

Odessa Fire Department Citizens Fire Academy Program Description

Due to the broad range of services the Fire Department provides to the Community, the Citizens Fire Academy will consist of a wide variety of opportunities for participation. Some of these opportunities may be physically and emotionally demanding. Each participant will have the opportunity to have some hands-on experience, as well as, acquire an overall general knowledge of the fire service and its function in our community.

Participation in exercises is optional. Some of the hands-on experience may include wearing firefighter protective gear. Some participants will be invited to wear a fully encapsulated Level “A” suit, used in hazardous materials incidents. The participants will also use portable fire extinguishers. Each applicant should know their limitations, and communicate those limitations promptly.

The participants will be permitted to ride along on a fire engine at various fire stations, giving them full perspective of the life of a Firefighter both in the station and on emergency runs.

All participants will receive a general overview of the fire department services to the community. They will learn how the Fire Department responds to both EMS and fire emergencies. They will learn the purpose of technical rescue and hazardous materials response. They will also receive an overview of how the 911 Systems operates and how our Fire Marshal’s Office functions in fire prevention, investigation, and public education. You will have the opportunity to participate in activities including our training smoke house. This new facility allows firefighters to practice various techniques in a smoked filled structure.

All of this information will be briefly covered in a ten-week period. The graduation dinner will be on week 11.