

# Katonah Fire Department Prospective Member Brochure



*"All Volunteer Proudly Serving Katonah  
Since 1874"*

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Katonah Volunteer Fire Department

65 Bedford Road

Katonah, NY 10536

[www.katonahfd.org](http://www.katonahfd.org)

914-232-4570

[info@katonahfd.org](mailto:info@katonahfd.org)

# Katonah Fire Department

65 Bedford Road  
Katonah, New York 10536  
[www.katonahfd.org](http://www.katonahfd.org)

**Chief of Department**  
*Matthew Whalen*  
[chief2211@katonahfd.org](mailto:chief2211@katonahfd.org)

**1st Assistant Chief**  
*John Whalen*  
[chief2212@katonahfd.org](mailto:chief2212@katonahfd.org)

**2nd Assistant Chief**  
*John Cohen*  
[chief2213@katonahfd.org](mailto:chief2213@katonahfd.org)



**Meetings**  
Second Tuesday of each month

**Business Telephone**  
(914) 232-4570

**Fax**  
(914) 232-4634

**Email**  
[chiefs@katonahfd.org](mailto:chiefs@katonahfd.org)

Dear Prospective Member,

On behalf of the Katonah Volunteer Fire Department, we would like to thank you for sharing an interest in joining our wonderful organization.

Established in 1874, the Katonah Fire Department has created a tremendous legacy for providing excellent Fire and Safety Services. We pride ourselves on our ability to passionately serve the residents of the Katonah Fire District and our neighboring towns with the highest level of training, efficiency, confidence, and professionalism.

Our 100% volunteer department currently has approximately seventy five active members. We understand that most people have full time jobs and families to care for, but the satisfaction and accomplishment of providing safety to the Katonah community is well worth the time spent.

By joining the department, you will improve your skill set by learning how to operate many emergency tools such as the "Jaws of Life". You will be trained by experienced firefighters and participate in scheduled drills. You will also have the opportunity to continue your Fire Services training by enrolling in many classes provided by the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services.

You will become part of a family that shares the same enthusiasm about helping our families and children feel safe. Most importantly, you will become a role model for your community.

Please review the attached documents for more information and we will be very happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you very much for considering joining our department.

Sincerely,

Matthew Whalen  
Chief

John Whalen  
First Assistant Chief

John Cohen  
Second Assistant Chief

**Serving Katonah Since 1874**

## **Katonah Fire Department--Objectives**

- To provide protection to life and property endangered by fire or other disaster within the Katonah Fire District, and to our neighbors when called upon.
- To promote the teaching and practice of fire protection.



Katonah, Bedford Village, Bedford Hills, Golden's Bridge and Mt. Kisco fire departments preparing for a joint "Live Burn" training exercise.

## **Katonah Fire Department--A Brief History**



On November 19th, 1874, a fire started in Old Katonah's "Old Hotel", nearly destroying the entire town. Two days later, The Katonah Fire Department was formed.



On January 22, 1875, the department purchased the "Pride of Katonah", a new hand pumper that presently resides in the front window at our current location.

In April 1958, the Katonah Fire Department moved from Katonah Avenue to our current location at 65 Bedford Road, building a new firehouse on the site of the old Katonah High School.

Since the arrival of the "Pride of Katonah", our apparatus fleet has grown to now include a Ladder Truck, a Heavy Rescue, two Engines, a Tanker, an all-wheel drive pumper, two Utility Trucks, and our 1928 antique American-LaFrance, "Mary Ann".



# *Katonah Fire Department--Organization*

## Fire Fighting Command Structure

- One Chief, Two Assistant Chiefs
  - Six Company Captains
  - Six Company Lieutenants
- Two Appointed Training Captains

## Department Administration

- President
- Vice-President
- Recording Secretary
  - Treasurer
- Financial Secretary
  - Steward
- Sergeant-At-Arms
- Board of Directors

## Fire District

- Five Elected Commissioners
- District Owns Fire Headquarters and Fire Apparatus



## **Katonah Fire Department--Membership Facts**

- 100 percent volunteer; approximately 75 active members.
- Members are alerted to alarms via pagers, the fire horn, via I-page text alerts on cell phones, and via the Red NMX fire alarm mobile phone app.
- Each member is assigned to a company:
  - Engine Company 1, 2, 3 or 4, Rescue Company, or Tanker Company
- Since 1874, there have been approximately 700 members serving the Katonah Fire District.
- You may join once you reach age 16. Members under age 18 must have parental/guardian consent to join.
- Katonah FD is a Westchester County Satellite Training Center. Many courses, including Firefighter 1, 2, 3 and Firefighter Survival, are held at Katonah FD headquarters.
- Those elected to membership are probationary members until they have completed the NYS Firefighter 1 training class.



The Annual Katonah Fire Department Parade, which kicks off our annual carnival.

## **Katonah Fire Department--Membership Responsibilities**

You will be required to:

- Attend fire calls.
- Participate in department drills.
- Enroll in classes provided by the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services. Katonah Fire District pays for all training.
- Assist with the upkeep and maintenance of the department's apparatus.
- Attend monthly department meetings.
- Attend monthly company meetings.



**katonah Fire Departing members performing a motor vehicle accident rescue drill.**

## **Katonah Fire Department--Membership Benefits**

- Training paid for by the Katonah Fire District.
- All equipment provided—helmet, jacket, pants, boots, gloves, pager, I-page capability, and access to the RedNMX app, along with a dress uniform for parades and other ceremonies.
- Discounted membership at the Saw Mill Club and Just Lift Fitness.
- Free pool pass at all three Town of Bedford Pools.
- Annual Volunteer Firefighter/Ambulance Workers Tax Exemption.
- Members 17 and over receive credit for all alarms, drills, and meetings through the Length of Service Program. You may be able to receive a monthly pension at age 65.
- Use of Katonah Fire Department Facilities



KFD members pose for a photo following a live burn demonstration at our annual Open House.



## **Katonah Fire Department--Membership Process**

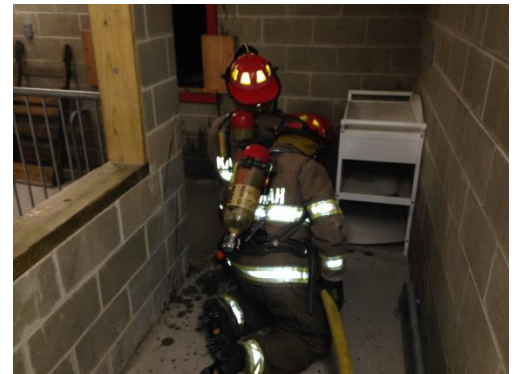
- Submit the completed New Member Application at the bottom of this brochure. Following review of that application, you will attend an interview with the Katonah Fire Department Membership Committee. Under 18 applicants must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (*See KFD Under-18 Program*).
- The department will perform a New York State Arson Check and due diligence regarding your background. Your membership application will be announced and a department election will be held to vote on your membership during an upcoming department monthly meeting.
- If the membership accepts your application, the Katonah Fire Department recording secretary will mail an acceptance letter to you providing additional instructions regarding when to appear at your first meeting to receive your department badge, certificate and entry device.
- You will then schedule an appointment with the department's physician for a full physical exam paid for by the Katonah Fire District
- Final acceptance of membership is subject to approval by the Board of Fire Commissioners.



**Katonah Fire Department members train on Fire Attack at the Westchester County Training Center in Valhalla.**

## **Katonah Fire Department--KFD Under-18 Program**

- Any person who is between the ages of 16 and 18, who is physically fit, morally and mentally sound, and who, having met with the membership committee and satisfactorily passed the committee's investigation (as established in the Katonah Fire Department, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws), may be selected for membership status.
- The goal of this program is to carefully instill, enforce, monitor the practices that lead to well trained, respectful, hardworking members once they reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays and/or the conclusion of their first year of membership.
- Create a culture in which these members both realize their age- and experience-related limitations, but also feel as though they are learning and being prepared for taking on the duties of full-fledged, non-probationary members of the Katonah Fire Department.
- An oversight committee and a training coordinator act as a resource to these members in all aspects of KFD membership: firefighting, training, rules and regulations, etc. – and set example for the types of behaviors expected from our entire membership.
- Applicants must have their parents or legal guardians sign their application in order to join the Katonah Fire department and to participate in any and all activities of the department.
- Under-18 Members must follow specific rules established by the Chief of the Katonah Fire Department.





## Katonah Fire Department Membership Application\*

\*As part of the application process, as required by law, your information will be forwarded to the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control for a **check for** arson conviction and/or sex offender registration.

Application date: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Naturalized citizenship: Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time residing at above address?

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Years: \_\_\_\_\_ Months: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Previous Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Previous Employer:

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address of Current Employer:

Current valid New York State Driver's License ID#:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list three (3) character references and their addresses:

Employer Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date you started with above employer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you in good physical condition? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Katonah Fire District will have you complete a physical examination once you've been elected to membership)

Please obtain the names and signatures of two (2) active members of

The Katonah Fire Department who are recommending you for membership:

Are you a member of, or have you been a member of, any other fire department? (Y)\_\_\_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_\_\_

PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check one)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name and address of department:

PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE GO TO NEXT PAGE**

Availability to participate in normally required fire department activities (meetings, drills, emergency calls). **Please check** appropriate time periods.

Weekdays:

Days \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings \_\_\_\_\_ Nights \_\_\_\_\_

Weekends:

Days \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings \_\_\_\_\_ Nights \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any currently pending arrests or criminal accusations?

(Y) (N)

(Please circle one)

If you have, please give a brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to become a member of the Katonah Fire Department?: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm the statements made in this application are completely accurate. I give my permission to the Katonah fire department to contact the individuals or firms identified in order to verify statements. If elected to membership, I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of The Katonah Fire Department:

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**If under 18, please have your parent or legal guardian sign below:**

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST NUMBER TO REACH THIS PERSON (Cell phone preferred): \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please do not write below this line. Membership Committee use only**

**Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Application read at monthly meeting: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Arson/Background Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Membership Committee Interview: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date Application was voted on: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Accepted: (Y) (N)**

