

Chapter 3.8

**FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION**

- Art. I. In General, §§ 3.8-1—3.8-20
- Art. II. Fire Department, §§ 3.8-21—3.8-29

**ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL**

**Secs. 3.8-1—3.8-20. Reserved.**

**ARTICLE II. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Sec. 3.8-21. Authority.**

(a) In accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Town of Dexter, there is hereby established, subject to the approval of the town council, the following rules and regulations for the proper government of the Dexter Fire Department.

(b) Changes in the rules and regulations shall be presented at a regular meeting and voted on at the next regular meeting. A simple majority of the membership will constitute acceptance of the department. Absentee ballots will be accepted and counted. (Ord. No. C97-12, § 1, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07; Ord. No. C2014-9, 4-10-14)

**Sec. 3.8-22. Organization.**

(a) The Dexter Fire Department shall consist of a chief, first assistant chief, second assistant chief, captain, first and second lieutenants, clerk, safety officer(s), and thirty-seven (37) regular firefighters.

(b) Applicants for the Dexter Fire Department shall have their application reviewed by the membership committee. Approved applicants will be placed on a probationary period. If the reserve roster has thirty-seven (37) firefighters, the applicant shall be placed on a waiting list.

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Upon being selected as a probationary firefighter, the member shall be placed on a minimum of six (6) months probation period. At the end said period, the members will be reviewed by the membership committee, and upon their approval, will be placed on the roster.

(c) The membership committee shall consist of the chief officers plus two (2) regular firefighters elected yearly at the annual elections.

(d) In event of the resignation or removal of any officer, all subordinate officers will move up to the next higher position until all positions filled. The officers will maintain their current responsibilities until the next annual election. At the next regular monthly meeting, a replacement(s) will be elected to fill any open positions.

(e) Compensation for firefighters shall be determined by the chief and town manager and approved by the town council. (Ord. No. C97-12, § 2, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07)

**Sec. 3.8-23. Responsibilities.**

(a) The chief shall have control and supervision of the Dexter Fire Department.

(b) The chief shall be responsible for the extinguishment of all fires occurring in the Town of Dexter. The chief shall have sole and absolute command of all members of the department, and all other persons present at fires. The chief shall take prompt measures to arrange apparatus and equipment in the most advantageous manner. The chief shall issue orders as deemed necessary to expedite the control and extinguishment.

(c) The above authority shall apply to all other related emergencies.

(d) The first assistant fire chief shall have the same powers as the chief in the absence of the chief.

(e) The second assistant fire chief shall have the same powers as the chief in the absence of the chief and the first assistant chief.

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(f) The captain shall exercise command of the department in the absence of all chief officers. The captain shall also preside at the meetings of the department, and shall keep training records.

(g) The lieutenants shall assume command of the department in the absence of the captain and all chief officers. The senior lieutenant shall be in command. The lieutenants shall preside at department meetings in the absence of the captain.

(h) The clerk shall be responsible for maintaining proper records of meetings and roll-calls.

(i) The membership committee shall be responsible for appointing new members, granting leaves of absence, and removing members for due cause.

(j) The officers of the Dexter Fire Department shall meet monthly to plan and discuss fire department operations. Officer's meetings shall be conducted by the chief or senior officers present.

(k) The chief officers may request, if they believe it necessary, that a member may have a medical examination as a requirement for continued membership.

(Ord. No. C97-12, § 3, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07)

**Sec. 3.8-24. Meetings.**

(a) The department shall meet a minimum of twelve (12) times a year. Regular meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

(b) In the event that the first Monday falls on a holiday, the regular meeting will be held on the following Monday.

(c) Additional meetings and/or training sessions may be called by chief officers having given reasonable notice to all members.

(d) All firefighters are required to attend all regular meetings as a condition of membership. Exceptions will be made only upon personal notification of a chief officer. Exceptions shall be recorded by the clerk.

(e) Failure to attend two (2) meetings in succession without notifying a chief officer may be considered a resignation and may be acted upon as such by the membership committee.

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(f) The membership committee shall have the authority to remove a regular non-active firefighter, and/or take appropriate action.

(Ord. No. C97-12, § 4, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07)

**Sec. 3.8-25. Training.**

(a) The department shall meet twelve (12) times a year for the purpose of training sessions, which will normally be held on the third Monday of each month.

(b) Training sessions shall be arranged by the training officer. All members shall be required to attend a minimum of twelve (12) hours training in any calendar year.

(c) Special training sessions may be arranged by any of the officers with the chief's approval.

(Ord. No. C97-12, § 5, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07)

**Sec. 3.8-26. Election of officers.**

(a) At the October meeting, candidates for any office shall declare their candidacy.

(b) To be eligible for office, a candidate must be a member with at least five (5) years service, last two (2) of which must be with the Dexter Fire Department, with the exception of the lieutenants which must have three (3) years of service, last two (2) of which must be with the Dexter Fire Department.

(c) At the regular November meeting, a slate of officers shall be elected from the announced candidates and incumbent officers.

(d) Appointment by the town manager of the chief shall constitute legal confirmation of all officers.

(Ord. No. C97-12, § 6, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-4, 5-10-07; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07; Ord. No. C2014-9, 4-10-14)

**Sec. 3.8-27. Station duty.**

Any station duty shall be authorized by the officers.

(Ord. No. C97-12, § 7, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07)

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**Sec. 3.8-28. Fire operations.**

(a) Alarm of fire or emergency shall be instantly responded to, irrespective of other considerations. All members shall immediately report to the fire station for assignment.

(b) The first officer at the fire or emergency shall assume full control and command until the arrival of a senior officer. In the absence of all officers, the truck operator or senior firefighter shall assume the responsibility.

(c) Appropriate or required turnout gear shall be worn working at all fire(s) or emergencies. Exceptions to this rule may be made by a department officer.

(d) Officer(s) and members shall take care to avoid unnecessary damage of property of fires or emergencies.

(e) Following a fire or emergency, members shall remain to reload hoses and make equipment ready for reuse. No member shall leave the fire ground or the fire station without reporting to the officer in charge.

(f) Truck operators are responsible for returning their unit to operating capability after returning from an alarm.  
(Ord. No. C97-12, § 8, 7-29-97; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07)

**Sec. 3.8-29. Junior fire fighter program.**

(a) The Dexter Fire Department is authorized to create and manage a junior fire fighter program under the direct control of officers of the Dexter Fire Department.

(b) The program shall be available to individuals between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) years who meet the criteria established in the department's program guidelines.

(c) The program will be conducted under strict compliance with local, state, and federal policies that address the operation and conduct of such programs.  
(Ord. No. C2003-18, 8-14-03; Ord. No. C2007-9, 8-9-07)