Elsmere Fire Company Observational Ride Along Program:

Welcome Prospective Member:

As you start your journey with the Elsmere Fire Company (EFC), we would like to welcome you, as well as thank you for choosing our organization. The Elsmere Fire Company runs off of Tradition, Pride, Service, and Dedication as we operate 365 days a year 24/7. We are committed to excellence, and strive to provide the most effective, and efficient service possible to the citizens and visitors of our area.

Before you start or receive your membership application with the Elsmere Fire Company, you are required to complete 2 Observational Ride Alongs at the firehouse with us. The ride alongs will consist of actually riding the apparatus with us to real life emergencies and observing how we operate and handle emergencies. This is strictly observational, and at no time will the ride along engage in any operation. This program is designed to give the prospective member some insight to the operations of a firefighter/EMT and the benefits of such.

The Elsmere Fire Company is rich in history, and has been a gateway for several of our members to further their life of service and obtain full time jobs within the Public Service field with many Career Fire/EMS Departments around the tri-state area, as well as local Police Departments.

The Elsmere Fire Company responds to 1,200 Fire related emergencies, and 2,000 EMS related emergencies annually. Of those 1,200 Fire Emergencies, roughly 50+ are Working Fires. We are a combination fire company, which means we operate daily with a mix of Volunteer Members and Career Personnel. There is no divide between both entities, and we all work very well together to provide Fire/EMS services. We operate with the following equipment;

1 – 100’ Tower Ladder

2 – Engines

2 – BLS Units (Ambulance)

1 – Hazmat Response Unit

2 – Command Units

The Fire/EMS service is not a field for everyone. There is a lot of hard work that needs to be completed on scene. You may see some things that not everyone from the general public sees such as, but not limited to; the aftermath/destruction after a structure fire, serious car accidents that may involve death, injuries or illness associated with abuse or neglect. We are by no means trying to scare you, but we want you to know some of the incidents we encounter.

Again, we thank you for choosing the Elsmere Fire Company, and we look forward to meeting you, and seeing you progress through the program and your time as a member.

Ride Along Program Guidelines:

Thank you for your interest in the Elsmere Fire Company. An important part of the process to become an EFC member is to participate in ride-alongs where you will have the opportunity to meet other members, get a taste of the departments culture, and see how we handle emergency incidents. This document is intended to provide you with information on what is expected of you and answer some frequently asked questions. Please ensure you read this document in its entirety.

The Elsmere Fire Company is located at:

1107 Kirkwood Highway

Wilmington, DE 19805

Ph: (302)-999-0183

To schedule your ride alongs you must go to our website [www.elsmerefc.org](http://www.elsmerefc.org) and click on the “join” tab and follow the prompts. From there you will find all the information and Ride Along Application, all of which is printable. At the bottom of the page you will be requested to fill out your personal information and an email will be sent to our recruitment committee. Once the email has been sent and received, you will receive a response (typically within a day or two) and times and dates will be determined for your 2 ride alongs. Times and dates will be given based on your availability. Ride along hours are from 09:00 – 21:00 (9am to 9pm). Ride along time will be a minimum of 6 hours if unable to complete the full 12-hour period. You may also inquire through our Company Facebook or Instagram accounts.

When you arrive for your ride along, you may use the parking lot to the left of the firehouse, or the larger parking lot in the rear of the firehouse. Please ensure that you arrive promptly at your assigned start time. When you arrive please use either of the two front doors on the front of the building. Let whoever answers the door know you are here for your ride along and you will be directed to the officer in charge for the day or the on-duty career staff. You will then be provided with a tour of the firehouse and assigned a seat on either the Engine or Tower. If here for an EMS ride along you will be directed to the on-duty EMS personnel and assigned to one of the two EMS units. If you are going to be late for your assigned ride along please ensure you call the firehouse and let the officer in charge know.

**Attire:** It is essential that you wear the appropriate attire when here for your ride along. The required attire will be black or navy-blue long work pants, plain black or navy blue short or long sleeve shirt (weather depending), and all black shoes or boots. No open toe shoes. If you are from another fire department, you may wear a fire department shirt. Inappropriate shirts, excessively tight or revealing clothing, or unsafe attire is not permitted.

When you arrive for your ride along please make sure you bring your valid drivers license or valid photo ID. A copy of it will be made and kept with your ride along packet and file. Dress for the weather and bring appropriate outerwear such as winter clothing and/or rain jacket. Meals are not provided daily, so please plan accordingly. However, if a cooked meal is being provided by the members, the ride along is treated as a guest, and will not be expected to pay for any portion of the meal.

**Expectations:** You are expected to arrive on time, dress appropriately, report to station officer in charge, be respectful, and ask questions. The ride along program is designed to give you the opportunity to observe real emergencies and responses, and gives the EFC Volunteers and Career Staff the opportunity to learn about you. Participating in the required ride alongs is a part of the process of applying for membership. You are required to remain seated and belted when riding fire and rescue apparatus, and follow all applicable safety rules. You may exit the apparatus after arriving on scene, but you are not permitted to engage in any operation, or roam away from the apparatus. When on an emergency response, you are not permitted to take any pictures or videos of the incident. You may assist with restoring equipment after an incident, but you are not expected to. However, taking the initiative certainly goes a long way and shows us that you are interested in learning and helping.

At the end of your assigned ride along time, we simply ask that you check in with the officer in charge or the on-duty career staff and let them know that you are leaving and sign out. As previously stated, we respond to a combined 3,200 incidents annually. If you were not fortunate to have any emergencies occur during your ride along time, please do not worry. In a sense, that’s not necessarily a bad day. Regardless of the calls that you may or may not have responded to, the ride along provides an opportunity to interact with some of our volunteers and career staff members, get a first hand look at EFC’s equipment and operations, and learn more about the rewards and challenges of volunteering. In the event that you would like more information or another ride along to decide if volunteering is right for you, please ask the officer in charge, or simply email the recruitment email and we will absolutely provide you with an additional ride along.