

Troy Cailer

2nd year Fire Science and Live-In Student at Scarborough FD

“Many people have asked me about this program and how it runs. I give them the general rundown of what we do, and how beneficial it is for the town as well as the students who are studying fire science. After I give them the details of the program they ask how I like it, and my reply has been the same for every person that has asked me. I love it. It is truly the best way to learn the job of being a firefighter and get some of the best training you can around this area.”

Most people seem very impressed by how trusting the fire departments are with the college students driving their fire trucks and rescue units, responding to emergency calls, and living in their stations. There are many students who struggle with schooling. While it can be tough at times living in the stations with people around, it is almost like having personal tutors — the firefighters who are working are always willing to lend a hand with homework as they have all been in our shoes before.



Troy is on a Portland Metro bus advertising the Fire Science program at SMCC.

I believe this program teaches the students more than just firefighting skill; it helps us mature into adults who will be able to carry ourselves on the fire ground and in the day-to-day aspects of the job. Along with becoming an adult and learning critical firefighting skills, the live-in program gives all the students a huge advantage when it comes to hiring time for a full-time fire department. Through living at the station and responding to calls and attending trainings we meet many firefighters and officers from the surrounding career departments. These friendships that we create with them will help us when it comes to hiring time. It will give us a huge step up on the other applicants if you have many well-respected firefighters to speak on your behalf.

The last and final piece I have to say about the live-in program is regarding the bonds that we make with our fellow classmates; we see these people every day and the friendships that we will build will last a lifetime. I can't say enough about this program — it's a 10/10 hands down. ”



Chief Michael Thurlow

Scarborough Fire-Rescue Department

“The Scarborough Fire Department was one of two charter creators of the student intern live-in program in collaboration with SMCC almost 25 years ago. The program began as a recruiting tool during a time when call member participation was starting to diminish yet call volumes were increasing. Over the years we have trained and provided a real-life internship experience to over 100 students. In exchange these students have become part-time employees by joining the call company at the station they were assigned to provide critical additional staffing. In the current school year Scarborough has 13 trained first responders in this program stationed at 6 neighborhood fire stations.

The live-in program has been very successful for the students who gain invaluable real life experience, for the community which gains well trained and responsive public servants, and for the fire department through increased staffing while they are in the program along with a supply of high quality candidates who become applicants when full time employment opportunities arise.”

Chief Howard Rice

Falmouth Fire-Rescue:

“The live-in program provided a boost in our ability to respond to calls within the town of Falmouth. Our three live-in students responded to a total of 718 emergency incidents in calendar Year 2010, an average of 1.5 calls per day. Providing a living space for live-in students not only reduces department response time, but helps the department perform at a higher level by putting trained and certified firefighters and EMT’s in the seats of the first responding apparatus.

I expected great results from being a member of the live-in program at SMCC but after two years of being in the program the results have been even greater! Our live-in students are involved in every single aspect of our department. They respond to the majority of calls, they attend every training offered, they are at department softball, volleyball and other outings, and they provide

administrative support to department leadership. All of this while being a fulltime college student.”

Zachary Tooker

Second-year live-in student at Falmouth

“The SMCC Fire Science Live-in program is an awesome way to get your foot into the door in the fire service. As a live-in student you gain a lot of experience in the fire and EMS fields. You also get to meet a lot of great people. Since coming into the live in program in 2009 and being a live-in student in Falmouth, I feel that it has made me also a better person when helping others.”

Kevin Conley

2010 graduate of the Fire Science program:

“My time spent in Scarborough Fire Department (as a live-in student) was the best thing I ever did. It gave me a jump start on my career by being able to take what I learned in the class room and directly applying it, sometimes not more than 12 hours later, directly to the job that I will make a successful career of. ... I know that after completing this program I am a better person and am that much closer to making my goal a reality.”

Ashley Wax

Second-year live-in student in Cumberland

“Being a live-in student in Cumberland has helped me stay on track in both school and my career path. With the support of my peers, professors and members of the fire department I have been able to adjust to the academic load and fire department family atmosphere. This program has helped me become a more well-rounded person and has made me more responsible and accountable for my actions in and out of the professional atmosphere.”

