

## Requirements

All applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Minimum of 18 years of age
- US Citizen or permanent resident alien eligible for citizenship
- Resident of the City of Santa Clara
- Possess a valid driver's license
- Provide proof of vehicle insurance
- Be in good health and obtain a medical examination

## How to Apply

- Obtain an employment application from the City of Santa Clara website: <http://santaclaraca.gov>
- You can also obtain an application from the Fire Administration office at 777 Benton Street.
- Return the completed application to the Fire Administration at 777 Benton Street.
- For more information, visit the City of Santa Clara website or call the Fire Department at (408) 615-4900.

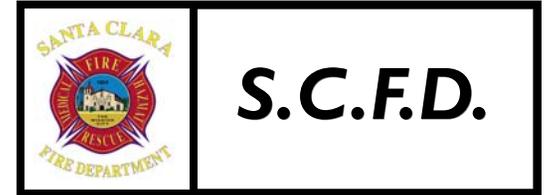


*"Loyal to Our Duty"*  
Since 1854

Fire Department Administration  
777 Benton Street  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Phone: (408) 615-4900

email: [fire@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:fire@santaclaraca.gov)



*Become a  
Santa Clara  
Volunteer  
Firefighter*

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## The Santa Clara Fire Department Volunteer/Reserve Division

### Fire Department History

The Santa Clara Volunteer/Reserves was established in 1854 when local residents formed the Columbia Hose Company. The uniform at the time consisted of a red shirt, dark pantaloons, blue cap trimmed with red and black patent leather front-piece, with the name of the company, black belt with gold lettering and a metal badge.

In 1856 Columbia Engine #1 was formed and approved by city trustees. This company is



Hope Hose Volunteer Fire Company, circa 1882

now known as Hope Hose Company. By 1863, the town of Santa Clara began to grow rapidly. The town's people realized the need for more fire protection and, in 1872, the Hook and Ladder Company was formed. With continued growth and several large fires, in 1877 Mission Hose Company and Hose Brigade were formed. Three years later, Tanner Hose Company was formed. According to statistics, losses to fire had averaged less than \$500 in 1895, which speaks well of the efficiency of the companies.



Santa Clara Fire Department's first motorized fire apparatus, a 1913 Seagraves Chemical Wagon.

Between the years of 1904 and 1908 the individual companies merged to form the Fire Department. At this time all equipment was either hand or horse drawn to the fire.

In 1913, the town purchased its first motorized fire vehicle, a Seagraves Chemical Wagon. In 1924, the town purchased a Model T Ford Hose Wagon. In 1927, Santa Clara purchased its first motor driven water pumper, an Ahrens-Fox. In 1941, the city purchased a combination ladder and pumper from Seagraves.

In 1949, with the post-World War II growth, Santa Clara built the city's first fire station (and headquarters) at 1100 Benton Street. With this expansion came the hiring of the city's first paid firefighters. In 1951, the city took another big step by hiring the first paid chief. The majority of firefighting was still being borne by the volunteers.

### The Modern Fire Department

Today, the City has 10 fire stations consisting of 8 engines, 2 trucks, 1 rescue/light unit, 3 ambulances, 1 hazardous materials unit, and 1 command vehicle. The equipment is staffed by more than 200 paid fire fighters and supplemented by over 60 Volunteer/Reserve fire fighters.

### Fire Reserves

Even though the City of Santa Clara maintains a full-time, professional Fire Department, the volunteer force has been retained as a viable part of the City's fire fighting and emergency response force.



The volunteer force comprises over 60 individuals, organized into six companies. These volunteers respond directly to incidents in their own cars. They work alongside the paid firefighters at fires, and at other emergency responses including disasters.

### Why Volunteer?

If you are interested in a career in the fire service, the Santa Clara Fire Department Volunteer/Reserves provides training and on-the-job experience that may be the key difference between yourself and other potential firefighter candidates. In a normal month, a volunteer can receive up to 40 hours of fire service training and numerous hours of actual incident experience. The volunteers have high standards and the requirements are strictly enforced.



Being a Volunteer Reserve is also an opportunity for you to participate in our community. Volunteers learn about the various areas of the city and become familiar with your City's government. If you are new to the area and interested in fire fighting, then the Volunteer/Reserves can be your key to the community.