

Interest Card

If you feel that volunteering sounds like something you would like to know more about, please fill out the details below and return it to us at the address on this brochure. You may also get in touch with us by emailing your contact information to chief@lahondafire.org.

Name:

Address:

Town:

Email:

Daytime Phone:

Evening Phone:

Thank you for your interest!

The La Honda Fire Brigade is an equal opportunity employer.



LA HONDA FIRE BRIGADE

PO Box 97
8945 La Honda Road
La Honda, CA 94020

Phone: 650-747-0381

E-mail: chief@lahondafire.org

Website: www.lahondafire.org

Services provided in cooperation with the San Mateo County Fire Department



La Honda Fire Brigade

Serving the community and all-volunteer since 1953

New Volunteer Firefighter Information



Information and benefits of becoming a volunteer firefighter

Volunteering for the La Honda Fire Brigade

Volunteers comprise 73% of all firefighters in the United States. Of the total estimated 1,096,250 firefighters in the US, 800,050 are volunteer. The La Honda Fire Brigade has a long history of service to the community.



La Honda Fire on a mobile attack at a wildland fire.

Today our volunteer firefighters respond to a wide array of emergencies including structure and wildland fires, emergency medical incidents, natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, rope-based rescues, water rescue emergencies, and other general public service calls. The public relies on La Honda Fire's volunteer firefighters as their first line of defense in these emergencies. As a result, volunteers spend an enormous amount of time training for such emergencies—almost as if it is a second, unpaid job.

La Honda Fire is an all-risk fire department, and is unique in the SF Bay Area as being one of the few all-volunteer first response fire departments. Volunteer firefighters carry radio pagers that alert when an emergency is dispatched. La Honda Fire has a station located on State Hwy 84 in La Honda, and has an initial response area of about 54 square miles. Apparatus operated by La Honda Fire include one Type II Structure Fire Engine, One Type III Wildland/Urban Interface Engine, One Rescue unit, one 3000-gallon Water Tender, and one Utility truck. Depending on their location, firefighters may respond to an emergency in fire apparatus, or they may respond directly to the scene of an emergency. La Honda responds to about 300 calls/year.

Volunteer Firefighter Benefits

Volunteering as a firefighter does not come without its benefits. First and foremost is the knowledge of making a difference in the lives of people who live and play in the community. They protect and rescue people, save their property, and in some cases their lives. Volunteering as a firefighter includes the following benefits:

- All required training is provided and paid for by the department.
- All required safety equipment and gear is provided and paid for by the department.
- Firefighters are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses by the department.
- Firefighters receive a small training stipend
- Firefighters are provided workers compensation and salary continuation insurance by the department.
- Membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council, including a \$10,000 line of duty death benefit, is provided and paid for by the department.
- Membership in the CA State Firefighter's Assoc, including a \$15,000 line of duty death benefit, is provided and paid for by the department.
- A length of service award is provided for firefighters who serve 10 years or more, paid starting at 65 years of age. This benefit increases incrementally after 10 years of service.
- Volunteering can provide the necessary experience and background for individuals seeking career employment in the fire service.

Requirements

Becoming a firefighter is challenging and rewarding, but is not for everyone. Volunteering requires a very large time commitment and is physically demanding.

- Geographical requirements: Volunteers must reside in the area of La Honda or its surrounding communities (i.e., San Gregorio, Skylonda, Loma Mar, Portola St Park/Middleton Tract).
- Candidates must pass an NFPA medical examination and be in good general physical shape.
- Candidates must possess a good driving record and pass a criminal background check.
- Candidates must be able to commit time for trainings and interruption in daily activities in order to respond to emergencies.

Application process

Persons interested in volunteering should contact the department by submitting an interest card or emailing to the address noted. Candidates attend two trainings to determine if volunteering is a good fit for them. A formal application may then be submitted, and if approved, the candidate is requested to submit to a medical examination. Once completed, the firefighter starts their training. Training consists of 240 hours the first year of initial training which includes medical, hazardous materials, and academies for structure and wildland fires. Only after initial training is completed may a firefighter respond to emergencies, typically after 9 mo. to 1 year.