



Bill No. 21-08  
 Concerning: Fire and Rescue Services –  
Accreditation Standard Revisions for Volunteer  
Companies  
 Introduced: June 22, 2021  
 Revised: \_\_\_\_\_ Draft No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enacted: July 20, 2021  
 Effective: September 18, 2021  
 Expires: September 13, 2021  
 Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-2, Article IV  
 Section(s) 1-2-67 and 1-2-69

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
 FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council Vice President Michael Blue

**AN ACT** to: Amend the Frederick County Code Chapter 1-2: Administration, Article IV: Fire and Rescue Services; to revise the minimum standards to remove residence proximity requirements for active volunteer members; change the frequency of verification/accreditation to every two years; to add definitions of: ‘active operational volunteer member’; and removed definitions of: ‘active member,’ ‘live,’ and ‘operational volunteer member.’

Executive: *Jan H. Hyndra* Date Received: July 22, 2021  
 Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/22/2021  
 Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By amending:  
 Frederick County Code, Chapter, 1-2, Art. IV Section(s) 1-2-67 and 1-2-69


Other: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law.</i>
***	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

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The County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, finds it necessary and appropriate to amend and clarify Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-2, Article IV: Fire and Rescue Services, to revise the minimum standards to remove residence proximity requirements for active volunteer members; change the frequency of verification/accreditation to every two years; to add definitions of: 'active operational volunteer member'; and removed definitions of: 'active member,' 'live,' and 'operational volunteer member,' as shown on the attached Exhibit 1. .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, that the Frederick County Code shall be amended as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.

  
M. C. Keegan-Ayer, President  
County Council of Frederick County,  
Maryland

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§ 1-2-67. FIRE, RESCUE, AMBULANCE OR FIRST RESPONDER MINIMUM STANDARDS.

(A) As minimum standards, each fire, rescue, ambulance, truck, first responder company, or special operations team shall:

(1) Maintain an active company/team membership of a sufficient number of active operational volunteer members necessary to meet the minimum response criteria pursuant to § 1-2-66, including at least 3 active operational officers as determined by established officer qualification standards;

(2) Maintain an adequate means of receiving an alarm and alerting the company membership;

(3) Complete and file incident reports and maintain records of each response in the manner required by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

(4) Comply at all times with the applicable minimum standards contained in subsections (B), (C), (D) and (E) of this section for the service being offered.

(B) As minimum standards to conduct fire operations, each fire company shall at all times have:

(1) Five active operational volunteer members trained to drive and properly operate the company's primary fire attack pumper, and who are in accordance with County Fire and Rescue standards;

(2) Ten active operational volunteer members who:
[(a) Live in the fire company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance from the station required in subsection (B)(3) based on the company's classification as follows:

- Urban Stations—5 Miles
Suburban Stations—6 Miles
Rural Stations—8 Miles;

[(b)] (a) Have successfully completed required firefighter certification training as conducted by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), Frederick County or its equivalent;

[(e)] (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications required by established County standards;

[(d)] (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

[(e)] (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

(3) A heated fire station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee

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1 workplace. Including but not limited to; potable water, food storage and food preparation  
2 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities  
3 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally  
4 sound and hazard free.

5 (4) A motorized pumper which is:

6 (a) In good operating condition;

7 (b) Of at least 1,000-gallon-per- minute pumping capacity;

8 (c) Listed by the Maryland Rating Bureau;

9 (d) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle

10 Administration; and

11 (e) Annually inspected and certified by the Fire and Rescue Standards Committee as  
12 meeting the current minimum equipment standards and a satisfactory pump test.

13 (C) As minimum standards to conduct rescue operations, each rescue company shall at all  
14 times have:

15 (1) Ten active operational volunteer members who:

16 [(a) Live in the fire company's first due area or within the prescribed distance from  
17 the station required in subsection (C)(2) based on the company's classification as follows);

18 ——— Urban Stations—5 Miles

19 ——— Suburban Stations—6 Miles

20 ——— Rural Stations—8 Miles;]

21 [(b)] (a) Have successfully completed the course in rescue or truck operations as  
22 offered by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), Frederick County or its equivalent;

23 [(e)] (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications  
24 required by established County standards;

25 [(d)] (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as  
26 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

27 [(e)] (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory  
28 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

29 (2) A heated station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus and  
30 equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house  
31 County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee  
32 workplace. Including but not limited to: potable water, food storage and food preparation  
33 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities  
34 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally  
35 sound and hazard free.

36 (3) A motorized piece of apparatus of minimum one-and-one-half-ton capacity which is:

37 (a) In good operating condition;

38 (b) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle

39 Administration; and

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1 (c) Annually inspected and certified by the Fire and Rescue Standards Committee or  
2 the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Committee as meeting the current minimum equipment  
3 standards and pump test.

4 (D) As minimum standards to conduct ambulance operations, each ambulance company shall  
5 at all times have:

6 (1) Ten active operational volunteer members who:

7 [~~(a) Live in the company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance~~  
8 ~~from the station required in subsection (D)(2) based on the company's classification as follows;~~

9 ~~——— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

10 ~~——— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

11 ~~——— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;]~~

12 [(b)] (a) Have successfully completed the basic emergency medical technician  
13 course as certified by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services;

14 [(e)] (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications  
15 required by established County standards;

16 [(d)] (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as  
17 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

18 [(e)] (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory  
19 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

20 (2) A heated ambulance station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the  
21 apparatus and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations  
22 that house County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an  
23 employee workplace. Including but not limited to; potable water, food storage and food  
24 preparation facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities,  
25 sleeping facilities equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility  
26 that is structurally sound and hazard free.

27 (3) An ambulance which is:

28 (a) In good operating condition; and

29 (b) Adequately equipped with medical equipment and supplies and registered as an  
30 emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; and

31 (c) Annually inspected and certified by the EMS Committee as meeting the current  
32 minimum equipment and supplies standard.

33 (E) As minimum standards to operate a first responder special unit, each first responder  
34 special unit company shall at all times have:

35 (1) Ten trained active [~~operations~~] operational volunteer first responder members who:

36 [~~(a) Live in the company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance~~  
37 ~~from the station required in subsection (E)(2) based on the company's classification as follows:~~

38 ~~——— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

39 ~~——— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

40 ~~——— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;]~~

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1           **(b)** (a) Have successfully completed the basic medical first responder course as  
2 certified by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services;

3           **(e)** (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications  
4 required by established County standards;

5           **(d)** (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as  
6 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

7           **(e)** (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory  
8 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

9           (2) A heated station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus  
10 and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house  
11 County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee  
12 workplace. Including but not limited to: potable water, food storage and food preparation  
13 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities  
14 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally  
15 sound and hazard free.

16           (3) A first responder special unit which is:

17           (a) In good working condition;

18           (b) Adequately equipped with medical equipment and supplies;

19           (c) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle  
20 Administration; and

21           (d) Annually inspected and certified by the EMS Committee as meeting the current  
22 minimum equipment and supplies standards.

23           (F) As minimum standards to conduct truck operations, each truck company shall at all times  
24 have:

25           (1) Ten active operational volunteer members who:

26           [ ~~(a) Live in the company's first due response area or within the prescribed distance~~  
27 ~~from the station required in subsection (F)(2) based on the company's classification as follows:~~

28           ~~—— Urban Stations — 5 Miles~~

29           ~~—— Suburban Stations — 6 Miles~~

30           ~~—— Rural Stations — 8 Miles;~~]

31           **(b)** (a) Have successfully completed the course in truck operations by the  
32 Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), Frederick County or its equivalent;

33           **(e)** (b) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications  
34 required by established County standards;

35           **(d)** (c) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination,  
36 as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services; and

37           **(e)** (d) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory  
38 protective equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

39           (2) A heated station of adequate size and construction for the housing of the apparatus  
40 and equipment required to meet the standards. Volunteer owned and operated stations that house  
41 County employed career personnel shall maintain the basic necessities required for an employee

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1 workplace. Including but not limited to; potable water, food storage and food preparation  
2 facilities, restroom facilities, a break/lounge area, shower and locker facilities, sleeping facilities  
3 equipped with built-in fire detection and suppression systems, and a facility that is structurally  
4 sound and hazard free.

5 (3) A motorized piece of aerial apparatus with a minimum of 100 feet of aerial ladder  
6 reach and a 500 pound tip load rating which is:

7 (a) In good operating condition;

8 (b) Registered as an emergency vehicle with the Maryland Motor Vehicle  
9 Administration; and

10 (c) Annually inspected and certified by the Fire and Rescue Standards Committee  
11 or the EMS Committee as meeting the current minimum equipment standards, aerial ladder test  
12 certification and pump test, if applicable.

13 (G) As minimum standards to operate as a "Special Operations Team", each special  
14 operations team shall maintain the following at all times:

15 (1) Approval of the Director of Fire and Rescue Services to operate as a County  
16 authorized specialized response team. Such approval shall be considered in consultation with the  
17 Fire and Rescue Advisory Board.

18 (2) A sufficient number of active operational volunteers members that have and maintain  
19 the required training and certifications for each special operations function to ensure the  
20 operational responsibilities of the special operations team can be carried out on a reliable  
21 response basis, and as determined by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

22 (3) Have successfully completed other technical training and/or certifications required by  
23 established County standards.

24 (4) Have successfully completed the required medical/physical examination, as  
25 prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

26 (5) Have successfully passed the annual "Fit Test" for use of respiratory protective  
27 equipment, as prescribed by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services.

28 (H) [~~Annual~~] Biennial verification of compliance with all applicable standards specified in §§  
29 1-2-66 and §§ 1-2-67 shall be the responsibility of the Director of Fire and Rescue Services, in  
30 consultation with the Fire and Rescue Advisory Board.

31 (1) Verification of compliance shall be required [~~annually~~] biennially, but may be  
32 required at anytime if the Fire and Rescue Advisory Board or Director of Fire and Rescue  
33 Services has reason to believe a volunteer corporation fails to meet minimum standards.

34 (2) A formal process for [~~annual~~] biennially standards verification shall be administered  
35 by the Director of Fire and Rescue Services, in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Advisory  
36 Board.

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38 **§ 1-2-69. DEFINITIONS.**

39  
40 The following words have the meaning indicated.

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1 **ACTIVE OPERATIONAL VOLUNTEER MEMBER.** A person who meets the training,  
2 certification, medical, physical and SCBA Fit Test requirements set forth by the Director of Fire  
3 and Rescue Services and the Frederick County Code, as amended.

4 [~~**ACTIVE MEMBER.**~~ A person who has qualified as active within the past 5 years under the  
5 guidelines of the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).]

6 ASSOCIATION. The Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc.

7 [~~**LIVE.**~~ For the purpose of determining if a member "lives" in the first due response area or  
8 prescribed distance from the company station, LIVE refers to the location where a member  
9 resides full time for more than 183 calendar days per year and any measurement of distance  
10 requirements shall be point to point by air miles, from the station to the individual's place of  
11 residence.]

12 [~~**OPERATIONAL VOLUNTEER MEMBER.**~~ A person who meets the training, certification,  
13 medical physical, SCBA Fit Test and residency requirements set forth by the Director of Fire and  
14 Rescue Services and the Frederick County Code, as amended.]

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