



## **WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.**

### *Emergency Medical Service*

335 WATTERSON STREET - P.O. BOX 356  
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07091 - 0356  
(908) 233-2500

## **WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD FACT SHEET**

### **Who We Are**

The WVRS is the designated emergency medical service (EMS) for the Town of Westfield. It is a self-governing, volunteer staffed organization separate and apart from the municipal government, although it does work closely with the Town's police and fire departments. It is financially independent from the Town of Westfield, and receives its entire operational budget from tax deductible contributions from the community.

The WVRS maintains a headquarters facility centrally located at Watterson Street, near the South Avenue traffic circle, from which it operates three ambulances. In addition to ambulance bays, the facilities include operations, dispatch, meeting, office, and recreation rooms, as well as a duty crew dormitory.

Our members consist of "riding" members, either full "Regular Members" who have completed training as emergency medical technicians (EMT), or "Probationary Members", who are still in training or performing under supervision of regular members.

While most volunteers live or work within Westfield, there is no residency requirement. Members come from varied occupational and educational backgrounds, and their age ranges from high school through retirement.

### **Expectations**

Duty crew riding members (divided into morning, afternoon, and night shifts) perform their duty periods at the headquarters. By being a "resident squad", the WVRS is thus able to significantly reduce its average response time.

To become a riding member you must possess a valid New Jersey driver's license (if over the age of 18) and be capable of performing the job responsibilities of an emergency medical technician. This requires certain physical capabilities, such as the ability to lift equipment and stretchers with patients on them, and to drive under hazardous conditions, mental capability to meet and maintain training levels, and emotional capability to deal with often stressful situations.

Applicants for riding membership must be capable of completing classroom work at the beginning college level. Initial EMT training is the equivalent of a three or four credit one semester college course.



## **WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.**

### *Emergency Medical Service*

335 WATTERSON STREET - P.O. BOX 356  
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07091 - 0356  
(908) 233-2500

### **Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad Fact Sheet (Continued)**

EMT training is offered locally by several organizations that specialize in EMS education. EMTs must recertify every three years: EMTs must successfully complete refresher courses and obtain the necessary amount of continuing education credits. EMTs must also obtain and every two years recertify in the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course for professional health care providers. This course is offered periodically by local hospital affiliated instructors at the WVRS building.

The squad offers monthly in-house training sessions, and publicizes other courses available through other squads or local hospitals. A probationary member's duty crew will familiarize the new member with squad specific protocols and assist him or her in practical application of EMT classroom training, while certain procedures will be explained by specific squad training personnel, all overseen by the squad's training officer, who follows a checklist to insure each probationary becomes fully familiar with all squad equipment and its use.

A probationary member is expected to pull one duty period a week. Night time duty periods start at 6:00 PM and run through at least 6:00 AM. Weekday duty periods are 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., and 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. (Special arrangements can sometimes be arranged for members with special specific work or school schedules and can be discussed further with the membership committee.)

Additionally, all members are expected to abide by squad rules and regulations. These range from those requiring adherence to specific squad call protocols and maintaining patient confidentiality to "housekeeping". Members of all types are subject to immediate dismissal if they discuss / release confidential information to non-members.

### **Next Steps**

After completing the membership application forms in this packet and returning them to the Squad building, your driving record is reviewed through the police and the state division of motor vehicles. If satisfactory, you will be interviewed by the squad's membership committee, and undergo an examination by the squad's physician.

While the WVRS adheres to a policy of non-discrimination in its selection process, it otherwise retains the right to determine, at its sole discretion, whether an applicant would be capable of performing squad duties, and thus acceptable for membership.