January 29, 2020

Dear Fire Chiefs, Fire Service Coordinators, and Protective Services Managers;

In preparation for the 2020 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Season, the Office of the Fire Commissioner is once again reaching out to British Columbia fire departments to identify available firefighting resources that would be readily deployable when called upon in support of a major wildfire event.

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 personnel and equipment resources if called upon.

**Note:** The OFC and BCWS recognize 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 potential available resources.

**PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS:**

To be considered for deployment, firefighting 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 **WSPP-FF-1** and **WSPP-115** (or equivalent) training course. Command personnel must have completed a minimum of Fire Officer 1 or Team Leader Program as identified the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards Playbook. OFC / BCWS Task Force / Strike Team Leader training is an asset.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. For the purposes of the Inter-Agency Operational Procedures and Reimbursement Rates Agreement, a “recognized” fire department will be defined as a department that is attached to a local government and which meets the minimum requirements for crew training and apparatus certification (as identified within the Inter-Agency Agreement).

2. Apparatus will be considered for deployment only if it has successfully passed annual pump and mechanical testing. Testing and apparatus maintenance must be completed
by a qualified mechanic. Documentation of current certification must be available upon request 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 BCWS Fire Camp or Structure Protection apparatus staging area where they will be vetted by an OFC Staging Manager as per the provided Draw Down letter from BCWS Logistics.

4. It is expected that crews will be staying at BCWS fire camps or apparatus staging areas, and therefore, must provide their own tents, sleeping bags, pillows and other personal items; without this gear crews may need to return home.

Typically, meals are provided to crews. However, when they cannot be provided, crews will have to arrange for their own meals. The Province will reimburse at the current provincial daily per diem rates. The Province will not cover costs of additional snacks and personal consumable items.

5. 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. Personnel in addition to those requested on the draw down contract.
d. Less than the number of personnel requested on the draw down contract.

6. Consistent with BCWS, 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.

7. Reimbursement rates for damaged apparatus, as a result of a provincial deployment, will be pro-rated according to apparatus age as identified in the Inter-Agency Agreement.

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.
PROCEDURE:

If you wish to make your department resources available for the 2020 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](http://gov.bc.ca/firesafety)).

2. Complete the Fire Department Resource form (attached) in full.

3. Email the completed Fire Department Resource form to OFC@gov.bc.ca no later than April 15, 2020. Subject line: Fire Department Resource Request.

   Please note: Resource forms received after this date may not be accepted.

4. Insure the Finance department of your District, Municipality or City has a copy of the Inter-Agency Agreement and this information package for invoicing reference.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Best regards,

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