

# PRESS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **TRI-City Fire Departments Host Meet & Greet to attract diversity of job seekers**

For the first time in recent history Plano, Garland and Denton Fire Departments are uniting to present a **Meet & Greet/Q&A** workshop to discuss the requirements for joining the fire service. The open meeting will be held on Saturday, May 29 at the Garland Fire Administration Building, 1500 E. Hwy 66 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Candidates for fire rescue and firefighter jobs usually find out about job opportunities from firefighters they know. While “*word of mouth*” advertising is a wonderful tool that speaks volumes about the rewards of the profession, this method does not effectively reach a great percentage of the population – particularly minorities and women.

These three fire departments have noted a lack of diversity in gender and race among attendees at recent entrance exams. Two points have consistently been cited for this deficiency: inadequate advertisement about fire service jobs and the lack of proper educational preparation for this career field.

This Meet & Greet/Q&A Workshop is intended to help recruit potential applicants and will feature local fire service representatives talking about their individual fire departments’ hiring requirements and processes.

The idea for this Meet & Greet was conceived and developed by recruiters Captain Floyd Jones of Plano Fire, Firefighter Merrill Balanciere of Garland Fire, and Captain Quentin Brown of Denton Fire. The three were unsatisfied by the number of fire service candidates who were ill prepared, and by the years when too few minorities and women signed up for firefighters careers.

High school and college students, particularly, will gain insight from this event; however all fire service job seekers are encouraged to attend.

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