



news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Goodyear Fire Department looking for volunteer fire inspectors

The Goodyear Fire Department is looking for a few good volunteers to form a team - the Fire Prevention Assistant Team (FPAT).

Beginning this week, the Fire Department will begin reviewing applications of those who are interested in becoming city-certified volunteer fire inspectors after completing the training and working a minimum of 20 hours per month.

The inspectors will learn how to assist the department's Fire Prevention Division in making sure small to medium-size businesses have working life-safety devices and emergency exit measures in place and be in compliance with city, national and federal codes.

Part of the inspectors' responsibilities would be to ensure panic devices such as smoke alarms, and extinguishers and emergency exit measures are in place in small to medium-size businesses in the city. No prior experience as a fire or building inspector is needed, but successful applicants will be required to complete seven sessions (32 hours) of classroom training, scheduled to begin in January.

"We're looking at making sure these businesses are safe, and here's what we can do to make them safe," said Steve Morrow, fire prevention program coordinator for the Goodyear Fire Department. "We will teach the inspectors what they need to know. It's all about life safety. We want to ensure that we give the citizens the best chance of minimizing an event if one happens."

The volunteer fire inspectors would be in addition to the three full-time fire inspectors who will be making sure that the approximate 1,700 businesses throughout the city are in code compliance and safe. Additionally, the volunteer inspectors will provide assistance at city and educational events.

The program would like to have at least 20 volunteers attend the training, but will implement five who will be active on a regular basis. Interviews for the applicants will begin in December. Goodyear residents are preferred, but the city will consider non-residents.

"The goal is to get the businesses inspected and make the inspections a regular thing," Morrow added. "We have very high standards for this program. Our goal is to provide a fun atmosphere, but it will be a work-oriented group."

To apply for the program, go to the Fire Corps link at www.goodyearaz.gov/VolunteerApplication. If you have any questions about the program, please call Elaine Schmerbeck at (623) 882-7057.

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