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Springfield Welcomes 10 New Firefighters to Springfield Fire Rescue Division

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO – July 20, 2017 – The City of Springfield’s Fire Rescue Division (SFRD) will welcome 10 new firefighters to the department at the conclusion of their training on August 4, 2017. These new recruits will help fill vacancies created by retirements and individuals leaving for other departments.

The Recruit Academy began on June 5, 2017. There are 17 students in the class, with 10 members of the SFRD and seven students from Clark State Community College (CSCC).

“In a typical new hire academy, many of the SFRD attendees are already certified as firefighters by the State of Ohio,” said Fire Chief Nick Heimlich. “We use the program to familiarize all candidates with our processes and equipment. We also use our own instructors, ensuring that these firefighters are ready to respond to an emergency as soon as they set foot in one of our stations.”

The academy is a State of Ohio certified Firefighter II training course. The academic program and credentialing is conducted through CSCC. Through a collaborative agreement with CSCC, the SFRD holds the academy on-site and uses SFRD State Certified Instructors to provide the programming with support as needed from CSCC.

The academy’s curriculum is heavily infused with hands-on activities and drills that are not typically provided in the standard academic credentialing setting. The high level of hands-on activities allows instructors to ensure that minimum physical strength and aerobic capacity is substantiated and that all baseline skill sets have been mastered.

Another advantage of the on-site academy is that by the time the new hires have been released and assigned to a shift and work unit, they will have had many opportunities to meet and work with SFRD firefighters.

“As our work is highly team-oriented, we believe this to be a critical first step in inculcating the newly hired individual into the team,” Heimlich said.



After the new hires graduate from the academy, they will begin the Basic Operations Orientation Training Program. The graduates will participate in the program for the first three years of their employment, which includes 10 modules of expanded learning material focused on wider professional reading, community familiarization and additional professional skills.

“These new firefighters will help our City continue to keep the residents of Springfield safe,” Heimlich said. “We are grateful to all residents for their vote in May, as it will allow our department to better serve them in the future.”

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