

Thank you for being interested in joining the Towanda Fire Department. We are always looking for dedicated new members. Service in the fire department is one of the most visible and rewarding forms of community service that you will encounter. Because of the high visibility of the fire department it is important that all the members want to learn, project a positive image, and are dedicated.

The Towanda Fire Protection District (Towanda Fire Department) provides fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical services to about 52 square miles. The fire protection district east of Bloomington, extends from Ireland Grove Road to north of Towanda and west along the Interstate to about the Market Street Exit. The district is tax supported, as are all of the adjacent districts. Thus, the services are seamless and cooperative throughout McLean County. We expect 180 to 200 calls per year. More than half of these calls are medical in nature, followed by rescue and some fires. About half of our members are certified as firefighter II by the Illinois Office of Fire Marshal. This represents 240 hours of specialized training and successful challenges of three written certification examinations. Several of our members are certified as firefighter III and Instructor I. Most of our members are state certified as medical first responders or Emergency Medical Technicians. We provide basic life support emergency medical services and ambulance service.

As a recruit you are expected to train regularly with the department. There are three regular training meetings per month except in December. The second and fourth Wednesdays are fire and rescue training. The third Wednesday is Emergency Medical Training. There are additional training opportunities throughout the year. The last Monday of each month is a work night for vehicle, equipment, and facilities maintenance. During your first three months, you are expected to complete 1 a - e of the probation requirements.

You will be expected to respond if possible to the station for each page. Appropriate personnel (experience and level of training) will respond on the apparatus. New members will be given the opportunity to go on some calls as they obtain training. We believe that there is an

important element of on-job-training. There have been several multiple calls when every member is out of the station. Likewise a large event will require every member and mutual aid from adjacent departments. Even the most experienced member or officer may not 'make a truck' for some calls. **DO NOT** be offended if an officer bumps you from a truck. It is not personal, but it is a judgment call on what will be needed!