

**Neighbors  
helping neighbors:  
The Chatham  
Fire Department**





# Allow us to introduce ourselves: who we are and how we work.

**First, it's important to know that each and every man and woman in the Chatham Fire Department, from the Chief to the newest recruit, is a volunteer.**

This is not unusual in rural areas like Chatham. In fact, 75% of all the firefighters in the nation are volunteers working hard to protect their communities. While our only pay is pride, that alone is pretty rewarding.

**The county and state offer training only.** We are supported financially through our local taxes, the occasional grant, and fundraising efforts throughout the year like our Sunday morning breakfasts.

**Our department is made up of roughly 36 women and men of the Sanford W. Smith Hook & Ladder Company and the Ocean Fire Co. #1 who together form the Chatham Fire Department.**

Each and every firefighting member has undergone extensive and demanding training in firefighting and emergency services.

However, depending on personal goals and volunteer time constraints not every firefighter is trained to be able to go into a burning building. Many of our firefighters are exterior qualified, dealing with hoses, hydrants, ladders, and traffic control in support of the interior firefighters. Others help in various non-firefighting ways with fundraising, equipment maintenance, in the kitchen, etc. The thing to remember is that there are many ways one can be a member and make a valuable contribution.





**While we are based in the Village of Chatham we cover a much wider area.** Sometimes an emergency in Ghent or Valatie will require us to provide backup to our fellow firefighters from those towns. It's not uncommon for us to call on them as well. We constantly drill and train together throughout the year for any contingency that might arise.



**We come from all walks of life.** Our makeup is blue collar, white collar, professionals, law enforcement, information technology, businesswomen/men, students, retirees, state/county/village employees etc. Some of us grew up in Chatham, some are recent arrivals.

Because we all have jobs, families, school, and various commitments there are no fixed shifts. When the pagers we carry at all times sound the alarm we respond if and when we can. But the more members we have, the better we are able to respond with a full crew at any given time.



**Naturally there is turnover, which is why we are always in need of new volunteers.** If you think you might be interested in joining, come in and talk to us and let us answer any questions you might have. Or email us at [Recruit@ChathamFire.net](mailto:Recruit@ChathamFire.net). The deep sense of satisfaction we feel in the job we do can be yours as well.

**And even if joining is not an option, you can still be of help.** You don't need to wear a pager to make a difference. Many of us who love Chatham find it in our means to offer financial support, which is always welcome. After all, the peace of mind that comes from having a first-class fire department on call 24/7 is well worth the investment.

*Donations may be made to either of our 501(c)3 fire companies – Sanford W. Smith Hook & Ladder Company or Ocean Fire Company #1.  
10 Hoffman Street, Chatham NY 12037*

**There's a place for  
everyone  
on our team.**

email

**[Recruit@ChathamFire.net](mailto:Recruit@ChathamFire.net)**

