

What is a Paid on Call Firefighter?

Paid on Call or POC is a firefighter who is called on an as needed basis. This is very similar to a volunteer firefighter who is reimbursed for a portion of their time.

Can I earn a living being a POC Firefighter?

NO. POC's are paid a small stipend for their time. The average POC will make around \$1,000 per year.

What kind of commitment is required?

As with anything, initially there is a serious time commitment. The first year to year and a half will involve a considerable amount of time and training. The Firefighter Basic program involves 3 semesters at Lewis & Clark (evening classes) in addition to department training and meetings. Fires are not scheduled nor do they take holidays' or vacations. Many of Christmas dinners have been interrupted by a fire call. In the end you get out of it what you put into it.

What type of training is required?

Initially, you will be required to be certified by the State Fire Marshal as a Firefighter Basic. This will involve 3 semesters of evening classes at Lewis & Clark Community College. In addition to that our department provides training 2 times per month (sometimes more) some of it being mandatory.

What are the requirements to apply?

- A. Must reside within one mile of the city limits of Wood River and be a full time resident.
- B. Must be 21 years of age (with exceptions)
- C. Must hold a valid Illinois drivers license and have their own means of transportation, either as owner or be the insured driver of record.
- D. Must be physically capable to perform the duties of a POC firefighter.
- E. Must wear approved or issued turnout clothing and gear, or any other safety equipment while performing their duties as firefighters. (exceptions at chief's discretion)
- F. Must obey all reasonable orders given by the Fire Chief, Shift Officer, or higher ranking officer.
- G. Must not report for duty in a condition that would be considered harmful to him/herself and others while performing his duties as a firefighter, or in a condition such that his actions would be detrimental to the Fire Department image as a whole.
- H. Must observe all City and State traffic laws when responding to an alarm in their private vehicle.
- I. Must carry his/her portable pager with him/her whenever possible and is expected to report any malfunction or inoperable units as soon as possible, so that any repairs or replacements may be made at city expense. (pagers lost shall be replaced at firefighter's expense through payroll deduction)
- J. Must return all gear and equipment issued to him/her at the time of leaving the fire department, prior to receiving their last check as a firefighter.

- K. New POC firefighters shall be considered on probation for their first 12 months of service and may be released at any time for cause determined by the Fire Chief and/or Paid On Call Board of Review
- L. The fire department maintains 100% certification to the Firefighter II(Basic) level and all firefighters are required to obtain a minimum of Illinois Firefighter II(Basic) certification during their probationary period. This period may be extended at the Fire Chief's discretion due to scheduling conflicts or other unforeseen conditions.
- M. It is further expected that each member of the Fire Department be present and ready for duty to as many as possible of the following functions: call-outs, training, testing, and special department meetings.
- N. It is required that each member be present and ready for duty to at least 35% of all call-outs and training during each calendar year reviewed quarterly. Failure to comply can result in grounds for reprimand and/or dismissal.

How many times do POC's get called out per year?

The Wood River Fire Department responds to between 1400 & 1500 calls per year. POC's are called out on a limited number of these calls ranging from 75 to 150 depending on the year.

Will being a POC guarantee me a full time position on the department?

In short...NO. The State of Illinois has very defined guidelines to follow for the testing process for full-time firefighters. With that being said the City of Wood River mandates all applicants for full-time positions already be Firefighter II (Basic) certified. So you will have already have received the initial training. The City of Wood River does also offer preference points for experience and being a Wood River resident and being a Wood River Paid on Call.