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Portland, CT –

“Emergency Resource Management is like a temp service, but for firefighters, paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians and Medical Response Technicians.”

Managing Partner Bob Ziegler, a veteran volunteer firefighter, said Friday the two month-old management service organization is only the second of its kind in the state. While many volunteer emergency services are having trouble sustaining themselves, getting to calls quickly and keeping facilities staffed, the service can provide and manage workers stationed in firehouses or ambulance facilities, shaving minutes off of response time.

Many Emergency Services have trouble staffing between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., which is when many people are at work, often in other cities or towns.

“We’re looking to fill a void”, he said. Most towns in the county have volunteer firefighter services.

Middlefield First Selectman Charlie Augur said he didn’t think his town would use the service. “It’s nice to know there’s such service available though,” he said.

Although the company has no contracts with municipalities at this point Emergency Resource Management will introduce its service at an open house at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at 7 p.m. May 29. All volunteer ambulance services in the state have been invited, Ziegler said.

As interest in donating free time to fire or other emergency services wanes, the company offers another bonus to better use those who are interested. Any employee hired by the company can continue to volunteer at the firehouse, but if the fire department employs the person, he or she can no longer volunteer there, said Ziegler of Portland.

“(Staffing) is tight everywhere,” he said. “There’s a problem. “It’s a national problem”

Most of the potential employees will be volunteers, college students, people looking for work, retired people and stay-at-home parents, said Ziegler, who also serves as president of New England Training and Consulting Inc., a 13-year-old Occupational Safety and Health Administration compliance firm also based at 252 Main St.

People working for the company would be paid a range of \$12 to \$16 depending on their skill level. Already about a dozen people have expressed interest in working for the company.