

Thank you for your inquiry into our service.

We provide fire, rescue and medical services to Bald Head Island, which is located just off the coast of Southport, NC, and accessible by a 20 minute passenger ferry ride. The permanent resident population is approximately 215, yet there are over 1,000 people on the island at any given time consisting of construction workers, employees, visitors, etc. During the summer season and holiday times the population increase to 3,000 to 7,000.

The home owners, visitors, and many island workers utilize golf carts as there primary means of transport. Internal combustion vehicles are allowed, for a fee, during weekday daylight hours. An example of these would be delivery trucks, construction vehicles, fuel trucks, etc.. They arrive on the island by way of a barge and tug boat. The Fire-Rescue Department is part of the Village (Town), as are the Police Department, Public Works, Utilities and Village Hall. The Village website is <http://www.villagebhi.org/> and there is a link for the fire department on that page. The restaurants, ferry system, and most all other commercial business are owned and operated by Bald Head Island Limited/Management Company. They have a very informative website at <http://baldheadisland.com/>.

There are approximately 1,000 homes on the island with many more being constructed every month. The island is currently at approximately half of the anticipated occupancy in regards to structures. There is a golf course intertwined into the island and a members only Country Club.

Our call volume for 2006 was 430 calls, and is categorized as follows:

188 Fire Calls (128 were false alarms, 20 service calls, 17 structure fires, 4 vehicle fire, 5 woods/grass fires, 2 boat fires and the remainder are miscellaneous calls such as Safety Inspections, etc.) We have an ordinance requiring monitored fire alarm systems for most structures. We also utilize the Knox Box entry system.

233 Medical Calls (56 were transported to a hospital; the remainder were treatment/no transport, health checks or service calls.) Most of our medical calls are treatment and no transport. In 2006 we began to administer Tetanus shots both as prophylactic care and for injuries. Many people that a get a laceration or sustain other minor injuries do not want to go to the hospital due to the fact that they would have to take a ferry to get back to the mainland and then spend several hours at the hospital-not very appealing during a 2 or 3 day vacation. We are also serviced by AirLink 1, an aero medical helicopter out of New Hanover Regional Medical Center. We utilized their services four (4) times in 2006. We also have numerous golf cart related injuries, to include several fatalities in years past ...yes, fatalities from falling out of golf carts.

9 Rescue Calls (8 were water rescue and the other was a search for a missing person.) We also perform vertical rescue and other technical rescue applications.

As you can see we have a relatively low call volume compared to most systems, however these numbers are high in relation to the permanent population, size, and occupancy of the island. The biggest "fear" from island residents and workers is that of fire, however, the largest working call volume is that of medical emergencies.

We are very interested in customer service and doing anything possible to assist the public. We perform free home safety inspections, CPR classes for residents and non-profit organizations, fire extinguisher classes, etc.

Our department has a structure of one Chief, one Administrative Captain, and six (6) fulltime staff, all of which are required to be fire-medics. There are two (2) fire-medics on shift 24-hours/day. They work the A/B/C shift schedule with 24 **on**, 24 off, 24 **on**, 24 off, 24 **on**, 4 days off. We also utilize part-time staff to work as third person on some busy times and to cover shifts for fulltime staff. Our volunteer staff consists of 34 volunteers that participate in our weekly 2-3 hour training sessions. Most of the volunteers assist with both fire and medical calls, but some only due one or the other. We have approximately 12 volunteers that are Medical Responders, EMT-Basics, or EMT-Intermediates. The Police Department staff is required to be Medical Responder credentialed to assist on medical calls.

We also hold our own in-house Firefighter certification classes and medical continuing education classes through the local Community College, for the volunteer staff. Currently three of the FT staff are State credentialed Paramedic and Firefighter II instructors.

We follow the 7K plan in regards to pay; compensatory time is accrued every 28 days and we typically cash out all accrued compensatory time over 212 hours on a quarterly basis.

EQUIPMENT:

We operate with the following:

- 2006 KME Rescue-Pumper with a 1,500 GPM pump, 1,000 gallons of water, and foam system.
- 2002 Saulsbury (E-One) Rescue-Pumper with a 1,500 GPM pump, 1,000 gallons of water, and foam system.
- 1995 Pierce Tele-Squirt ladder truck with a 50 foot stick, 1,250 GPM pump and 500 gallons of water.
- 2003 Wheeled-Coach modular ambulance,
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- 1992 Wheeled-Coach modular ambulance which stays on the mainland for transports,
- 2006 Ford F-250 4x4, Beach Rescue Truck with modular utility body,
- 2001 Jeep Cherokee,
- 7-Man Nautica water rescue boat with a 60 HP motor.

We use Physio-Control Life Pak-12 units with all the extras- End-tidal CO2, Automatic BP, 12-Lead, Pacer/Defib, Telemetry, etc.

We fall under the Brunswick County Medical Protocols and their Medical Director.

BENEFITS:

We are a municipal department and our benefits include options for full medical and dental insurance, 5% paid into a 401K account for employee regardless of employee participation, 24-hours annual personal time, state retirement, paid vacation and sick leave, optional AFLAC/Colonial insurance, paid holidays, merit system-annual performance evaluation with a potential of up to 5% salary increase, and annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) as approved by Council.

Another non-tangible benefit includes a great working environment and friendship oriented atmosphere.

Current starting base pay is from \$34,000-35,181. There is the potential for a 5% salary increase after the probationary six months, providing the FT staff member performs within what is expected of them. We also offer rank promotion opportunities with up to 5% salary increase for the rank of Senior Fire-Medic, Captain, and Assistant Chief. There are, of course, criteria to obtain rank promotions.

Currently, all full and part-time staff lives off island; many live in Wilmington, Oak Island and Shallotte. The Village pays for parking and ferry tickets for staff. We also pay for the time during the trip over on the ferry, but not the return trip (staff is on the clock for the 30 minute ferry trip to work).

I hope this answers any initial questions you may have. If you have any further questions then please feel free to email or call us at (910) 457-4310.

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