

Pleasant Valley Fire District HANDBOOK

**FOR PROSPECTIVE
MEMBERS**



www.pvfdny.org

PLEASANT VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley Fire Company #1
1619 Main Street
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
(845)635-2117

Salt Point Fire Company #2
30 Cottage Street
Salt Point, NY 12578
(845)266-5177

 info@pvfdny.org

 www.pvfdny.org



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Welcome Message

Dear Prospective Member,

Volunteering with our organization brings immense personal rewards and satisfaction, boosts self-esteem, and provides a tremendous sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done. Your service also offers invaluable support to our community, positively impacting the lives of residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Service as a member of the Pleasant Valley Fire District (PVFD) requires a serious commitment, and your decision to join should be made thoughtfully, with your family's support. This guide provides the information you need to make an informed decision that benefits you, us and our community.

Once you understand what is involved, we truly hope you will commit to joining us. The contributions of our volunteers are essential to the safety and well-being of Pleasant Valley Community. We are eager to welcome you and see the difference you can make.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact our recruiter at info@pvfdny.org with any questions, no matter how small.

We look forward to having you as a member,

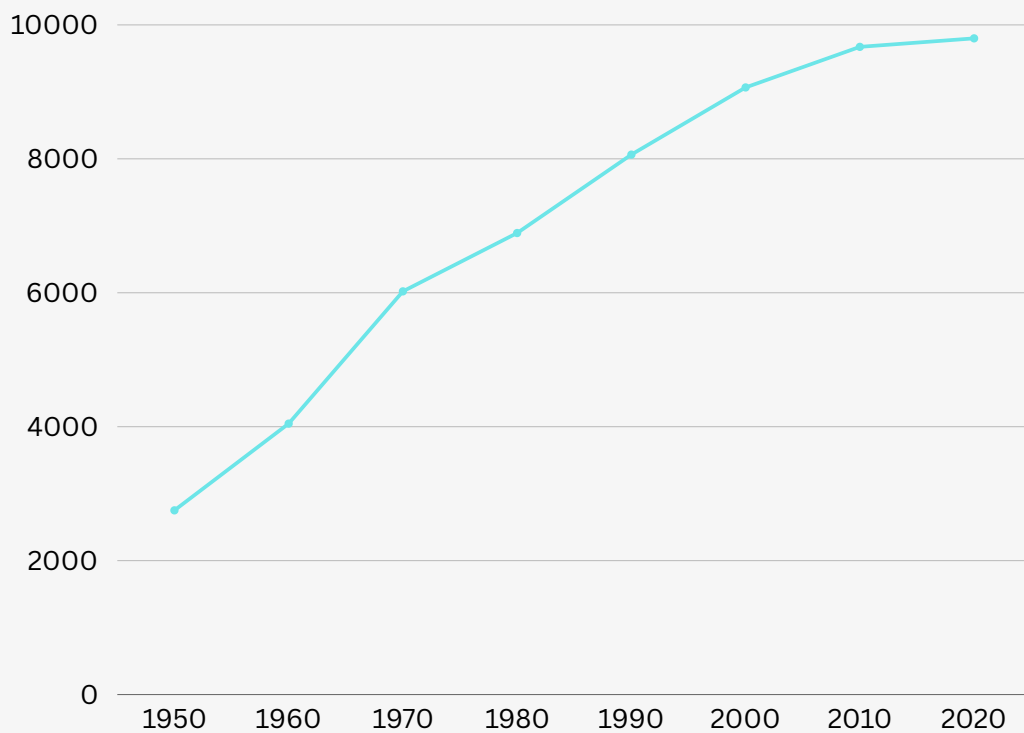
The Officers and Members of the Pleasant Valley Fire District

Pleasant Valley Fire District Overview

- Pleasant Valley Fire District serves approximately 33.2 square miles. (32.9 square miles land; 0.3 square miles water)
 - Annexed area of service
- The district conducts fire, rescue and EMS response out of two fire stations:
 - Pleasant Valley Fire Station #1 located at 1619 Main Street Pleasant Valley (92% total yearly call volume).
 - Salt Point Fire Station #2 located at 30 Cottage Street, Salt Point (8% total yearly call volume)
- The District is a combination department with 4 career FF/EMT's, 8 Per-diem FF/EMT's and volunteer FF/EMT's. BLS crews.
- Career Staff consists of FF/EMT's through Fire tax.
 - Their set schedule shift is Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 3:30pm
 - The EMT's provide Basic Life Support (BLS) level of care and provide secondary "backfill" ambulance coverage
- Volunteer firefighters and/or EMT's (BLS)
 - 24/7/365 schedule, response as available
 - Nighttime 2 person duty crew staffing for ambulance coverage (BLS)
- Commercial ambulance service provides ALS/BLS coverage (Empress) through the town "Ambulance District Tax"
 - Monday-Sunday 5a-7p
- Fire, Rescue, EMS, ESS and Fire Police

Pleasant Valley Fire District Overview

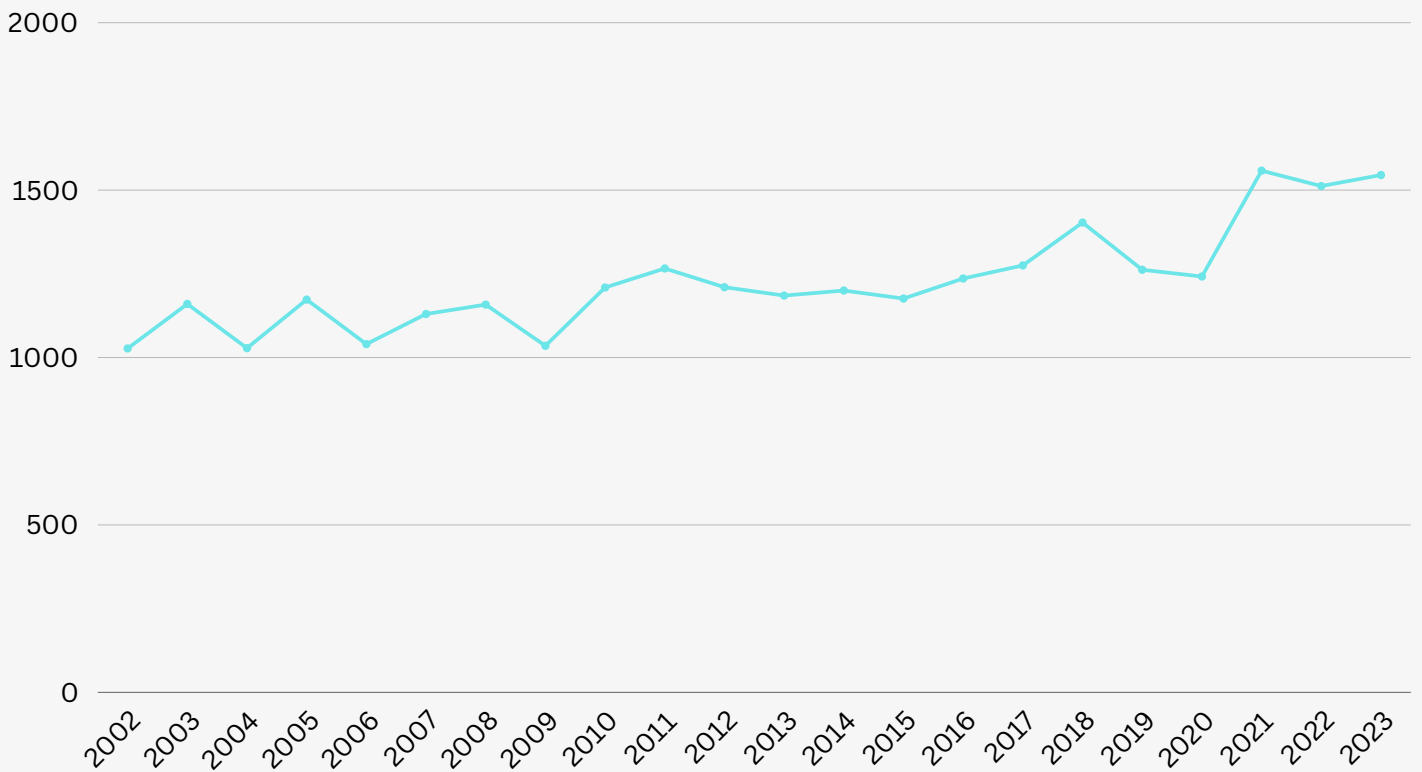
T/PV Population Growth since 1950



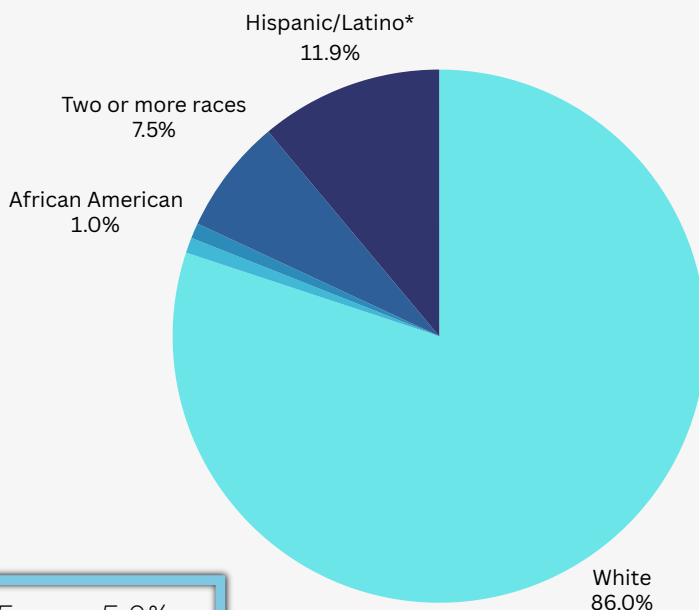
US Census

Pleasant Valley Fire District Overview

PVFD Yearly Call Volume



Pleasant Valley Fire District Community Demographics

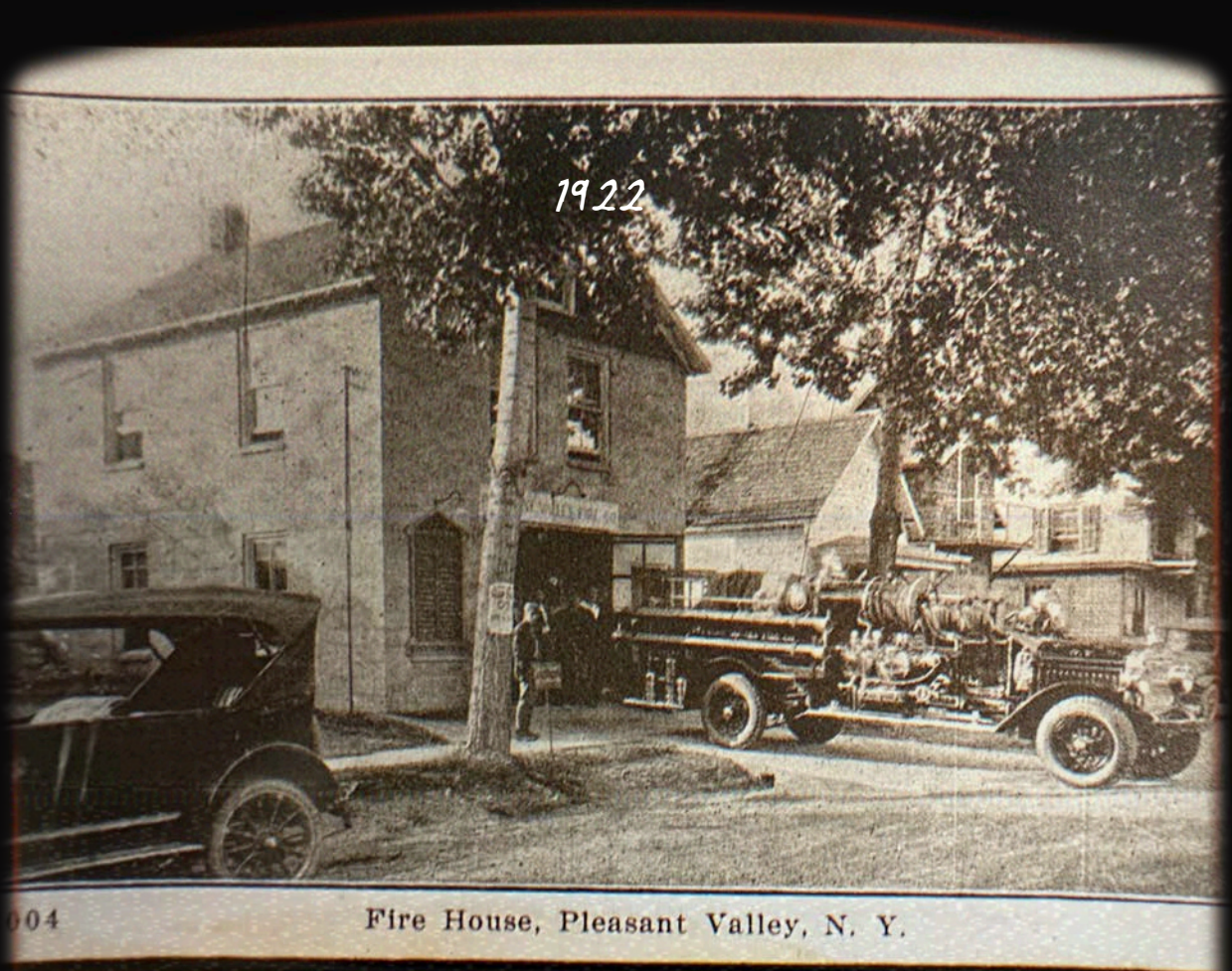


<5yo = 5.8%
<18yo = 19.6%
65+yo = 13.2%
Women = 51.4%
Ages & Sex

All persons = 8.1%
65+yo = 13.4%
Percent of households = 19.5%
Poverty Level

Disability <65yo = 7.5%

Monthly Rent = \$1557
Mortgage = \$2360



Fire House, Pleasant Valley, N. Y.

A symbol of courage, dedication and community.

History



The Village of Pleasant Valley was incorporated on May 5th, 1814 and not long after the Village trustees set up a fire company. This is verified by a document appointing Jeremiah Clearwater as “a fireman in a company of firemen raised by authority of an act of the Legislature of the State of New York signed and sealed by William Thorn, President of the Pleasant Valley Village Trustees”, dated August 18th, 1826.

Time marched on with no further mention of the Fire Company until 1903 when the John Knott Volunteer Fire Association appears as the agency created to respond to and handle all firefighting and emergency events in the village. Alfred Leith, Foreman, proposed that the Village accept the services of the fire company which the village did, in turn, accept. In 1907, the Village issued a proclamation (which can be found in a frame of Station # 1 Station # 1 meeting room) commending the John Knott organization for its dedication to protecting lives and property in Pleasant Valley and acknowledged them as the Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company.

History



In 1946 there was a fatal house fire on Hibernia Road, across the street from the Helen Aldrich Park, in which a man by the name of Vincent Van Buskirk lost his life. The Pleasant Valley Fire Department responded to this fire and because of the distance of five miles for the fire company to come, the speed of the fire apparatus, together with the advance the fire had before the alarm was reported, the house was destroyed, and a man died.

The Salt Point Fire Company was formed June 16, 1947: "a number of the residents of Salt Point met in the old railroad station for the purpose of organizing a fire company. The meeting was called to order by Frank Bock. Cecil Sherow was appointed chairman."

On April 20th, 1948, the Salt Point Fire Company answered it's first call, which was a grass fire on Hibernia Rd.

Why Volunteer?

The fire service is a diverse and challenging vocation, dedicated to helping those in need. For many, this commitment to service is the most compelling reason to join our ranks. At the Pleasant Valley Fire District in New York, we believe that everyone has a unique motivation for volunteering. Whether you're interested in firefighting, emergency medical services (EMS), rescue operations and fire police, there's a place for you here. We welcome all who are eager to contribute to our community.



Why Volunteer?

What Motivates Our Volunteers?

- **Action and Excitement:** For those who thrive on adrenaline, emergency services provide an unmatched level of excitement and challenge.
- **Change of Pace:** Some see volunteering as a refreshing alternative to routine jobs, offering the thrill of driving a fire truck and responding to emergencies.
- **Helping Others:** Many volunteers are driven by the deep satisfaction that comes from aiding people in their time of need and making a tangible difference in their community.
- **Sense of Duty:** Some feel a strong obligation to serve and protect their neighbors.
- **Team Belonging:** Others are drawn to the camaraderie and sense of belonging that comes with being part of a dedicated team of community insiders.

Whatever your motivation, volunteering with the Pleasant Valley Fire District provides a unique sense of fulfillment. You'll experience the satisfaction of performing at your best when others are facing their worst moments.

What You'll Experience:

As a volunteer, you'll prepare to handle a wide range of emergencies, from raging structure fires to motor vehicle accidents to heart attacks and nearly every imaginable situation in between. The diverse nature of these emergencies, coupled with the need to respond at any time, day or night, in all weather conditions, creates a rewarding and dynamic environment.

Why Volunteer?

Learning and Growth

Volunteering with the Pleasant Valley Fire District is not just about serving others; it's also about personal development. You'll gain:

- **New Skills:** Learn fire suppression, rescue techniques, medical emergency response, and more.
- **Professional Training:** Receive training that can be applied both within and outside the fire service.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Take on leadership roles within the department and the community.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Work alongside dedicated individuals who share your commitment to service.

The Value of Volunteering

We recognize that the fire service, encompassing fire, rescue, and medical emergencies, is not for everyone. However, volunteering can be. There are numerous ways to contribute, whether directly on the front lines or behind the scenes. We have a job for everyone.

The personal rewards and satisfaction gained from our actions are often beyond description.

Make a Difference

Volunteering with the Pleasant Valley Fire District is one of the most impactful decisions you can make. We hope you give this decision the time and serious consideration it deserves. Join us in making a difference in our community and experience the profound rewards that come from helping others in their time of need.

Fire/Rescue

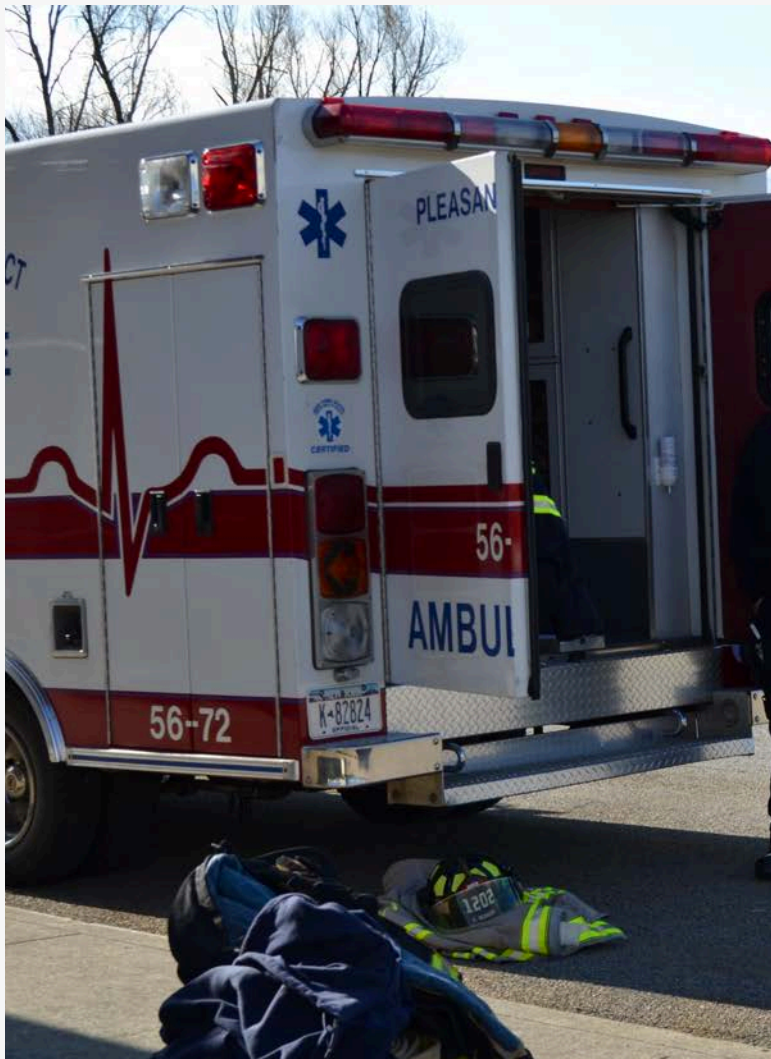


A firefighter is a trained professional responsible for combating and extinguishing fires to protect lives, property, and the environment. They respond to emergencies, perform rescues, and provide medical assistance when needed. Firefighters also engage in fire prevention, safety education, and community outreach. Their role requires physical endurance, bravery, and a commitment to public safety.

Rescue operations and special operations teams within fire departments specialize in responding to complex emergencies beyond traditional firefighting. These teams are trained to handle situations such as technical rescues, hazardous material incidents, and urban search and rescue missions. PVFD currently has an ice rescue team, a developing Rescue Task Force Team (RTF) for warm and cold zone operations and members trained in specialized auto-extrication.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are a critical component of public health and safety, providing rapid medical response and care during emergencies. EMS professionals, including Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), are often the first on the scene when accidents, injuries, or sudden illnesses occur. They are trained to assess the situation quickly, administer life-saving treatments, stabilize patients, and transport to medical facilities. The work of EMS personnel is crucial in ensuring timely medical intervention, which can significantly improve outcomes for those in critical need.



Volunteering as an EMT with PVFD is a rewarding opportunity to make a significant impact on your community by providing life-saving medical care in emergencies.

You'll gain invaluable skills and experience that are highly respected and can open doors to various career paths in healthcare and public service, all while receiving professional training at no cost to you.

What EMS is today

Statewide EMS Crisis:

- Staffing shortages
- EMTs/AEMTs current numbers are below what is currently needed
- Losing EMTs/AEMTs, not replacing with incoming new
- Decline of volunteerism
- Rising costs, lack of funding
- Extended response time or no response
- Physical and emotional demands of EMS
- Inadequate coverage; use of mutual aid
- Over utilization of EMS/ER's as "stop-gap"
- Pay disparities; unrecognized as Essential Service
- Reimbursement rates are stagnant & insufficient
- Rising call volume
- Lack of understanding EMS by elected officials and citizens



EMS is:

Encompasses all
healthcare
Public safety
Disaster response
Mitigation
Public health



Trending

Over-utilization
Limited
resources
ALS unavailable
Increased
staffing needs
Extended
coverage hours

Membership Responsibilities

You will be required to:

- Respond to fire/EMS calls
- Participate in drills and trainings
- Become CPR certified (provided by PVFD)
- Attend New Member Orientation
- Attend Monthly Company meetings
- Attend District Meetings
- Assist with weekly apparatus checks and maintenance
- Abide by PVFD Training Policy
 - B.E.F.O
 - IFO
 - EMT
 - Violence in Workplace
 - Body Armor
- Participate in fundraisers
- Opportunity to participate in parades
- Yearly medical physical
- Mandatory NYS yearly trainings
- Abide by PVFD Policies & SOG's



Membership Benefits

Why Join Pleasant Valley Fire District?

A Second Family & Lifelong Friendships

At PVFD, you'll discover a second family ready to welcome you. Our members share a common bond through their commitment to serving the community, forging lifelong friendships along the way.

Quality Training

When you commit to us, we commit to you by providing all the training you need for **FREE**. Our training includes in-house sessions, state-certified courses and other unique training opportunities, ensuring you receive the best education tailored to your interests.

Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)

Our local and state-supported LOSAP program rewards your dedication with a financial benefit recognizing your invaluable contributions.

State-of-the-Art Equipment

We ensure your safety with the latest technology in fire-resistant coats, pants, boots, gloves, hoods and helmets. All the necessary equipment for your assigned tasks is provided, allowing you to perform your duties with confidence. Dress uniform for parades and firematic functions.

Use of Pleasant Valley Fire Station and Salt Point Fire Station

Membership Process



- Your application needs to be filled out completely and accurately.
- Submit the completed New Member Application in person at PVFD Sta 1
- Following review of your application during respective fire company monthly meeting, you will be contacted by a member of the Pleasant Valley Fire District Membership Committee to set up your interview.
Under 18 applicants must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Your interview will be conducted with the interview committee on scheduled date and location, lasting approximately 20 mins.
- The District will perform a New York State Arson Check, Sex Offender and due diligence regarding your background.
- You will then schedule an appointment with PVFD Medical Provider for a full physical exam paid for by PVFD. **Under 18 applicants must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian**
- Your membership application goes before the respective fire company at the next monthly meeting following your interview. The Fire Company votes on your application.
- If the Fire Company membership accepts your application, your membership application goes before the Pleasant Valley Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) at their next monthly meeting. Final acceptance of membership is subject to approval by the BOFC.
- The PVFD District Secretary will mail an acceptance letter to you providing additional instructions.

Restricted Age

- Any person who is between the ages of 16 and 18, who is physically fit, morally and mentally sound, and who, having met with the membership committee and satisfactorily passed the committee's investigation (as established in the Pleasant Valley Fire District), may be selected for membership status.
- The goal of this program is to carefully instill, enforce and monitor the practices that lead to well trained, respectful, hardworking members once they reach their 18th birthdays.
- Create a culture in which these members both realize their age- and experience-related limitations, but also feel as though they are learning and being prepared for taking on the duties of full-fledged, non-probationary members of the Pleasant Valley Fire District.
- A Chief and a training officer act as a resource to these members in all aspects of PVFD membership: firefighting, training, rules and regulations, etc. – and set example for the types of behaviors expected from our entire membership.
- Applicants **MUST** have their parents or legal guardians:
 - sign their application
 - consent and attend the Fire District physical
 - attend the interview
 - sign Restricted Age Policy acknowledging age limitations to participate in any and all activities of the department.
- Under-18 Restricted Age Members must follow specific rules established by the Pleasant Valley Fire District.

Health Risks

Volunteering in emergency services like firefighting and emergency medical services (EMS) exposes volunteers to various health risks. These include exposure to hazardous materials such as smoke, chemicals, and biological contaminants, which can lead to respiratory issues and long-term health problems. Additionally, physical exertion during emergencies can strain muscles and joints, leading to injuries. Psychological stress from witnessing traumatic events and managing high-pressure situations can also impact mental health. Furthermore, frequent exposure to loud sirens and equipment noise may contribute to hearing loss over time. Proper training, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and ongoing health monitoring are essential to mitigate these risks and ensure the well-being of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

The PVFD Board of Fire Commissioners and Chief Staff are deeply committed to ensuring the personal safety and mental well-being of all our volunteers. They prioritize providing a supportive environment that includes access to resources for mental health support, counseling services, and peer assistance programs. By fostering a culture that values the physical and emotional health of volunteers, PVFD aims to enhance resilience and ensure that every member feels supported in their crucial role within the community.



Pleasant Valley Fire District

CONTACT INFORMATION



845-635-2117



info@pvfdny.org



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