



## Sequoyah Volunteer Fire Department

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Danny Cooke, Chief

*For Emergencies, Dial 9-1-1*

*We are Your Friends for Life!*

Dear Neighbor,

It is time once again for the annual Chief's letter. 2020 has certainly been a vastly different year and we want to update everyone in what Sequoyah Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) members have been doing the last 12 months. First SVFD wants to say Thank You to the community for the continued support that has been received over the years. Your support and appreciation always make our job easier and more fulfilling.

All our members have been working vigorously to make sure that we are keeping our members safe, their families safe and the community. As we all know Covid-19 has brought on some big challenges and we want each of you to know that we are doing everything possible to make sure that our community is as safe. When you need us, we will be there! During the Covid-19 all calls are screened for any symptoms of the virus. During that time, the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be worn for your safety as well as our members and families. Rest assured that none of our members will run calls when showing symptoms of the virus. We are here to support and answer any needs and we will continue to do that the best we can. We are here for you.

In the spring of 2020, before Covid-19 took place in our community, we had an overly exciting event planned to give back to you, if you had not seen it announced. Due to the Covid-19 it has had to be postponed until the Spring of 2021. The members of SVFD had already put a lot of planning into the event for each of your families. Your SVFD firefighters have planned a family fun filled day that will be completely free to attend and get to know the firemen and members of SVFD. There will be games, rides, lots to shop from, food vendors and much more. Please keep an eye out around the first of 2021 for more information on the date and time of the rescheduled event. You will see signs around the community and additional details will be on our Social Media accounts and website.

Now a quick update for you on some great accomplishments that the last 12 months has brought to SVFD to help us serve you. Did you know that it costs thousands of dollars to put fire hose on the fire engines? Providing the tools, training, and equipment to save lives and protect property is an expensive task. SVFD took on the challenge of providing the highest quality fire service apparatus and equipment to answer call for help in our community. Your donations in the past year has allowed us to maintain equipment. Below are a few highlights of the last 12 months:

- Two of the engines received new tires
- Two engines needed the air conditioners replaced and upkeep maintained
- Purchased 1100 feet of new hose for Engine 1
- Equipped 3 members with new complete set of gear
- A fireman will receive new set of gear once completion of Firefighter 1 training at the end of the year

Fact check: Did you know that it is nearly \$8000.00 to equip one firefighter with complete gear?

- All radio batteries have been replaced
- Three new intake valves on the engines

- Replaced a chainsaw
- All new pagers for the members
- Purchased new vests for fire traffic safety
- The most recent, we were awarded a Grant for all new air packs for every member at SVFD. This was a huge accomplishment.

These are a few of the highlights that has taken place that could not have happened without the help of our community with your gracious donation each year. The SVFD members appreciates any donation to help us meet the departments goals and any unforeseen issues. Donations are tax deductible as we are a Not for Profit organization. Every dollar you donate helps SVFD serve a person in need. You and your donation play a critical role in helping our community and your kindness exemplifies strength, pride and spirit of our great community. We are a volunteer organization with nearly 27 active fire fighters of which 17 are certified members that volunteer hundreds of hours each year. We are also comprised of 8 support staff that generally volunteer fewer hours and are just as important as our firemen. While financial contributions are most needed, there are real opportunities for any teenager or adult to volunteer in a capacity where they are comfortable. Applications are always welcome to speak with Chief Danny Cooke and can answer any questions that you might have.

Each year, the members of the fire department are willing to visit private residences to change batteries on smoke / CO detectors or review fire escape plans. We have smoke alarms on hand that we can provide you with if a new one is needed or replaced. Smoke alarms saves lives, please do not go without. Let us help protect you and your family. Please call (423) 332-5321 to schedule an appointment.

Finally, our communication with you, not only through our annual letter, but most importantly through the year is especially important to us. We wanted to do everything possible to close the gap of communication with our community and our department. While doing that we have a new and revised website that we would like to introduce you to. The website is [www.svfdsn.com](http://www.svfdsn.com). Please take the time and look around and introduce yourself to us. We would love for each of you to send us your contact information so that we can continue to communicate with you through out the year. We will also be introducing a seasonal newsletter to provide you with more information about your local fire department and our efforts to improve our community. If you would like more information about SVFD, feel free to visit us at [www.svfdsn.com](http://www.svfdsn.com), We also would like to invite you to find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/svfdsn](http://www.facebook.com/svfdsn), Instagram at Sequoyah Volunteer Fire Department 9svfd1700) and on Twitter at Sequoyah Volunteer Fire Department (@firesequoyah). We are growing for our community and the quickest way we can communicate is through our website and social media with each of you.

In addition to communicating on our website you can also now pay directly to us online. It is safe and secure and easy for your convenience. We hope you utilize this new option at the top right-hand corner and select the red "Donate" button. Do not forget to complete the contact information in the visitor section so we can add you to our database for firsthand communication updates.

As always, we thank you for your support and consideration and hope that you will join us in our mission to help keep our community safe.

We are here for you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and remember, we are your friends for life!

Respectfully,

Danny Cooke, Fire Chief  
Business Phone: (423) 332-5321

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