



## Understanding Parkville's Fire Service *Our Members*

The Parkville Volunteer Fire Department is staffed by three career firefighters and up to forty volunteer firefighters. PVFD firefighters are a dedicated and diverse group of highly trained professionals, both women and men, most of whom volunteer their service and who do the same job as paid firefighters.

Our firefighters are trained to the NFPA1001 standard for "Firefighter Professional Qualifications" as a minimum level and are trained to provide many services beyond the traditional role of fire suppression. Skills are honed in such disciplines as emergency medical response, auto extrication (motor vehicle accidents with entrapment), hazardous materials response, confined-space and heavy rescue (industrial type accidents), fire safety inspections, fire prevention education programs and other critical tasks relating to emergency response and rescue.

To handle these emergencies effectively, members undergo extensive training and practice. The professional firefighter is a student of the science of fire and hydraulics, building construction, many forms of rescue, emergency medical care, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, hose, rope and ladder procedures and forcible entry. Firefighters also learn to operate and maintain fire apparatus and equipment. To assist in the PVFD's goal of fire prevention, firefighters study fire origin and cause, conduct building inspections, present fire safety programs and conduct fire hall tours.

In addition to technical education, being a volunteer firefighter is about community service, teamwork and camaraderie. Members gain personal satisfaction by helping in the community, are active in charitable activities through fundraising and support organizations and events by providing first aid and other specialized services.

Most PVFD members invest more than 200 hours of service annually - the equivalent of 25 average workdays per year. Time is spent training, responding to calls for service and providing other services such as public education or equipment maintenance. Members must also balance the time required to maintain a healthy personal life as well as their paid vocation/career. In order to provide this level of committed service to the community, members must have supportive families and employers. Because response is not scheduled and pagers go off at all times of the day or night, members often experience disruptions to their daily lives at home and at work, such as interrupted sleep and missed family events.

The Parkville Fire Protection Area is fortunate to have a team of dedicated professional firefighters who at a moment's notice, willingly respond to aid a member of their community. We are most grateful for the support of our members and their families and employers.

*Qualities of a volunteer firefighter - honest, selfless, committed, courageous, family-oriented and hardworking.*

