



April 20, 2018

Dear Fire Chief;

In preparation for the 2018 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Season, the Office of the Fire Commissioner is reaching out to British Columbia fire departments to identify available firefighting resources. This is in support of a major event should the need arise. The Office of the Fire Commissioner, with assistance from the Fire Chiefs Association of British Columbia and the British Columbia Wildfire Service, is updating our equipment and resource database. We are looking for expressions of interest from BC fire departments that are interested in providing resources if called upon.

PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS:

To be considered for deployment, personnel must meet the minimum requirements for exterior operations for firefighters as identified in the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards Playbook and have completed the SPP-WFF 1 (or equivalent) training course.

IMPORTANT CHANGES for 2018:

1. Reimbursement rates for damaged apparatus, as a result of a provincial deployment, will be pro-rated according to apparatus age (as identified in Fire Underwriters grading for Fire Apparatus). Apparatus 15 years or newer will be reimbursed at 100% of the repair cost. Apparatus 16-20 years will be reimbursed at 75% of the repair cost. Apparatus older than 20 years will be reimbursed at 50% of the repair cost.
2. Apparatus will be considered for deployment only if it has successfully passed annual pump and mechanical certification. Testing and apparatus maintenance must be completed by a **qualified mechanic**. Documentation of current certification must be presented to the OFC Staging Manager at the staging area prior to assignment. Failure to produce records of apparatus certification could result in the apparatus/crew being directed to return home at the fire departments own expense.

3. All responding apparatus and crew will be required to report to a staging area where they will be vetted by an OFC Staging Manager.
4. The OFC will not accept the following:
 - a. Apparatus/crews without a signed draw down contract.
 - b. Apparatus/crews not meeting the minimum standard as identified in the Inter-Agency Agreement.
 - c. Additional personnel not requested on the draw down contract.
 - d. Less than the number of personnel requested on the draw down contract.
5. Consistent with BCWS policy, a “dry camp” policy will be enforced for all structural fire fighters and SPU crews. This includes off duty hours and travel days. Personnel found consuming drugs or alcohol will be sent home immediately.

Fire Departments sending apparatus/crews that do not meet the requirements of the Inter-Agency Agreement, and indicated on the draw down form, will be sent home or held in staging until they meet the requirements, at their own expense.

DEPLOYMENT:

By identifying that your department is interested in providing apparatus and/or personnel you are acknowledging the following;

1. A deployment period between 6 and 14 days consecutive.
2. Supplying only apparatus and/or personnel that meet the minimum qualifications.
3. Only performing tasks as directed by Incident Command.
4. Re-deployment only with the approval of the OFC.
5. Abiding by the operational procedures as identified in the Inter-Agency Procedures and Reimbursement Rates.

Note: The OFC recognizes that depending on the immediate needs of a local jurisdiction, departments may not be in a position to supply resources to the Province when requested. Remitting the Fire Department Resource form does not commit a local fire department to a deployment. Remitting the Fire Department Resource form only allows the OFC to create an inventory of available resources.

PROCEDURE:

If you wish to make your department resources available for the 2018 wildfire season, the following procedure is to be followed;

1. Read and become familiar with the BC Fire Service Playbook and the Inter-Agency Procedures and Reimbursement Rates (available on the Office of the BC Fire Commissioner website gov.bc.ca/firesafety).
2. Complete the Fire Department Resource form (attached) in full.
3. Remit the Fire Department Resource form to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, **no later than May 31, 2018**. Forms may be sent by email, mail delivery or fax. Resource forms received by the OFC after this date may not be accepted.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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QUESTIONS:

Attached is a FAQ document which may answer some of your questions. If you have other questions or require further information, feel free to contact Ron French or Stephen Hanna.