



Minneapolis Fire Honor Guard

Minneapolis Fire Department



Honor Guard



Minneapolis Fire Department Honor Guard Drill Team

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Minneapolis Fire Department Honor Guard drill team is to aid in disciplinary training by instilling habits of precision and response to the leader's orders. Provide a means, through ceremonies, of enhancing the morale of troops, developing the spirit of cohesion, and presenting traditional, interesting and well-executed military parades. Provide for the development of leadership skills in the practice of commanding subordinates. And most importantly is to leave the families and friends of a fallen firefighter with honor and a sense of pride in their loved one.

History

The history of organized firefighting began in ancient Rome. Prior to that, there is evidence of fire-fighting machinery in use in Ancient Egypt, including a water pump invented in the third century BC which was later improved upon in a design by Hero of Alexandria in the first century BC. In 1631 Boston's governor John Winthrop outlawed wooden chimneys and thatched roofs. In 1648, the New Amsterdam governor Peter Stuyvesant appointed four men to act as fire wardens. They were empowered to inspect all chimneys and to fine any violators of the rules. The city burghers later appointed eight prominent citizens to the "Rattle Watch" - these men volunteered to patrol the streets at night carrying large wooden rattles. If a fire was seen, the men spun the rattles, then directed the responding citizens to form bucket brigades. On January 27, 1678 the first fire engine company went into service with its captain (foreman) Thomas Atkins. In 1736 Benjamin Franklin established the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia.

George Washington was a volunteer firefighter in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1774, as a member of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Company, he bought a new fire engine and gave it to the town, which was its very first. However the United States did not have government-run fire departments until around the time of the American Civil War. Prior to this time, private fire brigades compete with one another to be the first to respond to a fire because insurance companies paid brigades to save buildings. Underwriters also employed their own Salvage Corps in some cities. The first known female firefighter Molly Williams took her place with the men on the dragropes during the blizzard of 1818 and pulled the pumper to the fire through the deep snow.

Fire service history reveals that departments throughout the world have participated in some form of drill. The primary value historically has been to prepare firefighters for service. Discipline became a part of Fire service life for these selected individuals as they learned to respond to command without hesitation. This new discipline instilled in the individual a sense of alertness, urgency, and attention to detail. Confidence in himself and his equipment grew as each firefighter perfected his trade. As firefighters master the art of drill, they began to work as a team and to develop a sense of pride in themselves and in their unit.

MFD



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