

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Winsted Volunteer Firefighters: Do they have what it takes to be successful?

The following are five not-always-easy steps to success:

1. The first key to success is to have integrity. Webster's Dictionary defines integrity as "a firm adherence to a code, especially a moral code." Firefighters are in the public eye; no matter where they are, they represent the Fire Department. Firefighters must realize that they chose a profession that makes them role models in their community, and firefighters are responsible for upholding that image. They must have a clear code of ethics, and they must model that code every day.
2. Another key to being a successful firefighter is dedication. It is important to realize that being a firefighter is not just a job; it's a calling. A job is something people do from 9 to 5 to earn a living. A calling is a career with a purpose; it goes beyond a monetary pursuit. It takes a certain type of person to respond to a calling. Firefighters have a calling to help people. Dedicated firefighters do not complain about things like non-emergency medical calls or that frequent flyer, even if those calls for help are in the middle of the night. Dedicated firefighters do not grumble about going to training sessions. Dedicated firefighters do not wait to be asked to do a task. Instead, they seek to do more when required chores are done at the Fire Station. Dedicated firefighters know what needs to be done and they do it. They know that safety is a top priority and have the courage to operate safely.
3. The third key to being a successful firefighter is a sense of ownership. When firefighters realize that they are stakeholders in their departments, they understand that they can affect their department positively or negatively. Stakeholders realize that complaining has a negative effect on the department. Instead of complaining, they offer new ideas and solutions. They don't shoot from the hip. Instead, they think before they speak. Firefighters who view themselves as stakeholders lead by positive example. They are active on department committees and promote change. They respect tradition and understand its value. They also know that change creates new tradition. Firefighters who are stakeholders take an active role in strengthening their departments.
4. The fourth key to success is commitment to education. Today's firefighters cannot afford to be complacent. Successful firefighters realize that even the smallest bit of education can save fellow firefighters. When firefighters are committed to education, they not only attend all required training sessions, but they pursue other training opportunities. They attend local and regional conferences, participate in the instructional sessions, and share the information gained with their department when they return. With this education, they will become future department leaders.
5. The last key to success is having a good sense of family. A firefighter has two families. Successful firefighters are influenced by the blend of the values learned from both. They know how to separate, prioritize, and appreciate their two families. They have a good home life. They do not become so immersed in the fire service family that they neglect their personal families. Successful firefighters use their sense of family to make positive decisions and promote the sense of family at the fire station.



Without a doubt, the Winsted Volunteer Firefighters do have what it takes to be successful. Next time you see one of our volunteer firefighters, thank them for their service, and give 'em a big hug! If you would like more information on the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department, contact Steve Stotko at stotko@winsted.mn.us.

Simplify your life... pay your Utility Bill the easy way!

Option 1: Sign-up for Automatic Withdrawal (ACH) from your checking or savings account & have your payments withdrawn automatically each month.

Option 2: You also have the option to pay online with your credit or debit card at www.winsted.mn.us where you can easily pay bills anytime...without worrying about mail delays. It's convenient, easy & secure.

A secure payment drop box is also available 24/7 in the front entrance to City Hall for your convenience.



Please contact City Hall at (320)485-2366 for more information.

Meters for Outdoor Water Use

To avoid excessive sewer charges in the summer months, the City of Winsted offers residents the option to purchase a second meter for outside watering, such as lawns, flowers, gardens, washing vehicles, or filling swimming pools. The second meter is only charged for water usage and not sewer.

You can obtain a second meter by completing an application and paying a fee of \$230. The owner bears all costs of plumbing and meter installation. The line connected to this meter must only be used for outdoor water use. Contact City Hall at (320) 485-2366 for more information, or to obtain an application.





Water Conservation Guidelines

Outdoor Conservation Tips

In the summer, we use about 250 gallons of water a day — that's more than twice what we use in the winter. Research suggests that much of that extra use is simply wasted. Nobody has enough water to waste. Please use what you need, but don't waste it. Consider the following tips to conserve water outdoors.

Lawn & Garden

- Water lawns and gardens early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation.
- Avoid watering on windy days.
- Do not over water your lawn – water every 3 to 5 days during the summer months.
- If you let your grass grow to about 1½ to 2 inches in the summer, water loss will be reduced because the blades will provide shade for the roots. Raise the mower blade to at least 3 inches, or to its highest level.
- Lawns that are aerated frequently absorb water better.
- Mulch shrubs and other plantings so the soil holds moisture longer.
- Only use lawn chemicals if absolutely necessary. High nitrogen fertilizers stimulate lawn growth and increase water requirements.
- Thatch build-up in a lawn can create a rapid run-off situation. Every spring the lawn should be raked and dead grass removed.
- Create windbreaks, especially around vegetable gardens, to shelter plants and prevent drying.
- Capture and recycle rainwater by placing barrels or buckets beneath your downspouts.
- Use gray water from tubs and sinks to water plants and flowers.
- For hanging baskets, planters, and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- Keep weeds out of flower and vegetable gardens. Weeds are notorious for stealing water from other plants.
- Avoid installing ornamental water features, such as fountains, unless they use recycled water.
- Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid over watering some while under watering others.
- Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.



Sprinklers

- Sprinklers throwing large drops in a flat pattern are more effective than fine, high sprays.
- When possible, flood-irrigate vegetables and flower gardens, rather than using sprinklers. Irrigation allows deeper soaking with less water. Sprinklers result in high evaporation of water.
- Don't allow sprinklers to run unattended. Use a timer as a reminder to move it or turn it off.
- Check hose connections for leaks and repair them quickly. Even a tiny leak can translate into thousands of gallons of wasted water over a short period of time.



Swimming Pools & Recreation

- Use a cover for spas and swimming pools. A cover can cut water evaporation by 90%.
- Install a new, water-saving pool filter. A single back flushing with a traditional filter uses 180 to 250 gallons of water.
- When back flushing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.
- Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later to see if you have a leak. Check for leaks around your pump.
- Avoid purchasing recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.



Driveways, Sidewalks & Vehicles

- Do not water sidewalks, driveways, or streets.
- Use a broom to clean sidewalks and driveways instead of washing them.
- Drive your car onto the lawn before washing it, so rinse water can water the grass.
- Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle to wash the car.
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Clean gutters and downspouts manually instead of hosing them down.

When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too. Saving water is easy for everyone to do.