

# ***THE DeSOTO RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT***

ASKS THE QUESTION...

## **VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTING**



**IS IT FOR YOU ?**

## ***DeSOTO RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION IN THE BEGINNING***

The DeSoto Rural Volunteer Fire Association was born out of the commitment of a few to provide the area surrounding the City of DeSoto with fire protection.

Volunteers sold tags to residents and held fund raisers to scrape together enough money to operate. Many times, they would use their own money to keep the Association going. This continued until the people voted to establish the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District in 1987.

## ***TODAY'S DeSOTO RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT***

The DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District now operates each year on a small tax levy. Growth is necessary and new volunteers are needed to protect and serve the residents within the District.

Approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of the District's two hundred sixty (260) square miles consists of farms and single and multi-family residences while the remaining five percent (5%) consists of mercantile businesses and various other commercial enterprises.

The District operates out of six stations with three rescue/pumpers, three pumper/tankers, two tankers and three brush trucks. We are a "combination" department which means we have paid and volunteer fire fighters.

The District is considered a political subdivision and is governed by the Statutes of the State of Missouri. A five member Board of Directors are elected by the voters of the District to oversee the financial and legal aspects of the District. They in turn, appoint the Fire Chief who oversees the daily operations of the District.

The Fire Chief, along with his appointed Officers, develop the Guidelines and Policies which organize the membership. A structured "Chain of Command" allows for accountability and ensures that all members are well trained and understand all necessary aspects of their particular function.

The DeSoto Rural Fire District provides services which include fire suppression, rescue services, hazardous materials response, water rescue, emergency medical and other community services.

# ***WHO IS A VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER ?***

The volunteer firefighter is ...

A teacher, student, farmer, businessman, nurse, carpenter, laboratory technician, office Worker and any other profession you can think of...

Someone who makes a personal sacrifice of time, blood, sweat, and sometimes tears...

Someone performing in a fire fighting capacity not for monetary reward but purely for the satisfaction of helping others...

Someone who performs well under pressure and finds satisfaction in facing sometimes seemingly unconquerable challenges...

Someone who wants to make a contribution to his or her community...

Someone who is gratified by the simple words "thank you"...

Someone who enjoys challenges and excitement...

Someone who finds social satisfaction in being part of a group of people bound together by a common desire...

Someone who is willing to roll out in the middle of the coldest night of the year when a life or someone's property is at risk...

Someone who wants to be a part of a professionally oriented organization...

Someone to whom a child can look up to as an educator and a friend...

Someone who goes beyond the normal daily activities into the realm of serving whenever needed...

## **THE VOLUNTEER COULD BE YOU !**

## ***WHY VOLUNTEER ?***

Why not ?

Ask volunteer fire fighters why they accepted the challenge. What was the cornerstone of their decision to become a firefighter? Each one will tell you in his or her own words, that being part of the Fire District fulfills a basic and personal human need; the need to contribute to a worthwhile endeavor and help others. As firefighters work to fulfill that need to help others, they meet the needs of their community.

Yes fire fighting is hard work. But time spent with fellow firefighters is enjoyable and builds a sense of teamwork and accomplishment. Fire fighting is demanding. There are hours of training involved, requirements to be met, standards to uphold. And volunteer firefighters are not compensated in the traditional way for their effort. There is no paycheck, no monetary bonus, no financial incentive to work harder.

Why volunteer? Look inside yourself. If you want to help others, experience the excitement that comes from a job well done, and have pride in yourself and others like you, you'll find the answer.

Volunteer fire fighting will never make you monetarily rich, but those that come before you will tell you that no amount of money is worth the fulfillment of the basic need to be of service to others.

## ***HOW WILL I BE TRAINED ?***

As a volunteer firefighter with the DeSoto Rural Fire District, you will be a team member. As a probationary firefighter you will undergo an initial recruit training. The training will be a mixture of lecture, practical instruction, and self study.

You will be assigned to a crew that functions under one of the shifts. During your probation, you will become familiar with the District's policies and procedures and your performance will be monitored.

As time progresses, you will be involved with more advanced training, with periodic evaluations to determine your progress.

Within that probationary period, which varies with how you progress, the probationary fire fighter should complete enough training to continue with the department. An evaluation will be done to insure that you have the appropriate training or if more probationary training is necessary.

Is this the end of your training? No. In fact, serving as a firefighter for the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District means life-long, continuing education to stay abreast of the latest equipment and procedures for handling emergencies.

## ***HOW DO I APPLY ?***

If you are at least eighteen years of age, have a valid Missouri drivers license and dependable transportation, fill out an application and return it to Station One with all requested information as described on page one of the application.

Your application will be reviewed and if you are qualified, you will be asked to complete an interview process. You will meet with a representative of the command staff of the District. Any questions you have, may be answered at that time.

The District does conduct an investigation into your background. Becoming a member of the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District requires careful selection. Acceptance to the District depends on many other variables, such as staffing needs and the availability of protective clothing and other necessary equipment. The selection process is designed to help the District find men and women who would most likely become the safest and most effective fire fighters on the fire ground.

**SPECIAL NOTE: YOU MUST COMPLETE THE APPLICATION INCLUDING ALL FORMS AND PROVIDE A CRIMINAL AND DRIVER HISTORY BEFORE YOUR APPLICATION CAN BE CONSIDERED.**

## ***THE ENEMY***

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world. I have destroyed more men, women and children than all the wars of all nations. I massacre thousands of people every year. I am more deadly than bullets, and I have wrecked more homes than the mightiest storms.

In the United States alone, I steal over 21 billion dollars each year. I spare no one and I find my victims among the rich and poor alike, the young and old, and the strong and weak. Widows know me to their everlasting sorrows. I loom up in such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor.

I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me, yet you heed me not. I am relentless, merciless and cruel. I am everywhere - in the home, in the schools, in the factories, on land, in the air and on the sea.

I bring sickness, degradation and death, yet few seek me out to destroy me. I crush, I maim, I devastate - I will give you nothing and rob you of all you have.

I am your worst enemy - I am **uncontrolled FIRE!**

# APPLICATION

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED ON THIS APPLICATION ASSISTS THE DISTRICT IN PROCESSING AND SECURING THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY. APPLICATIONS ARE HELD IN CONFIDENCE AND CONSIDERED CLOSED RECORDS BY ORDINANCE.**

Position applied for  Volunteer  Career Date of Application  
\_\_\_\_\_

Referral source:  Advertisement  Employee  Relative  Gov't Employment Agency  
 Walk-in  Private Employment Agency  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Source \_\_\_\_\_

Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Address  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact you at home is: \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you at work? \_\_\_\_\_ Number and time \_\_\_\_\_

Have you filed an application here before? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, give date \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been employed or volunteered here before? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you legally eligible for employment in this Country? \_\_\_\_\_ (Proof required on employment).

Date available for work \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to meet the attendance requirements for work, training's and meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? If yes explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's license number \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach an original of a Driver's License check and Criminal History from your County of residence.

List or attach any special training you already have associated with the fire service. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



The DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

List your last four (4) employers, assignments or volunteer activities, starting with the most recent. Include any military service. Explain gaps in dates below in the comment section.

Employer	Phone	Dates employed	Nature of work
Address		Job Title	Supervisor
Reason for leaving			May we contact?

Employer	Phone	Dates Employed	Nature of work
Address		Job Title	Supervisor
Reason for leaving			May we contact?

Employer	Phone	Dates Employed	Nature of Work
Address		Job Title	Supervisor
Reason for leaving			May we contact?

Employer	Phone	Dates Employed	Nature of Work
Address		Job Title	Supervisor
Reason for leaving			May we contact?

Comments:

---

---

Summarize special skills acquired that may qualify you to work for us. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

# AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INFORMATION |

## COMPLETION OF INFORMATION BELOW IS VOLUNTARY

We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual preference, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and/or any other legally protected status.

All new applicants must however, provide a Physician's Release Form due to the nature of fire fighting.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position applied for \_\_\_\_\_

Referral source:  Advertisement     Employee     Relative     Gov't Employment Agency  
 Walk-in     Private Employment Agency     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Source \_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_ LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

As required, we comply with government regulations including Affirmative Action requirements of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, and any other federal law or regulations, where they apply.

In an effort to comply with requirements regarding government record keeping, reporting and other legal obligations, we ask that you complete this applicant data survey. Your cooperation is appreciated but not required.

Please be advised that this survey is **not** considered a part of your official application for employment. It is considered confidential information that can not and will not be used in any hiring decision. If you would like to provide the information, please continue.

Sex:  Male     Female

Race:  Black     Hispanic     American Indian     White     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are you  Vietnam Veteran     Disabled Veteran     Individual with a Disability

---

The DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Position Applied for  Available  Not available

Other positions considered for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Hired?  Yes  No                      Date of hire \_\_\_\_\_

Position hired for \_\_\_\_\_

EEO Classification (circle one)

- 1. Officials and Managers
- 2. Professionals
- 3. Technicians
- 4. Office and Clerical
- 5. Volunteer
- 6. Paid Fire Fighter
- 7. Service Worker
- 8. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Completed By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This application is the property of the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District and is covered under Resolution Number 1197-2 as a confidential, closed document. This document may only be viewed by authorized personnel pursuant to the Resolution.

# DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District

201 East Miller

DeSoto, Missouri, 63020

Phone (636) 586-2557 Fax (636) 337-4216

## Physicians Release Form

### Return completed form with application

#### ***This portion to be completed by applicant***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M F Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
month day year

I understand that this physicians release form is for the purpose of qualifying my abilities to perform as a fire fighter for the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District. It is not meant to be a determining factor with regard to acceptance as a member of the District, but to gauge my overall physical abilities to perform certain tasks.

I further understand that factors beyond the control of the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District and the physician completing this form may affect my physical abilities to perform which were not distinguishable at the time that this form was completed.

I hereby release the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District and the physician named on this form from any and all liability with regard to it's content.

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

#### ***This portion to be completed by YOUR personal physician***

(please read the paragraph below and complete the form - please note any limitations in the comments section)

The position of fire fighter requires the applicant to exert large amounts of energy in a short period of time. This exertion can be expected in high temperatures exceeding 1000°. Fire fighters are protected from this heat with protective garments and self contained breathing apparatus weighing approximately forty pounds. Activities while working include climbing ladders, working overhead, crawling, bending, standing, lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling and operating power tools and motor vehicles.

I \_\_\_\_\_ have evaluated the above named applicant and release  
physicians name (please print)  
him/her to participate as a fire fighter with the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District with the

following limitations. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature of physician

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
phone

# DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District

201 East Miller

DeSoto, Missouri, 63020

Phone (636) 586-2557 Fax (636) 337-4216

## **Release for Information, Fingerprinting and Future Testing**

This release must be submitted before application can be approved.

I hereby authorize the investigation of my background with regard to driver, arrest, correctional, summons, financial and criminal history.

I also understand the necessity and will submit to fingerprinting if my application is approved.

Furthermore, I understand that it may be necessary and will submit to any future testing including psychological, drug and/or polygraph testing. I understand that, failure to comply with a request by the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District or it's agents to submit to testing shall be grounds for immediate termination.

I, the undersigned, release the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and any other agencies utilized, from any and all liability in the investigation of my background with regard to any information gathered or distributed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
soc. sec. number\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date of birth\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\* used only for the purpose of records checks - the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**YOU MUST SUBMIT A RECORDS CHECK FROM YOUR COUNTY OF RESIDENCE WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.**