

## Why become a Volunteer Firefighter or EMT?

There is no personal financial gain . However, the more you that you commit yourself to this community service, the more you will be rewarded.

Through training, you can gain skills such as: fire prevention, firefighting skills, child and adult CPR, defibrillator use, first aid, advanced life-saving techniques, hazardous material recognition and response, safe emergency driving.

The skills that you learn will not only benefit the Louisville community, but will give you the ability and confidence to assist your own family and friends in times of emergency.

You will gain a deep feeling of self-satisfaction by providing a critical service to your local community.

**Most importantly, you will occasionally receive the deepest, most heartfelt “THANK YOU” possible from the victims and families of those whose lives and property you have saved while serving as a volunteer firefighter or emergency medical technician.**



**To become a member of the Louisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department,**  
please contact:

Jason McClun, Fire Chief, at 234-4161,  
Levi Krause, Rescue Captain, at 234-2212,  
or any member of the Department.

### Membership Procedure

Complete and return a Department Membership Application and Red Light Permit Application. Upon verification of a good driving record and favorable background history through the Cass County Sheriff's Department, you will be invited to attend a Department monthly business meeting where you will be able to meet Department members, receive answers to your questions, and express your desire to join.

Once your probationary membership is approved, you will be allowed to answer alarms in a limited capacity for six months when your permanent membership will be voted upon by the Department members.

# Louisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department



*Organized: March 5, 1913*

*“We, being convinced of the great utility to be derived from a well-regulated Fire Department in time of need and desirous to render assistance in order to preserve life and property of our fellow citizens, have formed ourselves into an Association under the name of Louisville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department of Louisville, Nebraska.”*  
*From Department Constitution*



### The Louisville Fire Department was organized on March 5, 1913

The charter members were volunteers who believed that they could provide a much-needed service to the community through fire protection. Over the years, Department members had the foresight and determination to increase their community service by becoming trained in first aid and CPR and eventually becoming certified as firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

Department members have continually seen the need for newer and better fire and rescue vehicles, protective bunker gear, advanced communication equipment, upgraded medical equipment, and numerous other items that could not be purchased through the tax-based budgets. They took it upon themselves to host fundraising events such as spaghetti feeds, soup suppers, fish fries, pancake feeds, and door to door campaigns to raise the necessary funds to support the growth of the Department.



Today, membership varies from about 25 to 30. There are both men and women who act as firefighters and EMT's. About 2/3 are certified EMT's and 1/5 are certified firefighters. The City of Louisville and the Louisville Rural Fire District cooperative provide appropriate vehicles and equipment for use by the same group of volunteers. They combine resources and funds to provide fire and rescue protection to approximately seventy square miles in Cass County, including South Bend, Louisville, and Cedar Creek (which has its own fire department).

Each year, the LVF&RD answers approximately 100 medical calls and 30 fire calls, most of which are within our own fire and rescue district



### Being a Volunteer Firefighter or EMT calls for commitment and means:

- ◆ Answering calls for assistance 24 hours/day, 365 days/year *(even if it's -20 degrees or +110)*
- ◆ Missing some personal or family events *(fires, accidents, and illnesses don't honor holidays)*
- ◆ Seeing and hearing things that you wish you could forget *(but know you never will)*
- ◆ Risking your life for people you'll never see again *(and not asking for thanks)*
- ◆ Wondering if all the training is worthwhile *(until you save a life or a home)*
- ◆ Praying that you'll make the right life and death decisions under pressure *(and finding that you did with the help of fellow volunteers)*
- ◆ Hoping that someone will step up and take your place when you step down *(the lives and property of family, friends, and the community depend upon volunteer firefighters and EMTs)*



### You don't have to be paid to be a professional

#### TRAINING

(Opportunity for personal growth)

#### Required by Federal, State, or Department Policy & Provided through LVF&RD:

- ◆ CPR — adult and pediatric
- ◆ EMT\* or firefighter\*\* certification within one year of joining department
- ◆ Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations
- ◆ National Incident Management System
- ◆ Attendance at monthly, in-house fire/rescue drills

\* **EMT certification** requires a minimum of 160 hours of classroom instruction, passing of the National Registry test, 30 hours of EMS continuing education every three years.

\*\* **Firefighter certification** requires a minimum of 86 hours of instruction and passing both the written and practical skills test.

#### Additional training:

A variety of state-sponsored firefighting and emergency medical classes are hosted by LVF&RD, local fire and rescue departments, local hospitals, and the Cass County Emergency Management Agency. The Department also provides monthly, in-house fire and rescue drills so that all members can hone their skills with hands-on training and stay proficient in firefighting skills and patient care techniques.