

THE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

DANVILLE LIFE SAVING CREW

Thank you for considering becoming a member of the Danville Life Saving Crew! While the rewards of membership are many, the time that it takes to serve our community is significant, especially during a member's first year.

We have found that the worst thing that one can do is to recruit a new member and not make every effort to make sure the new member is aware of the time involved. We do not want to "scare anyone off", but by the same token, there is nothing worse than to become a volunteer, only to find that there is much more involved than you initially thought.

We know that your time is valuable not only to you, but to your family as well. It takes a good deal of sacrifice to serve your community as a DLSC member. That sacrifice also involves your family and loved ones as well. It is important that they understand this and support you as well.

The purpose of this memorandum is to point out (1) the time that it takes to meet all of the training requirements set forth by the Commonwealth of Virginia and well as our organization, and (2) the process of becoming a member. It is cumbersome at times, but well worth the effort.

Membership - Time Expectations of New Members

The first year of membership can be trying and busy, but the harder you work, the faster it eases up. Here is a listing of the typical time requirements of our members:

MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS:

This is where crew business is conducted and training takes place. We meet twice a month from 7:00 pm till about 9:30 pm.

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Once a month with Candidate Committee

CREW DUTY

Three (3) duties a month. Therefore, one must keep in mind that this is another day most every week that you must give at least 8 hours

EMT TRAINING

EMT class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 pm till 10:00 pm. This starts in August and ends in May. There is a significant amount of study that is necessary to pass the EMT National Registry examination process.

WEEKENDS:

During your first year of membership, there are required certifications that can only be attained by attending weekend classes. While not always the case, you can typically count on spending one or two weekends per quarter undergoing training. Required training includes:

EVOG (Emergency Vehicle Operations Course) held one weekend per quarter (every three months)

Vehicle Extrication: (Held one weekend per quarter (every three months)

Hazardous Materials I Awareness: (Held one weekend per quarter (every three months)

Membership – The Application Process

The Application process can be a bit daunting and discouraging. Constant changes in the law keeps affecting the amount of time that it takes to get a new prospective member in. Please do not be discouraged by the cumbersomeness of the process. It is to protect the public we serve and the organization that we represent. The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services has stringent requirements for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. Those requirements are attached at the end of this document.

When a prospective member stops in, we try to give them the “Reader’s Digest Version” of what we do and what is required without scaring them off! We talk about the process and offer them the chance to do a “Ride-A-Long” on a shift with Crew members on duty.

We will give them an Application Packet that has the Application, descriptions of the benefits of membership, a note from the Chief, and contact information.

Along with returning the Application, the prospective member must also do the following:

- A fingerprint card must be taken to the Police Department for “printing” the applicant. They bring that back to DLSC and we send it to the Office of EMS to be processed by the FBI.
- The applicant must go to the DMV and procure a copy of their Driving Record and return it to DLSC.
- A complete background check is done.

Once these background inquiries come back “clean”, the applicant is brought in by the committee and is interviewed. A picture of the applicant is taken and is placed on the membership board to let the crew membership know who is applying to join.

Once they complete the interview, the Application is reviewed and discussed in committee by the Membership Committee, and if found favorable, the applicant is brought in as a candidate member at the next meeting.

It can take several weeks—even months—for an applicant to become a member. We think you will find that the wait is worth it!

MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The minimum training requirements for the Danville Life Saving Crew are CPR, completing an EMT course and getting certified from the state, emergency vehicle operations course (EVOC), and vehicle rescue awareness.

Once these are met the candidate member must pull a total of three (3) senior man duties where they act as the senior member on duty. Those duties are evaluated by the candidate committee and the candidate is interviewed to become a released candidate.

There are 3 levels or classifications of a Candidate Member.

Released Driver

The candidate can drive the ambulance on a call and to the hospital. At this point the member is untrained and isn't allowed to perform patient care alone.

Unreleased Candidate

A candidate that is currently in an EMT class, is waiting for an EMT class to start or is waiting for other required training to come available as listed above.

Released Candidate:

This candidate member has all their required training and can perform just like a regular member. Once all senior man duties have been completed and and is interviewed by the candidate committee their name can be placed on the board in the meeting room and they will be voted on by the membership at the next crew meeting to be brought in as a regular member.

The duty requirements for a regular member are three 8 hour duties a month that the member can sign up for anytime that month that will work with their schedule.

The interesting thing about the Danville Life Saving Crew is that several of our members actually live outside of our service area in the city. We have several members that are college students out of town and some that live as far away as Greensboro, North Carolina. This shows the dedication that these members have to serving our community.

VIRGINIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EMS AGENCY & TRAINING PROGRAMS PREREQUISITES

The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services has stringent requirements for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. This is also required attend an Emergency Medical Responder/First Responder, Emergency Medical Responder/First Responder Bridge, or an Emergency Medical Technician course in Virginia requires that you must:

- (1) Be proficient in reading, writing and speaking the English language.
- (2) Be a minimum of 16 years of age at the beginning date of the certification course. If less than 18 years of age, you must provide the course coordinator with a completed parental permission form with the signature of a parent or guardian verifying approval for enrollment in the course.
- (3) Have no physical or mental impairment that would render them unable to perform all cognitive and psychomotor skills required for that level of certification.
- (4) Hold current certification in an Office of Emergency Medical Services approved Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course at the beginning date of the course. This certification must also be current at the time of state testing.
- (5) Not have been convicted of or found guilty of any crime, offense or regulatory violation, or participated in any other prohibited conduct identified in state EMS regulations as follows:
 - (A) Have never been convicted or found guilty of any crime involving sexual misconduct where lack of affirmative consent by the victim is an element of the crime.
 - (B) Have never been convicted of a felony involving the sexual or physical abuse of children, the elderly or the infirm.
 - (C) Have never been convicted or found guilty of any crime (including abuse, neglect, theft from, or financial exploration) of a person entrusted to their care or protection in which the victim is a patient or is a resident of a health care facility.
 - (D) Have never been convicted or found guilty of any crime involving the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs except that the person is eligible for affiliation or enrollment five years after the date of final release if no additional crimes of this type have been committed during that time.

(E) Have never been convicted or found guilty of any other act that is a felony except that the felon is eligible for affiliation or enrollment five years after the date of final release if no additional felonies have been committed during that time.

(F) Are not currently under any disciplinary or enforcement action from another state EMS office or other recognized state or national healthcare provider licensing or certifying body. Personnel subject to these disciplinary or enforcement actions may be eligible for certification provided there have been no further disciplinary or enforcement actions for five years prior to application for certification in Virginia.

(G) Have never been subject to a permanent revocation of license or certification by another state EMS office or recognized state or national healthcare provider licensing or certifying body.

(6) All references to criminal acts or convictions under this section refer to substantially similar laws or regulations of any other state or the United States. Convictions include prior adult convictions, juvenile convictions, and adjudications of delinquency based on an offense that would have been, at the time of conviction, a felony conviction if committed by an adult within or outside Virginia.

(7) Be clean and neat in appearance.

(8) May not be under the influence of any drugs or intoxicating substances that impairs your ability to provide patient care or operate a motor vehicle while in class or performing clinicals, while on duty or when responding or assisting in the care of a patient.