



Lauritsala Voluntary Fire Brigade operates in Lappeenranta, South Karelia, Finland, as one of the contract fire brigades of the regional rescue service department of South Karelia. In addition to taking part in alarm missions, our fire brigade (VPK-association) also provides fire brigade activities for youth, women and veterans. We also offer activities that support the core functions, like the safety education of regular citizens.

Our principle is to provide unselfish rescue services in the area to protect the region's inhabitants. We do not personally get paid for taking part in alarm missions or weekly training.

Taking part in our activities is almost completely free of charge with the exception of trips / youth camps, for which the participants pay a small fee.

### **The operational department:**

The operational department of our fire brigade is responsible for taking part in alarm missions. Members of the department form a rescue team as a part of the regional rescue formation. Alarm missions include all the basic tasks of rescue services (e.g. building fires, wildfires, traffic accidents etc.) The operational department trains weekly on Mondays.

The members of the department are mainly 16 – 65 year old men and women with a good basic fitness level and an interest in fire brigade activities. Members also have to be ready to commit to the department unselfishly. For safety and training reasons, good Finnish skills are required.

### **The youth department:**

The youth department of our fire brigade provides interesting leisure activities for 7 – 17 year old boys and girls. All the members of the department will gain a basic readiness to take action in the surprising events of everyday life.

The youth gather for training every Wednesday evening during the school year. The training consists of practicing basic firefighting and first aid skills, as well as other skills that are useful in everyday life. The youth department also actively takes part in competitions and youth camps.

Any 7 – 17 year old who's interested in fire brigade activities can join the youth department. The only requirement is sufficient knowledge of the Finnish language, as the training is only provided in Finnish. Adult members of the brigade are an integral part of the youth department since they act as teachers and instructors.

### **The women's department:**

Our women's department provides activities for women who do not wish to take part in actual alarm missions. It is also possible to participate in the women's department's activities while being an active member of the operational department. The women's department gathers for training every other week. Their duties include providing recreational activities and safety education. In addition, the women of our brigade are ready to carry out emergency service tasks for the rescue service department, such as supplying the rescue personnel with food during long alarm missions.

The women's department is also responsible for organizing catering during youth camps.

Any woman who's interested in rescue services and over the age of 16 can become a member of the women's department. The only requirement is sufficient knowledge of the Finnish language, since the training is only in Finnish.

We welcome anyone who's interested in our activities to come and join us.