CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Contact your local emergency services departments to learn more about volunteering or making a donation.

Phone numbers are for non-emergency calls.

Barkhamsted: 860-379-4000

Bethlehem: 860-491-2566

Canaan: 860-626-3800

Cornwall: 860-868-3877

Cromwell: 860-379-7366

Crosbyville, Barboursville: 860-868-3060

Danbury: 860-542-5077

Dorchester: 860-868-3877

Dover: 860-491-2566

East Lyme: 860-455-5555

Ellington: 860-868-3877

Enfield: 860-435-5555

Fairfield: 860-435-5555

Farmington: 860-455-5555

Fruitland: 860-455-5555

Glastonbury: 860-455-5555

Guilford: 860-435-5555

Hamden: 860-455-5555

Hartland: 860-379-5536

Hartford: 860-455-5555

Huntington: 860-455-5555

Casper, HA: 720-252-2525

Southbridge, MA: 508-749-2525

Cumberland, MO: 816-364-3535

Washington, DC: 202-518-1900

West Hartford: 860-526-3333

Lime Rock: 860-455-5555

Storrs Center: 860-455-5555

Storrs: 860-455-5555

Weston: 860-455-5555

Windsong: 860-455-5555

Windsor: 860-455-5555

Wolfeboro, NH: 603-746-3333

VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDERS

Your Needs Neighbors

A recent report published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), based on data collected in a national survey of fire departments, revealed that the number of volunteer firefighters in the United States is at the lowest recorded levels since the NFPA began its survey in 1983. Out of almost 30,000 fire departments nationwide, 83 percent are highly dependent on volunteers.

Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteers in emergency services often list the benefits of volunteering as:

• an opportunity to give back to their community and contribute to the safety and wellbeing of their neighbors
• a sense of pride in knowing that they are making a difference in the lives of people in their community by protecting them and their loved ones
• the development of decision-making, problem-solving and analytical skills, as well as team building and interpersonal skills that nurture integrity and tolerance
• an opportunity to give back to their community and contribute to the safety and wellbeing of their neighbors
• the development of decision-making, problem-solving and analytical skills, as well as team building and interpersonal skills that nurture integrity and tolerance
• a stepping stone into a career as an EMT or firefighter

WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

Volunteer firefighters are called on day or night, during weekends and holidays, and in all types of weather. All volunteer firefighters are required to complete a minimum of 110 hours of training from a program accredited by the National Fire Protection Association. The training program includes in-class instruction and practical applications that test volunteers physically and mentally. During training, candidates learn to operate axes, fire extinguishers, and other rescue tools. They are trained to perform emergency medical procedures, handle hazardous materials, and prevent fires. Trainees learn to help in various situations, including wildland fires, structural fires, fire attack, and emergency medical response.

Most departments require volunteer firefighters to be 18 years of age or older and hold a high school diploma or the equivalent, and pass a valid driver’s license.

Candidates are generally required to pass written and physical exams, drug screenings and background checks. Some locations require a volunteer to live within a department’s service area or have EMT certification.
Give. Volunteer fire and ambulance departments are heavily—and critically—underfunded. These departments need your support to pay for essential safety and medical equipment, station and vehicle maintenance and training. Donate directly to your local fire or ambulance department; or give more broadly through the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. Local First Responder Fund for Mutual Aid. If you have a fund with the Community Foundation, recommend a grant to your local first responder organizations.

Join. Joining a volunteer fire and ambulance service can be personally rewarding. You are protecting and rescuing your friends and neighbors and safeguarding the emergency responsive capabilities of your community.

Ways you can support your local First Responder Services:

Help. Many emergency services departments need help with non-essential services:

• Building maintenance
• Fundraising
• Bookkeeping
• Website and social media efforts
• Distributing disaster preparedness materials, teaching fire safety, first aid and CPR
• Providing food and refreshments for on-duty staff.

Be There. A lot of time and effort goes into fundraising and community events, whether virtual or in-person. Attend local emergency service events and lend your support. Contact your local emergency services department to learn more about volunteering or making a donation.

CONTINUED ON PG. 4

Recent Grants in Support of Emergency Service Providers in the Northwest Corner

Bethlehem Ambulance in support of the purchase of a LUCAS Chest Compression System, supplies for community training for the Stop the Bleed program, and a Stryker Pro Power, awarded from the Khurshed Bhumgarra Fund

Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department in support of the organization and its mission, awarded from The Buchanan Fund

Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department in support of the organization and its mission, awarded from The Echo Valley Foundation Fund

Harwinton Ambulance Association to support the purchase of two scoop stretchers, awarded from the Miriam Mason Cable Trust Fund

Harwinton Westside Volunteer Fire Company in support of operating expenses to offset the impact of lost revenue, and to purchase PPE in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, awarded from Northwest Corner Goes: COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund

Litchfield County Fire Chiefs Emergency Plan in support of the purchase of a replacement command/first responder vehicle, awarded from the Northwest Corner Goes: COVID-19 Rapid Response/COVID-19 Relief Grant Campaign

New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance in support of the purchase of a Lucas Chest Compression system, awarded from the Khurshed Bhumgarra Fund

In support of the purchase of three AEDs, awarded from the Robert V. Carr Buchanan Fund

In support of the purchase of two scoop stretchers, awarded from the Miriam Mason Cable Trust Fund

In support of PPE and cleaning products in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, awarded from the Northw est Corner GIVES: COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund

In support of the purchase of two scoop stretchers, awarded from the Miriam Mason Cable Trust Fund

In support of the purchase of the organization and its mission, awarded from The Echo Valley Foundation Fund

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In support of the purchase of the organization and its mission, awarded from The Echo Valley Foundation Fund

Grants listed above were awarded from 2017-2020. The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation has awarded $100,000 in grants to emergency service organizations over the last 10 years.

Sassbury volunteer Ambulance Service in support of the organization and its mission, awarded from The Echo Valley Foundation Fund

Shareen Fire Department in support of the purchase of a LUCAS Chest Compression System, awarded from the Khurshed Bhumgarra Fund

Torrington Police Department in support of the purchase of NARCAN to be shared with the Torrington Fire Department, awarded from the Marion Wm. & Alice Edwards Fund


Neighbor’s Helping Neighbor’s — Our Volunteer First Responders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The marketplace connects your town’s first responders. If first responders request additional resources, such as specific equipment, tools or expertise, dispatchers may reach out to another town’s first responders for mutual aid.

While handling multiple requests, the dispatcher remains in contact with emergency responders at every transition point along the way until the response team has completed the call and can return to service for another call.

Jacqueline Rice, Salisbury volunteer fire fighter, on being on the service for another call.

Jacqueline Rice, Salisbury volunteer fire fighter, pictured during training water rescue.

See it in Neighbors Helping Neighbors at www.northwestcf.org

See it in Neighbors Helping Neighbors at www.northwestcf.org

The Cost of Keeping our Northwest Corner Safe

Firefighting Trucks Cost
Basic Engine $100,000 to $200,000
Mid-Range Structural Pumper $100,000+
Ladder Truck $650,000 to $950,000
Couch Truck (often seen at airports) $750,000 to $1.2 million
Bucket Truck $930,000
Other Hardware or Equipment for Truck (e.g., hoses, EMS supplies) $100,000 to $200,000

Total Cost of Gear Per Firefighter $7,100 - $10,000

Cost of Life-Saving Equipment

Cost
Ambulance $110,000
LUCAS compression device (for CPR) $15,000
Stethoscope $30,000
Cambridge Monitor $40,000
One set of EpiPens $300
Other equipment and medications $30,000/year
Saltire $2,500/year

Total Cost $125,000

Mutual Aid — There when it’s Needed

What it Takes to Protect Your Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics are your town’s first responders in the event of medical emergencies, and they provide efficient and immediate care to the critically ill and injured and transport them to a medical facility. All emergency medical technicians and paramedics are certified and approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services.

To become a certified EMT or paramedic in Connecticut, you must pass an approved EMT course and practical skills examination. You will also need to earn certification by taking the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam.

Types of Certifications:

• Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) provide immediate lifesaving interventions while waiting for other first responders. EMRs also provide assistance to higher-level personnel at the scene of emergencies and during transport.

• Training Hours: About 60. Age: 14 years and older

• Emergency Medical Technicians provide out-of-hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients. EMTs have the basic knowledge and skills necessary to stabilize and safely transport patients ranging from non-emergency and routine medical transports to life-threatening emergencies.

• Training Hours: 150-190. Age: 16 years and older (CT national certification age: 18+)

• Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians provide basic and limited advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients.

• Training Hours: EMT class (150-190 hours) plus an additional 250 hours.

• Paramedics are allied health professionals whose primary focus is to provide advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients.

• Training Hours: About 2 years for a paramedic degree.

• Age: 18 years and older

Group Trainings/Classes: Contact your local emergency response organization for information about First Aid, CPR training, CERT (certification to volunteer during state of emergency), and youth programs.

Throughout the United States, and in our own communities, volunteer emergency responders provide assistance across jurisdictional boundaries, called mutual aid. Mutual aid between communities helps make us safer while providing us with potential economic benefits.

For instance, sharing specialty equipment across town lines avoids costly duplication, while making certain that needed emergency services and equipment are available when needed.

By sharing resources across communities during emergencies involving multiple-alarms fires or disasters with multiple casualties, mutual aid helps ensure that the appropriate number of volunteer responders arrive to help.
From 1980 to 2019, local fire protection service expenditures (adjusted for inflation in 2017 dollars) increased 196 percent.

The national average value of a volunteer house in 2018 was $24,69.

Forty-one percent of volunteer firefighters nationally have more than 10 years of active service (tenure period).

In 2018, 78,500 of U.S. volunteer firefighters were female, which was 11 percent of the total number of volunteer firefighters.

Training Hours:

- First Responder: 150-190 hours
- Paramedic: 20 years for a paramedic degree
- Group Trainings/Classes: 2 years for a paramedic degree

The dispatcher contacts your town’s first responders. If first responders request additional resources, such as specific equipment, tools or expertise, dispatchers may reach out to another town’s first responders for mutual aid.

While handling multiple requests, the dispatcher remains in contact with emergency responders at every transition point along the way until the response team has completed the call and can return to service for another call.

Jacqueline Rice, Salisbury volunteer fire fighter, on being on the receiving end of a dispatch—

“Then the pager goes off and you’re sound asleep, and then the pager will start talking. And it starts talking you’re thinking in your head—oh—that’s what I need to wear—what am I going to see when I get there—what are the possible injuries, and what do we need?”

Stretcher: $20,000

AED: $3,000

AED supplies: $1,500

NTU: $2,000

Total cost of GEAR per firefighter: $7,100 - $10,000

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Stretcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source 2</td>
<td>AED</td>
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<td>Source 3</td>
<td>AED supplies</td>
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<td>Source 4</td>
<td>NTU</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other Hardware or Equipment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Cost of Gear Per Firefighter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Self-C-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)</td>
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<td>Total Cost of Living-Saving Equipment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LUCAS compression device (for CPR)</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stethoscope</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulse Oximeter</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One set of EPiPens</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other equipment and medications</td>
<td>$30,000 - $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total cost of safety equipment</td>
<td>$2,500 - $5,000</td>
</tr>
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Training Hours:

- EMT class (150-190 hours) plus an additional 250 hours
- Age: 18 years and older
- Paramedics: 2 years for a paramedic degree
- Age: 18 years and older
- Group Trainings/Classes: 2 years for a paramedic degree
- Source 3

North Canaan High Ledder Truck combats a fire at The White Horse Inn in Salisbury

See it in Neighbors Helping Neighbors at www.northwestcf.org

What It Takes to Protect Your Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Contact your local emergency services departments to learn more about volunteering or making a donation.

Phone numbers are for non-emergency calls.

Barkhamsted
Barkhamsted Volunteer Fire Company
T: 860-379-3434
W: barkhamstfiredept.com

Bethlehem
Barkhamsted Ambulance Association
T: 203-266-6666
W: barkhamstfiredept.org

Barkhamsted Fire Department
T: 203-266-7896

Canaan/North Canaan
Canaan Fire Company
T: 860-624-7361
W: caananfiredepartment.org

North Canaan
North Canaan Fire Department
T: 860-824-7319
W: northcanaanems.org

Colesbrough
Colesbrough Volunteer Fire Department
T: 860-379-5747
W: colesbrough-vfd.org

Cornwall
Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department
T: 860-672-6526
W: cornwallvolunteerfirecompany.com

Norfolk
Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department
T: 860-542-5077
W: norfolkems.org

North Canaan
North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corp.
T: 860-624-7219
W: northcanaanems.org

Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/PVFD
T: 860-379-7473
W: barkhamstfiredept.com

Bethlehem Ambulance Association
T: 203-364-7473
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/BFA

Barnesville Volunteer Fire Department
T: 860-379-6580
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/BVFD

Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance Association
T: 860-379-4434
W: litchfieldfiredepartment.com

Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance Association
T: 860-379-4434
W: litchfieldfiredepartment.com

New Hartford
New Hartford Volunteer Ambulance
T: 860-579-6066
W: newhartfordems.com

New Hartford Fire and Rescue
T: 860-579-4355
W: newhartfordems.com

Norfolk
Norfolk Longs Club Ambulance
W: norfolkems.org

North Canaan
North Canaan Fire Department
T: 860-624-7366
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/NCFD

North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Association
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/NCFD

Salisbury/Lakeville
Lakeville Volunteer Ambulance Service
T: 860-624-6763
W: lakevilleems.org

Lakeville Hose Company
T: 860-435-9981
W: lakevillehose.com

Warren
Warren Volunteer Fire Company
W: warrenems.org

Winsted
Winsted Volunteer Fire Department
T: 860-379-7563
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/WVF

Winsted Ambulance
T: 860-379-6580
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/WVF

Winsted Area Ambulance Association
T: 860-379-6580
W: winstonaemt.com

Winsted Volunteer Fire Department
T: 860-379-7563
W: barkhamstfiredept.org/WVF

Youth Volunteering
Many local volunteer fire departments offer a junior firefighter program. Junior members must be at least 14 years of age and have parental permission to participate. This nationally recognised program provides a safe and meaningful experience in a highly supervised environment for youth interested in the occupation of firefighting. While good academic performance is always a priority, junior members are provided the opportunity to work alongside the men and women of their fire department at emergency scenes, training sessions, and other activities.

Contact your local emergency services department to find out if your community sponsors a junior firefighter program or junior EMT program.

Volunteer Emergency Services
Your Neighbors Need You

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• a stepping stone into a career as an EMT or firefighter

What It Takes to Protect Your Community

Firefighters
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Neighbors Helping Neighbors—Our Volunteer First Responders

“911! What’s the address of your emergency?” Fire, car accident, medical emergency, chemical spill, flooded basement, lost hiker, stranded pet… if you call for fire help in northwest Connecticut, it’s your neighbors who answer the call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Northwest Connecticut firefighter and ambulance services depend heavily on well-trained volunteers. Many of our more than 40 local emergency service organizations are staffed by people who make a living doing something else. They include teachers, small business owners, trades people, contractors, town employees, delivery and retail workers, landscapers, artists, engineers, healers, retirees, and students. These people donate their time, money and talents, and often risk their lives to keep our communities safe.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a documentary short by award-winning writer, producer, Anne Makepeace that offers a unique look into the extraordinary skills and services our local first responders provide. The film highlights the hard work, training and dedication of these courageous local men and women.

Watch Neighbors Helping Neighbors at www.northwestcf.org or scan the QR code with your QR reader or device app.

What Happens When You Call 911?
911 calls made in northwest Connecticut are answered by Litchfield County Dispatch (SCD), established in 1989, Litchfield County Dispatch, Inc., covers 40,000, medical, and police service encompassing 330,000 square miles with 150,000 residents and averages 80,000 fire, medical, and police calls annually.

A dispatch operator asks questions to determine the location and nature of your emergency and decides which services you need—your local fire department, an ambulance and/or the police.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3