a beacon in the community and be seen showing that you care.
- Teach fire safety at local schools.
- Do holiday events for the community.
- Host community clean-up projects.

Keep the Right Attitude:

- Volunteers may take the "it's-just-volunteer-work-so-I-am-not-showing-up" mentality. That is a direct reflection of a lack of pride and emotional investment in the department and it is something that we cannot afford to put up with.
- Pride comes from loving what you do, and the fire service is riddled with folks who simply like having the title of firefighter. Even worse, some people just want to drive around with lights and sirens on their cars.

A System for Input and Feedback

- Favoritism continues to be an issue I see and hear about on a regular basis with the firefighters I talk to.
- The reality is that every member should have an equal say in issues pertaining to the department since we all do the work.
- I understand that department heads should make the final decision on some of these issues, but no firefighter should have authority over another without any justification

The Dangers of Power Imbalance

- For example, all members should know about a big purchase that's being made, not a select few. Otherwise, it seems like there is a hierarchy and that some firefighters are better than the others.
- If this kind of imbalance happens, it creates a tense work environment and starts to cause chaos.
- When one firefighter is shown special treatment, it gives that member a sense of superiority and causes other members to feel less important. As a result, they may slack off on their duties.

It's Worth Putting Time Into Building a System for Feedback

- Sometimes leaders forget that other firefighters are valuable to decision-making, which can eventually lead to some serious negative feedback. Input can make or break a chain of success.
- Maybe you disagree with someone's promotion but can't voice your opinion because the chief or board of directors doesn't have a system of checks and balances in place.
- A feedback system is something that takes time to fix, but it is worth the effort before a department turns into total chaos.

4. Devotion and Dedication

- I cannot stress this enough. Dedication is not a measure of friendship outside of the station, but a measure of one's willingness to go the extra mile inside the station and on fire grounds.
- If you have joined a department just to be able to say you're a firefighter, then quit for God's sake! A true firefighter is going to show up to all training classes and events, including road blocks and other fundraisers.

4. Devotion and Dedication

- Dedication is the glue that holds a volunteer department together.
- Every member depends on the other for support.
- When one member loses the devotion to participate, they put the other members at risk.
- If you are a department head, your go-to guys should be the members who display the most dedication.

What It Really Takes to Build a Great Volunteer Fire Department

- Some firefighters are tired of the comparison between paid and volunteer departments.
- Other people accept that comparison willingly as a challenge. Either way, we must try to make our department as good as possible.
- That can be difficult when everyone is not on the same page, or when one or two people push their own agenda at the cost of the department integrity.

Value the Team Over the Individual:

- It takes more than one or two people to make a solid chain of partnership and camaraderie that will blossom into a working and efficient fire department. Every member has to pull their own weight and put the team first.
- I like the film *Drumline* as an example. The film teaches a rogue drummer that he needs to love the sound of the line more than that of his own drum. Similarly, in the fire service, it's important to realize that we are a team. Divisions can and do kill volunteer fire departments.

Creating a Better Community:

The fire service is one of those up-and-down occupations that usually leaves us guessing as to what will come next. When the staff is all on the same wavelength and ready to move forward, we are creating a much safer workplace and a better department for our community to depend on.

Resources for Your Department:

[Let's Talk Fire](#) is a Facebook group that I run where we talk about fire-service related issues. It is open to all firefighters and welcomes submissions of articles, training info and anything fire-related. Feel free to join in the discussion

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