

Advantages of career staffing versus an all volunteer organization

- ★ Guaranteed manpower.
- ★ Better safety for the personnel on duty and for the citizens as well.
- ★ Response time of 3 minutes or less in the city.
- ★ Most all volunteer departments take 3 minutes or better just to crew up one unit and respond, this not counting travel time to the scene.
- ★ Career staff in Uniontown guarantees arrival within 3 minutes.
- ★ Quick attacks on fires, or rescues can be made when career staff is working at a full complement of 4 personnel.
- ★ Safety of personnel doing initial attacks or rescue is better insured.
- ★ Safety standards such as O.S.H.A. 29 CFR 1910.134, the “two in two out” standard are followed with a complement of at least 4 personnel on duty.
- ★ National fire protection standards on response and staffing, such as N.F.P.A. 1710 are followed and met with a full complement of personnel on duty.
- ★ Personnel available immediately to perform vital operations such as ventilation can reduce dangerous fireground situations such as flashover or backdraft, which may save both civilian and firefighter’s lives.
- ★ N.I.S.T. and other testing agencies are finding the average time to flashover in fires is roughly 4 minutes. Response times of all volunteer fire departments usually exceed 4 minutes.
- ★ Guaranteed staffing during the day when many volunteer members are not available.
- ★ Daily duties including equipment maintenance and station maintenance are performed.
- ★ Activities such as code enforcement, inspections, pre planning, public fire education, etc... are performed on a regular, many times daily basis by on duty personnel.
- ★ Career staff trains on a daily basis.
- ★ All volunteer departments many times have to rely on multiple fire companies to respond just to have enough manpower. Then the assisting companies’ areas might be stripped of resources in the event of their own emergency.
- ★ Additional services can be offered, such as a first responder/Q.R.S. unit for medical emergencies.
- ★ The city of Uniontown has a dense population. The population doubles during the daytime with commuters and workers. This contributes to more alarms.
- ★ The city of Uniontown has numerous large buildings both in height and large area. Nearly 40 buildings are 3 floors high or greater. These buildings require more manpower and apparatus.
- ★ Many buildings in Uniontown are high rise and mid rise buildings, ranging from 5 to 12 floors. Most of these buildings are used as residential units, with most housing elderly.
- ★ The high rise buildings in Uniontown either have no automatic sprinkler systems or only have sprinklers in “hazard” areas.
- ★ Houses on an average are near 100 years old. Many former single family dwellings have been converted into apartment units.

- ★ All these factors create more alarms and pose more hazards. Quick response and guaranteed manpower are a must for successful fire and rescue operations!
- ★ The Uniontown Fire Bureau runs double the alarms per year than other “busy” volunteer departments in the county. It runs more than triple the alarms in comparison to the average volunteer department in the county.
- ★ Having enough active volunteer members to answer all the alarms and calls for service the Uniontown Bureau of Fire receives would be very unlikely.
- ★ With today’s synthetic materials, fires can now double in size in as little as 30 seconds! Quick response to combat fires and save lives is a MUST!