



2020 MSFDA Fire Department of the Year Nomination

Each day, the Ramsey Fire Department lives out its mission “to protect life and property in our communities through emergency response, prevention and education with pride, honor and integrity.”

Firefighters For Healing would like to nominate Ramsey Fire as the Fire Department of the Year to recognize their extraordinary care of their crew and community. They lead by example to “help your neighbor”. They lead by example as coaches in the community, raising the next generation. They lead by example that kindness and respect should be your legacy.

Here are just a few ways they deserve this nomination: They established an Honor Guard to celebrate the life of Bart Hayft who lost his battle to cancer in 2019. Each year, the department hosts a charity golf tournament, which raises funds to provide scholarships and assists burn survivors and first responders in need after trauma. The Ramsey Fire Department prides itself on being accessible to the community. Fire Department personnel participate in a variety of community activities – from school visits and appearing on public access channels to promoting safety, attending Night to Unite events, community festivals and so much more.

This department is comprised of 52 highly trained paid on-call firefighters that are state-certified as a firefighter and first responder. Administrative staff consists of a full time Fire Chief, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, Fire Inspector and Fire Technician. Ramsey Fire covers 29 square miles of Ramsey as well as 36-square miles of Nowthen. The department provides emergency response service for all hazards including, but not limited to fires, medical emergencies, rescues and accidental release of hazardous material. The Department also conducts code compliance inspections and reviews building plans for code compliance. Its community support programs include annual fire prevention training for elementary school students, fire education training for groups and businesses, and participation in neighborhood and youth programs.

When Ramsey firefighters are off duty, you will find them coaching, volunteering, teaching, running their own businesses, working in construction and being good neighbors and stewards of the community. They have rallied to support the spouses and partners of the crew and to support Firefighters For Healing at the annual Red Tie Gala, at community events and at Camp RED. This department is so embedded in their community that they inspired a high school junior to voluntarily collect items for burn survivor families staying in the Firefighters For Healing emergency housing AND inspired a high school freshmen to organize a charity hockey match that helped to raise \$10,000 for the Give to the Max campaign. Ramsey Fire has been a great source of support for the new Firefighters For Healing Transitional Healing Center that will provide free emergency housing for qualifying families who travel a distance to Minneapolis for care. These families will feel seen, heard and cared for when they are recovering from burn trauma or a serious medical diagnosis. The Ramsey Fire Department shares the philosophy that supporting and empowering anyone impacted by a burn injury does the community good.

The men and women of the Ramsey Fire Department deserve the Fire Department of the Year Award for being leaders in their communities, for diligently upholding their mission to protect life and property and for leaving a legacy of respect and kindness.

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paula@firefightersforhealing.org