

IF I Don't Have A Fire

How Does The Fire Department Affect Me?

Lexington Fire Department

What You Should Know!!!

No one has a crystal ball that can predict when or what type emergency could happen while at work, home, school or at play. In reference to fires, for every minute a fire burns it doubles in size, so minutes are precious. The Lexington Fire Department has twenty-three (23) fire stations with a mission of saving lives and protecting the property of our citizens, whom firefighters are sworn to protect. The Lexington Fire Department like the majority in the United States doesn't just fight fires. Firefighters are trained for many types of emergencies. The responsibilities of firefighters extend well beyond the **job title**. In fact, nearly 70 percent of the departments call volume consists of medical related emergencies.

The Lexington Fire Department is a major part of public safety and homeland security that responds around the clock to any type emergency. Whenever there is a fire, people expect the Fire Department to come. However, every firefighter is trained in a wide variety of life saving and rescue skills. This enables the department to respond to many types of non- fire related emergencies and work as a cohesive and efficient team.



Medical Emergencies – When it comes to a medical emergency seconds count. Seriously injured people need help fast and citizens often wonder why a fire apparatus shows up at a medical call. With this in mind, the Lexington Fire Department uses ALL resources by sending FIRST RESPONDERS as a way to expedite emergency medical care to those in need. For medical calls we send the neighborhood or closest fire company along with Lexington Fire Department's Emergency Care Units (*Ambulance*). All sworn Lexington Firefighters are trained Emergency Medical Technicians (*EMT's*) and 216 are Paramedics. All ambulance personnel are sworn and trained firefighters. All Lexington fire companies carry First Aid equipment, Oxygen and Cardiac Monitors or Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). This is especially important when a patient is experiencing heart failure, difficulty in breathing or has stopped breathing. Unless medical care is received within four to six minutes, the chances for recovery lessen.



Hazardous Materials (Chemical Spills) – Commonly referred to as the Hazmat Team, it is comprised of highly skilled firefighters and paramedics, who specialize in the area of hazardous materials response and mitigation. LFD Hazmat Team is equipped with a multitude of specialized hazardous materials tools and equipment. **Note:** There are four levels of Hazardous Materials Responders 1) Awareness 2) Operations 3) Technical 4) Specialist. All members of the LFD are trained at Operations level and the members of the Hazmat Team are trained at Technical and Specialist levels. Hazmat Teams work and train with many other agencies such as the local police and FBI.

Hazardous materials exist in households, businesses, industrial services. Thousands of chemicals such as Ammonium arsenate, Methyl iodide, or just gasoline are in transit over our railroads and roadways daily. When used properly, hazardous materials serve a purpose and are safe in society. In contrast, accidents, spills, leaks or criminal activity involving hazardous materials (chemical, nuclear, radioactive, biological, incendiary/explosive) can pose a significant threat to humans, animals, and the environment at anytime. Hazmat Teams have to stay continuously trained in an ever changing hazardous landscape.



Technical Rescue Team – This is a group of firefighters within the Department who have specialized training and are certified on how to rescue people who may be trapped or injured in places other than their homes, vehicles or in odd predicaments. The Team consists of Rope Rescue, Swift Water and Dive Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Large Animal Rescue, Urban Search, and Structural Collapse. All of the equipment needed to perform these rescues is carried on Rescue 1, which makes the vehicle a valuable tool in our city.

As you learn about these specialized teams, you may wonder the need for all of the equipment and training. It is important to realize that when emergencies occur, we at the Lexington Fire Department never know when or what type of emergency we may be responding to. As technology evolves, rescue teams try to get as much training in as many areas as possible to better protect the citizens of our community. Many types of equipment are essential to a positive outcome in a time sensitive rescue.



Accident Victim Extrication (Jaws of Life) – Our Rescue and Ladder companies are equipped to remove trapped (*entangled*) victims from automobiles and machinery by using hydraulic spreaders and other technical equipment.

Fire Prevention – The Bureau consists of the Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Inspectors, and Public Education Specialist.



On a daily basis the LFD has Nationally Certified Fire Inspectors that are designated to enforce fire safety laws and regulatory codes adopted at the State and Local level is a major area of responsibility of the Fire Prevention Bureau. With a population of approximately 300,000 and an area of 285 square miles, the Bureau inspects variety occupancies each year. The occupancies inspected include assemblies, businesses, schools, hospitals, hotels and care homes, jails, high rises and hazardous use facilities.

Fire Inspectors respond to complaints for fire safety issues. Fire Inspectors attend special events to enforce life safety codes. Also, fire inspectors review building plans to ensure life safety which is all under the authority of the Divisions Fire Marshal's Office. Lexington has approximately 50,000 businesses that require periodic inspections which include housing facilities.

Public Education – The public education branch of the Lexington Division's Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for teaching public safety to the citizens of Lexington and also to many of the people who work in our city each day.

The firefighters from the Fire Prevention Bureau use their career experiences and both new and older proven methods to accomplish our goals. Along with our standard department training, each year we attend many training classes in an effort to improve our abilities to accomplish these goals. The current public educators are passionate advocates for public safety. They are available to speak at businesses, organizations, schools and special events.

Fire Investigation – Fire Investigators are firefighters trained as law enforcement officers that are called to investigate fires for a complete investigation which can include making an arrest. In cases of arson, fire investigation is one of the most difficult of the forensic sciences to practice. Unlike most forensic disciplines, even the basic question of whether a crime has been committed is normally not obvious. During a fire investigation, an entire process must be undertaken just to determine if the case involves arson or not.

Homeowners Insurance



All the above factors determine part of the insurance premiums that are paid by homeowners and businesses which is based on the quality of the fire protection in your area..



City committed to saving lives and property needs trained firefighters, proper equipment, and adequate water. Insurance companies consider it good public policy — and good business — to promote and encourage the efforts of individual communities to improve and maintain their fire-protection services.

FAQ: Why do so many fire apparatus respond to simple incidents?

Fire Department units are dispatched according to information received by the 911 operator. The Lexington Fire Department has to think pessimistically when they respond to citizens in need of help. In other words, the firefighters are prepared to deal with the worst that could happen.

A computer selects the closest units assigned to an incident. The fire department's philosophy is to get our firefighters there as soon as possible. This will be either an engine company or a ladder truck company. In most cases an ambulance is dispatched as well.

There may be four or more fire department vehicles on the scene for what appears to be a "simple" incident. However, in emergency services we have learned that if we assume something is "simple," we can be horribly mistaken and lives could be lost. Emergency responses are predetermined based on many factors that set the number of vehicles and personnel that are assigned to a call.

We respond prepared to encounter the worst. The winner in these situations will always be the citizen who needs help.

