**What is the mission of the fire department?** The primary goal of the PFD is to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Plainville.

**Why would I want to become a volunteer firefighter?** The main reason you would join is because you want to help others in their times of need. Becoming a volunteer helps you give back to your community, and make a difference in our town.  You will learn new skills, make new friends, and become part of something bigger than just yourself.

**I don't have any fire service experience, is that ok?** Absolutely. You'll be taught everything you need to know through "on the job" training, as well as Fire School. You'll never be put in a dangerous position, as your safety is paramount. It's important that if you don't feel comfortable with something you speak up.

**What types of things do we respond to?** Fire alarms, CO alarms, gas leaks, fires, extrications, hazmat situations, mutual aid requests from surrounding towns. We do not have or provide EMS services.

**Other than firefighting activities, what else do members do?** HAB, breakfast with Santa, easter breakfast, pasta supper, public safety events,

**Who do I report to/what is the command structure?** There are 4 department officers; the Chief, Deputy Chief, 1st Assistant Chief, and 2nd Assistant Chief. They wear white helmets. There are 7 Company Officers, also called Line officers. They are made up of the Captain, 1st Lieutenant, and other Lieutenants. They wear red helmets. The firefighters wearing black helmets are regular members. You will have a yellow helmet to identify you as a probationary member. There is also the Fire Marshal, who is a paid employee of the town.

**What type of time commitment is this?** The answer to this is tough. Besides answering alarms, you can be as active as you want, by joining committees, attending events, etc. Because we're volunteers, most of us still work full time, so we have to balance this with everything else going on. Your commitment to your family and work need to come first.

**I work during the day, will I be able to participate?** As a probationary member on the waiting and standy lists, you're required to make a minimum of 20% of all alarms, and 50% of all trainings. Since we dont have any control over when the alarms happen, it's hard to answer this question.  If you aren't able to leave work. You'd likely need to make every call on nights and your days off to hit 20%.

**Can I quit my job and do this full time?** Most likely not. The PFD is a volunteer organization, and while there is something called fire pay (which you're eligible for once you're a regular member), it likely isn't enough to live off of.

**What is fire school, how long is it, and when do I go?** Fire School is where you go to learn everything about being a firefighter. It's usually Tuesday and Thursday evenings, most Saturdays and some Sundays for 17 weeks. Once you become a member, you have 2 years to complete your Firefighter 1 training. You'll work with the training officer to determine when you should attend.

**Do I need to buy anything special?** You will be provided the necessary protective gear as a probationary member. Once you become a regular member you will be fitted for your own gear. You'll also get you dress blues (formal uniform). There will be a cost to you for this, but you can use you fire pay to offset it.