



Frequently Asked Questions

April, 2018

STRUCTURE PROTECTION PROGRAM GUIDE FOR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS

APPARATUS:

The Inter-Agency Operational Procedures and Reimbursement Rates for damaged apparatus (approved repairs only) will be amended for 2018 as follows;

- Apparatus (0-15 years)
100% reimbursement rate
- Apparatus (16-20 years)
75% reimbursement rate
- Apparatus 21 years +
50% reimbursement rate



How do I go about getting my department involved in structure protection deployments?

The OFC sends out information packages to all fire departments in British Columbia asking for expressions of interest in participating in the structure protection program. Interested departments are required to submit their expression of interest by the date indicated. Also, to be included, each department must submit their available apparatus and personnel which meet the minimum requirements as set out by the OFC.

Our department has an apparatus which is in excellent condition but is older than 20 years. Will this apparatus be acceptable for use?

The OFC uses the Fire Underwriters "Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) Standard S515" titled "Automobile Fire Fighting Apparatus" as a guide for apparatus. Older apparatus may be used if it successfully passes annual pump and mechanical certification. Maintenance and testing should only be completed by a qualified Mechanic certified to perform maintenance and servicing of the apparatus. Documentation of current certification must be presented to the OFC Staging Manager/Representative at the Staging Area prior to assignment.

We didn't register our department but now want to help. Can we self-deploy resources if we see a need?

No. To respond to an incident, departments must be requested by either BCWS or the OFC. Departments arriving at the staging area must provide the Staging Manager a copy of their draw down contract. Failure to produce the draw down contract will result in the department being sent home at their own expense.

What is the process once we are requested to deploy?

Resources are sent to either stand-by areas or staging areas prior to being given assignments. A Staging Manager, or OFC Representative, will sign in all responding resources. All resources will be vetted for appropriate apparatus, equipment, crew and personnel equipment. Once vetted and signed in by the Staging Manager, crews will be given assignments as required. Departments sending crews and/or apparatus not meeting the minimum requirements will be returned home at their own expense.

What are the required forms and paperwork that need to be completed?

Responding Fire Departments must produce their "draw down" contract upon arrival to the staging area. Once signed in, briefed and given assignments, the Officer of the crew must complete a Daily Time Record for every day of the assignment (including travel days). This time record must be filled completely and signed by the OFC Representative each day. The officer should also complete a daily log outlining activities for each day. Copies of the DTR and daily log **must** be included with the submitted invoice for payment.

FUEL:

Q. Does the OFC Pay for fuel?

A. No. Fuel is covered by the all-found rate and the bare rate for apparatus



Contact Us

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Are crew meals and accommodation provided?

Yes. As stated in the Inter-Agency Agreement, meals and accommodation are provided one of two ways. Typically, crews will stay in a camp and have meals provided. In some instances, crews may have to stay in hotels and eat meals in local restaurants. However, authorization from OFC is required prior to crews staying in hotels and eating restaurant meals. Receipts for hotel accommodations must be included with the submitted invoice for payment. Crews will be reimbursed for restaurant meals according to the per diem rates as identified in the Inter-agency agreement. Extra meals/snacks and additional nourishment for crews over and above the three meals a day per diem will not be reimbursed.

During deployment, some of our equipment went missing or was damaged / Our Apparatus was damaged. Are we reimbursed for this?

Yes. As stated in the Inter-Agency Agreement, equipment damaged or lost and damage to apparatus as a result of a provincial deployment will be reimbursed. However, damage to equipment or apparatus and/or missing equipment **must** be reported to the OFC Representative prior to departure (demobilization). Failure to do so jeopardizes receiving compensation for claims.

My department's policy is to send a command vehicle (including an officer) whenever our apparatus responds out of district. Will we be compensated for that extra command vehicle and officer?

No. Extra personnel over and above the minimum requirements as set by the Inter-Agency Agreement will not be covered. This includes all costs associated with the extra vehicle and personnel (accommodation, food, travel, wages, fuel etc.). **Do not** send extra personnel and apparatus unless specifically requested.

Can we send an Engine with 3 crew members and/or a Tender with only one crew member?

No. Apparatus arriving at the staging area without the required crew numbers (4 for an engine, 2 for a Tender) will not be deployed and will be returned or, retained in the staging area until the arrival of the required crew member, at your own expense.

What crew personal equipment is required?

Crews are required to have all the personal protective equipment as identified in the Inter-Agency Agreement. Also, each crew member should be prepared to be self-sufficient for 48 hours.

A wildfire has moved into my jurisdiction. Will BCWS or OFC compensate my department for our time?

Fires within a fire department's local jurisdiction are the responsibility of that department and are not normally compensated by the Province. However, extraordinary circumstances will be considered for compensation on a case by case basis.

What is the OFC policy on consumption of alcohol and drugs during deployment?

The OFC has a zero tolerance for consuming alcohol or drugs during deployment which is consistent with BCWS policy. This includes, but not limited to, travel days to and from the incident and off duty hours.
