



Become a South Orange County Fire Watch volunteer and help protect your community.

Fire Watch Volunteer FAQ's:

Who Can Be a Fire Watch Volunteer?

Fire Watch Volunteers are adults ages 18 and over who have successfully completed the Annual Fire Watch Training and the follow up Onsite Training per location.

Where Do I Volunteer as a Fire Watch Volunteer?

Fire Watch Volunteers are deployed in various locations throughout South Orange County. Volunteers select preferred sites. Fire Watch Volunteers are placed in public access areas and not in remote or private locations.

When Do You Need Volunteers?

Volunteers are notified prior to and during red-flag events when deployment occurs. Volunteers may sign up for any shifts they are available for during deployment. Volunteers are deployed year-round during daylight hours, 7 days/week, as needed. Shifts are 2 - 4 hours depending on volunteer availability.

What Do Fire Watch Volunteers Do?

Fire Watch Volunteers look for the first signs of fire in open spaces neighboring our communities and act as a deterrent for anyone looking to intentionally start a fire. Fire Watch Volunteers observe from their post including in their car or outdoors in a chair. Always ensuring their own safety first, Fire Watch Volunteers report fires to 911 including location and descriptions of fire and persons involved. Training will cover more specific duties.

Is it Safe to Be a Fire Watch Volunteer?

The safety of our volunteers is always our number one priority. Fire Watch Volunteers are never expected to fight a fire or put themselves in harms way. Fire Watch Volunteers are trained to report the first signs of fire from a safe location. Fire Watch Volunteers are placed with another volunteer or staff member to ensure volunteers are deployed as a team.

What Are the Training Steps to Becoming a Fire Watch Volunteer?

Fire Watch Volunteers must attend the Annual Fire Watch Training on August 19 and a scheduled follow up training onsite for your preferred location/s.

Why Do You Only Offer this Training Once a Year?

Fire Watch Volunteer training involves our partners at OCFA (Orange County Fire Authority) and multiple onsite trainings following the Annual Fire Watch Training. Due to scheduling demands for the trainers we are only able to offer this training once per year. We hope you can join us on August 19.

Why Does the Community Need Fire Watch Volunteers?

Fire Watch Volunteers have proven to lower the occurrences of wildfires since conception of "Fire Watch Teams". Wildfires are easier contained when reported early. Fire Watch Volunteers deter people with intentions of starting fires by being present and observant in key areas.