

Chapter I . The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department, Inc.

In 1913, the Underhill Fire Department was formed to provide fire protection to the Town of Underhill and what is known as the Riverside section of Jericho. The Department started with a 75-gallon soda acid and water chemical tank mounted on an axle and two wagon wheels, which was housed in the building across from the current Jacob and Son Store on Park Street.

In 1936, a new fire station was built at the corner of Park Street and Route 15. The station was built to store the Department's newly purchased 1927 Packard, which had two 40-gallon soda acid and water tanks mounted on it. Also in 1936, the town of Jericho started making contributions for fire protection, so the Department became known as the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department. At this time the Department consisted of eight or ten men who went to fires.

In 1952 a new brick fire station, with a steel roof and two bays, was built on a parcel of land that had been donated to the Fire Department by Archie and May Kirby. The station was located on Route 15 in Underhill, and was the home base of the Fire Department.

Don and Alice Rivers donated a second parcel of land to the Department in the mid-1970s, and by 1982 the Department had a second station. This brick veneer station, also with a steel roof and two bays, is located on Browns Trace in Jericho Center. With this additional station the Department can provide greater fire protection to the Town of Jericho through quicker response time to emergency calls.

In 1997, the Underhill Station was replaced with a new 10,800 square foot facility. The new building was designed with future growth of the communities in mind. Four large bays now house four of five emergency vehicles currently used by the Fire Department. The main building contains Dispatch, Fire Chief's office, Officer's office, a Conference room, kitchen, and a large Meeting/Training room.

Today the members of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department respond to an average of 135 emergency calls per year, ranging from all types of fires and car accidents to floods and downed power lines. We respond to these calls with five pieces of fire fighting apparatus, which are distributed between the two fire stations.

Today's apparatus consists of a:

- 2007 International 7400, 4 door 1250 gallon per minute attack pumper, (9E11)
Dedicated to Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark for 50 years of service to UJFD
- 2002 International 7400, 4 door 1250 gallon per minute attack pumper, (9E5).
- 2013 International 2,650 gallon tanker/pumper pumper, (9E1).
- 1990 International 1,700-gallon tanker and foam truck, (9Tanker2).
- 1993 International four-wheel drive, LDH, 1250 gpm water supply pumper, (9E4).
- 2002 International 7400, 4 door, Heavy rescue truck, (9R1).
- 1984 Chevrolet four-wheel drive utility body support truck, (9U3)
- 2008 Ford F-350 four-wheel drive squad truck with plow, (9Squad51)

These trucks, and the stations that house them, are equipped with modern fire fighting equipment. This enables the Department to provide professional protection to the communities of Underhill and Jericho.



420 VT Route 15
Underhill, VT



288 Browns Trace
Jericho, VT

The members of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department do more than fight fires. We also take time out to get together and enjoy some activities that are a little less serious than fighting fires and saving lives. We hold an annual Labor Day Chicken Barbecue to raise money. We participate in numerous parades throughout the year, one of which is the State Firefighters' Convention. This is a weekend when firefighters from all over the state take time out to get together and also be a little less serious. They compete against each other in muster games that are all associated with fire fighting equipment. The Department Christmas Dinner is also a fun occasion where the firefighters, their spouses, and friends enjoy an evening out. Many awards are given to members in recognition of special contributions made throughout the year to the Department and its communities. It is a fun time at a year's end of hard work and dedication.

We, the members of the Department, spend many hours training on the use of our equipment, as well as attending area fire schools to improve our knowledge in the area of fire protection. We also spend many hours keeping the apparatus clean, shiny, and in top serviceable condition.

The men and women of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department are a group of individuals who are very dedicated to the service they provide, so that the towns of Underhill and Jericho have one of the best trained, best equipped, and most highly respected Fire Departments in the State of Vermont.

Chapter II . A Guide to the Applicant

This booklet was written to guide individuals step by step through the process of becoming a member of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department Inc. The job of fire fighting is much more demanding than in the past. In the early days' firefighters had no responsibilities other than to respond to extinguish fires. The fire service has come a long way since those early days. In recent years, new programs have been introduced and new policies have been adopted to better serve the towns and our members.

The fire service has started a new generation of service and enlightenment because of new training, education and information. Our apprenticeship course and Department training are designed to best educate you in becoming a member of this new generation.

Our application process may at first seem extensive. However, responding to people's emergencies and the fire service is very serious business. The process of becoming a member of our Fire Department is explained in this guide.

Review all information in this booklet, beginning with the Department Bylaws which are the laws set up to govern our Department. Next, review the Department SOGs (Standard Operating Guidelines) which explain how, in most cases, general operations are to proceed. Read the Safety Guidelines that are set up to best insure your personal safety, as well as the safety of everyone in our Department.

Review and fill out all applicable lines on the application (available for download at the UJFD website, ujfd.org). Once you have completed the application return it to a member on the Membership Committee, they will review your application and contact you to set up a date to meet with you at an oral screening. This screening enables us to meet with you so we may introduce the Fire Department and ourselves as well as answer any questions you may have.



CONTROLLED BURN TRAINING

Following a report from the Membership Committee, a vote will be taken by the membership of the Department for approval of the applicant to apprentice membership. Upon approval to apprentice membership you will receive a portable radio and a key to both fire stations. You will be asked not to respond to fire calls. However, you are welcome to come to either station during a fire call to help put the apparatus back into service. The following Tuesday you will begin an apprentice training course. This course is an introductory program designed to acquaint you with the highlights of a firefighter's duties as well as other fire-related subjects. At the completion of Unit 3 of this course you will be issued bunker gear with the appropriate markings for an apprentice member. At this time you will be able to respond to fire calls. During your apprenticeship you will be training and learning. Therefore you will serve in a somewhat limited capacity than those members with more experience with the UJFD. You will be shown locations of basic key tools and items, which we carry on our fire apparatus. You will need to demonstrate that you know these locations on each individual truck to a Membership Committee person before you are allowed to ride that apparatus to fire calls, unless directed by the Officer or Senior Fire Fighter Present.

You will be on probation from the start of your apprenticeship course until you have fulfilled all requirements set forth for apprentice members. This probationary period is a time frame in which you should make the decision of whether or not you wish to continue in the fire service. Also during this time the entire Department will be observing you and your performance to see how well you are retaining your new knowledge and skills.

At the end of your probationary period, a vote will be taken by the entire membership of the Department. You will be dismissed from that portion of the business meeting on the week of this vote. If accepted, you will become a full member of the Fire Department and will be awarded with the presentation of your badges at the following business meeting.

If you have any questions or problems about this procedure, or any other Fire Department items, please feel free to talk to anyone on the Membership Committee. Our job is to help you in any way we can. We want you to be happy belonging to our family of firefighters.



PICKUP TRUCK FIRE