

Joining Procedure:

Upon joining Howick Volunteer Coastguard you will become a trainee member for approximately 12 weeks. During this period you will, begin your training both practical and theory, you will be assigned to a crew, teamed up with a mentor, issued a pager and you will be expected to respond to callouts if you are available. Due to your level of experience you may or may not be included in the crew responding to the callout depending on the skippers requirement for certain experience for the callout. This is the time to get stuck in and see how the organisation works and how you can be part of it, you will be welcome at all our members meetings but until you are a full member you will have no voting rights.

At about 12 weeks your full membership will be considered at our monthly unit meeting, if the unit membership is happy that you have shown the ability to be a contributing full member and have accepted the training requirement you will be advanced to full membership. However your crew status will remain as either trainee or operational depending on how your basic training has progressed.

Commitment:

You must turn up on your duty week for boat checks on the Tuesday night that your duty starts. This allows you to gain in-depth knowledge of the location of the equipment on the boats. It is also the time that your crew can organise to be on the water the weekend following for training.

You must maintain a minimum of 75 actual deck hours per year to be able to have a level of experience and confidence on the boats. This will be made up of Tuesday nights, on the water training, duty crew weekend training, duty boat time and call-outs.

Out of the 11 monthly meetings that we have annually you are expected to be in attendance for at least 8. This allows you to voice any concerns, be kept up to speed with what is going on, and give any suggestions and to be part of the general running of the organisation.

Out of approximately 41 general training nights that are left you are expected to attend most of these. This is where we you gain the knowledge and training from our own experienced members also the CoC modules that are delivered. Sometimes there will be social club nights or visits to other units/organisations which benefit our unit.

Costs:

During your first year as a Member or Probationer, you will be expected to pay for any courses you attend and training you receive, but you will be reimbursed if you continue your membership after the first year. The only exclusions to this are the exam fees for VHF and Boatmaster courses which you may be expected to pay for but the course itself will be paid for by HVC.

There are currently no subscriptions at Howick Volunteer Coastguard. You will be issued with crew uniform consisting of cap, shirt, trousers, jacket and overalls which is provided free of charge. The uniform must be returned if you leave within 12 months. You will need a small gear bag to keep a set of spare clothes in and it is suggested you purchase seaboots to wear onboard the vessel to protect your feet from debris and fluids.