



THE VOLUNTEER

The Volunteer Firefighters'
Association of BC

Issue 2
June 2022



B.C. partners with Stats Canada to prevent fire-related deaths

The Province has partnered with Statistics Canada to create a **Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard** to help B.C. fire services prevent fires, reduce injuries and save lives.

This is crucial given the increasing trend in fire-related deaths.

The "dashboard" will provide statistical and geographical information to help B.C.'s fire services identify areas in communities at greatest risk of home fires. This information will be used to provide safety information targeted to areas that need it most. This will help protect residents, firefighters, and reduce the social and financial impacts to communities resulting from those fires.

"Since 2020, we have seen a concerning trend of rising fire deaths across B.C. and the rest of Canada. We need to do more to keep people and first responders safe by preventing these fires from happening," said Brian Godlonton, B.C.'s fire commissioner. "The new dashboard identifies the areas most at risk of fires, so we know where to focus our fire prevention and safety programs. These advancements will not only prevent fires but, more importantly, prevent injuries and save lives."

Over the last two reporting years, there has been a 119% increase in fire-related deaths around B.C., according to the Office of the Fire Commissioner's annual report. In 2021, there were 59 fire-related deaths and 180 fire injuries. People over the age of 65 were over-represented in fire deaths. Only 42% of reported residential structure fires had a working smoke alarm.

"I'm deeply concerned about the growing number of fire-related deaths in our province. We are working on tackling this problem, and the new Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard will be extremely important to helping us prevent fires and save lives," said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "I'm urging everyone to test their smoke alarms at least every six months to keep you and your family safe. Prevention is a key part of this, because fewer fires means healthier first responders and a safer province."

The Office of the Fire Commissioner will be launching pilots of the dashboard with the cities of Coquitlam, Surrey, and Port Alberni in July. The office intends to rollout the dashboard provincially in early 2023.

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Fire Prevention Week

October 9 to 15, 2022

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 25, 2022 18:00 VIA ZOOM**

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our Website
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THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION FUND

This Foundation Fund was established to help Firefighter's or their family members when needs arise. It has been used in the past to grant funds in the case of death in the family, severe illnesses, a need to travel for health care and so on. The Fund is maintained through donations of \$10 per firefighter per year. Membership is optional but is only open to those who are members of the Volunteer Firefighters Association of B.C. and a contributing member of the foundation fund.

To Become a member, you simply begin to send your \$10 per firefighter into the Volunteer Firefighters Foundation Fund at:

Volunteer Firefighters Foundation Fund:
C/O Volunteer Firefighters' Association of B.C.
921 Jubilee Street, Duncan, B.C., V9L 1Y2

Claims are made through your local Fire Chief who can contacts:

PRESIDENT: Dustin Curry
 165 Pinewood Crescent
 Tumbler Ridge, B.C.
 V0C 2W0
 Ph. 250 242-3939
 e mail: trfire@dttr.ca

And/Or

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Art Sanderson
 921 Jubilee Street
 Duncan, B.C.
 V9L 1Y2
 Ph. 250 748 8871
 e mail: vfaofbc@telus.net

Please note the administration of the fund is with the office of the Volunteer Firefighters Association of B.C. in Duncan, B.C. Mail: 921 Jubilee Street, Duncan, B.C., V9L 1Y2

Please pass this information form on to your Volunteer Firefighters.

Volunteer Firefighters Foundation Fund - 2022

Fire Department _____ **Address** _____

_____ **PC** _____ **Number of Firefighters** _____ **X \$10.00 =** _____

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-Ed Bartley





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This year is the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week! Learn about the simple but important things you can do to keep yourself and those around you safe from fire.



Accepting applications for the soon to be vacant Lower Mainland Director position

Should be an active member of a fire department in good standing with the Association. Interested in promoting the volunteer fire service. Willing to be involved to improve, support and maintain the Association. Also be willing to sit on committees that may be struck by the Association, Provincial Government or any other agency that would involve the Association. Attend Association meetings, communicate with members of the Association and member fire departments. Promote the association to volunteer fire departments throughout the region. If interested please contact our President Dustin Curry: trfire@dtr.ca

Applications for the position of Executive Director are being accepted.

The position of Executive Director for the Volunteer Firefighters of B.C. and the Volunteer Firefighters Foundations fund will be available starting May of 2022. This position is responsible for the day-to-day workings of the association and foundation fund. Applicants should have a broad knowledge of the volunteer fire service in B.C. and be able to communicate with members and prospective members about the association and other questions that may impact the operation of their departments. Applicants should have a knowledge of financial management and accounting, good computer skills, good communications skills, the ability to plan and record meetings, other skills to enhance the operation of the associations.

This position is open to members of VFABC departments or retired or Honorary/Life members that still want to be involved with service the fire service. For further information contact Art Sanderson at 250 710 5395. Applications should be sent to President Dustin Curry at trfire@dtr.ca

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FIREFIGHTER ALISON STARR
 40

2022 Volunteer Firefighters Foundation Fund Membership

108 Mile House VFD
 Beverly Fire Rescue
 Chase Fire Rescue
 District of Taylor FD
 Errington and District FD
 Gibsons and District
 Interlakes VFD
 Lake Cowichan VFD
 Mackenzie VFD
 Mill Bay VFD
 North Galiano VFD (2)
 Otter Point VFD
 Pender Harbour FPD
 Salt Spring Island VFD
 South Green Lake VFD
 Ten Mile VFD
 Tumbler Ridge VFD
 West Fraser VFD

150 Mile House VFD
 Blackpool VFD
 Creston Fire & Rescue
 Duncan VFD
 Forest Grove VFD
 Greeny Lake VFD
 Kersley V.F.D.
 Little Fort VFD
 Malaspina Volunteer FD
 Miocene VFD
 Okanagan Falls VFD
 Oyster River VFD
 Pritchard VFD
 Sandspit VFD
 Sproat Lake VFD
 Thetis Island VFD
 Valemount VFD
 Willowbrook VFD

Barlow Creek Fire Dept
 Buckhorn VFD
 Deka Lake & District VFD
 Edgewood VFD
 Gabriola Vol Fire Dept
 Hixon VFD
 Lac La Hache VFD
 Lone Butte VFD
 McLure VFD.
 Nakusp & District VFD
 Oliver VFD (2)
 Pemberton VFR
 Salmon Valley VFD
 Sasamat VFD
 Sun Peaks VFD
 Tulameen & District VFD
 Vanderhoof VFD



North Vancouver Island Report



SSIFR Retired Fire Chief Arjuna George and VFFofBC North Island Director Geoff Gowans

A lot has been going on in the North Vancouver Island area since our last newsletter.

In the North Island area I have been able to visit Oyster River Fire Rescue and the Denman Island Fire Dept. Thank you to both depts for taking the time to talk to me. I managed to do a bit of visiting in the south island area too. With Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue being one of my previous "homes", I was fortunate to be able to get over to that Island for an afternoon to celebrate the retirement of SSIFR Fire Chief Arjuna George. Deputy Fire Chief Jamie Holmes has been promoted to Fire Chief there.

Supply chain issues hampered the Merville fire hall completion timeline and delayed and delayed and delayed... but finally...

Oyster River Fire Rescue updates that the Merville Fire Dept and fire hall grand opening was on 28-May-2022. This new fire dept starts serving their community with one new truck and 1 used truck. The training continues with Oyster River and the Merville crews working together.

I say, a huge congratulations on this accomplishment under the leadership of Oyster River Fire Rescue Fire Chief Bruce Green!

Oyster River will also be getting the Mount Washington firehall started and the approvals have all happened. They are hoping for shovels in the ground by the end of the year. Currently the Mount Washington fire truck sits at the Oyster River firehall. It sits in upper Mount Washington for the summer but in the Winter it can't be up there as there's no hall. Yet...

Deep Bay Fire Dept had their new hall grand opening on 11-Jun-2022



Errington is the first FD in the mid and North Island to have a certified drone. Their residents did fund raising and donations to buy the \$10K drone. Up to 6 members will be trained in its use in the next few months.

In early June, a volunteer firefighter with the East Wellington Fire Department near Nanaimo, B.C., has being credited for going above and beyond after rescuing a woman from a burning vehicle. Firefighter Mark McCallum heard the crash from his home and went outside to see. The seven-year volunteer veteran called in the crash and went to investigate. A neighbour at the scene told him there was someone in the car, which had crashed into a tree and was laying in a ditch. McCallum went down the embankment and managed to pry open the passenger-side door and pull the woman to safety. "I kind of knew that I had to step up and there wasn't anybody else to turn to at that point," said McCallum. "It's kind of a life-or-death situation."



FF McCallum performed the rescue alone, and without any protective gear as all of that was at the fire hall. Very well done FF McCallum!! I have retired from frontline fire fighting as my regular job has me far too busy to continue to hold a spot in the East Wellington Fire Department roster.

My retirement date was 16-Mar-2022, exactly 30 years after first entering the service with Powell River Fire Dept.

I will continue as the North Vancouver Island Director.

Respectfully Submitted,
Geoff Gowans
North Vancouver Island Director

Wanted

....an engine, or engine tender or tender....we have cash in hand and are looking for two rigs.

We are an uncertified hall located at Osprey Lake BC, which is 40 kilometers east of Princeton on the Princeton / Summerland road....we presently have a 1976 engine / tender, and a 1994 engine tender, and 2004 CAAF minnie engine, a side by side with FF skid unit, and a 550 GPM fire boat to service the majority of our homes located on the three adjoining lakes...(Osprey, Link, and Chain) .

As with many of you...we have no hydrants, and the lakes are for refilling shuttling tenders , or to draft and fight fire from. ...we will look at any or all and can be contacted at 250 295 6420 or fireguyhc@gmail.com....Deputy Chief Rob Miller.



Playing it forward

Pictured left and right is Randy Heberton, and Wayne Humphrey of "Fireworksconsulting" and center, Volunteer Chief Rob Miller of Hayes Creek Fire Rescue.....all previously Vancouver Fire Rescue (97 years total) with together 139 years in the fire service ...picture taken during Emergency Scene Management course at Hayes Creek hall with members of Erris Fire attending as well.

Excellent course and great trainers with a wealth of experience.



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Items of interest, training or social activities, photos, events of interest, equipment wanted or items to be repurposed.



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Firefighter Cancer Bill-C224 and Cancer Prevention Research Partnership

Cancer is a firefighter issue. It affects all types of firefighters in all parts of the country. While there are many important resources available, these resources don't always reach all parts of the firefighting community.

At the CAFC, a new **Cancer Committee** was started in 2022 to help further address this issue for all firefighters and department types. It is very interested in Bill C-224 proposed by MP Sherry Romanado, [*An Act To Establish A National Framework for the Prevention and Treatment of Cancers Linked to Firefighting*](#). CAFC will do its part to help advance this bill.

Bill C-224 on Firefighter Cancer was debated in the House of Commons on April 4, 2022. You can [watch the video here](#), [read the transcripts here](#), and [access the press release here](#).

The CAFC is also collaborating on a new research project focusing on volunteer firefighters, aimed at understanding what the research says about cancer prevention behaviours, whether these are understood and communicated to firefighters, whether and why these are actioned or not; and what the barriers might be.

The research is funded by the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. It runs out of the IWK Health Centre. It is in its early stages. Check back frequently for more information. Special thanks to the investigators:

Patrick McGrath (PI)	IWK Health Centre/Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia
Graham Pawlett (CAFC Committee Chair)	CAFC NAC for Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Assoc.
Ariane Belanger-Gravel	Université Laval, Quebec
Ivana Irwin	Leduc County Fire Services, Alberta*
Elena Laroche	Université Laval, Quebec
Jim Petrik	Guelph Amorosa Fire Department*/University of Guelph
Tina Saryeddine	Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs/University of Ottawa
JianLi Wang	Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia
Igor Yakovenko	Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Collaborator
Alberto Caban-Martinez	University of Miami, Florida, Collaborator

*Members of the CAFC **Cancer Committee**



Last-Minute Checklist for Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildfire



Evacuation Tips

Monitor conditions and follow the advice of local authorities.

If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.

	Review your evacuation plan for your family and pets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit www.getprepared.gc.ca for helpful tips and evacuation plan templates.
	Have your "ready to go kit" (emergency kit) ready and stocked with cash, portable radio, prescription medications, eye glasses, change of clothes, pet food, flashlights and batteries, etc. Make sure your phone numbers, insurance information and other important documents for your go bag are current. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit www.getprepared.gc.ca for a more complete list of emergency supplies.
	Before evacuating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn off air conditioning. Turn off your home water and electricity Close all doors, garage doors and windows. If weather seal or doors have gaps, seal with duct tape.



Quickly address outside surroundings

Complete a scan around your home and property and take steps to remove combustibles.

	Remove leaves, pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters.
	Mow grass and weeds within 10 metres of the house to 10 centimetres in length, or less.
	Clear all dead plants, leaves, and weeds within 10 metres of your home. Maintain a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around your home and deck by sweeping or raking down to mineral soil, rock or concrete.
	Move combustible items such as toys, patio furniture, cushions, decorative items, firewood, and potted plants, that are on and under your deck and within 10 metres of your home. Move all combustible items into your home or garage.
	If you have a propane tank located on your property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propane tanks should be moved to 10 metres away from structures. Remove weeds and other debris from area around large stationary propane tanks so there is no combustible material near tank.
	If you have a combustible fence that attaches to your home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure gate in an open position. Clear vegetation and debris along both sides of combustible fence lines.



Check around the house

Check vents on roof, foundation and exterior walls to prevent embers from entering your home.

	Check your attic and foundation (crawl space) vents to see if they are screened and in good repair. Use duct or metal tape to temporarily cover damaged vents and those with 3 millimetres mesh screening.
	If you store cardboard boxes and other easily ignited materials near a vent in your attic or crawl space, move them as far away as possible from vent(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another option is to place tape over vent(s) at these locations. Be sure to remove tape when you return home.
	Cover dryer vents and wall-mounted make-up air openings for furnaces with a plywood cover, metal tape or duct tape.



← Non-combustible Zone →



Visit www.firesmartcanada.ca for additional resources and information.





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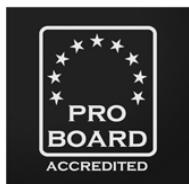
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Any B.C. Fire Department is eligible for a 20% discount if registered with Wildwood Resources Ltd.



The course is an easy to use review of the pertinent safety features of the S-100 course.

Jake Jacobson, the original developer of the course in 2006, is a 35-year veteran of the Salmon Arm F.D., a 37-year BCWS Fire Warden and a member of the CSRD's SPU team for the past 9 years.



For more information, phone 250-832-2300 or email jake@s100a.com
~ *Be careful out there and remember safety is always the first priority* ~



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— SHANE, NEW WESTMINSTER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES.

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Vacant

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THE VOLUNTEER

“THE VOLUNTEER” is the official newsletter of the Volunteer firefighters' Association of British Columbia. The Volunteer is published three times a year. February, June and October. Editorial Deadlines are: February 15, June 15 and October 15. The newsletter is distributed throughout the province of BC. Copies are distributed to manufacturers across Canada. About 600 newsletters are distributed for each issue. Non-members may be sent a copy of the newsletter for information purposes.

Advertisements

The advertisement rates for non-members are:

\$100.00 per page	\$50.00 per half page
\$25.00 per quarter page	\$10.00 per business card size

We also have a shared mailing program under which inserts are included with the newsletter at a cost of \$100.00 per page or \$175.00 for 2 or 3 pages. For heavy pamphlet types of inserts rates are negotiable. Advertisements for Member Halls are free. Advertisements for non-members is double those shown above. The Volunteer is printed in black and white on 8 x 11 pages. Please allow for margins of 1.2 cm. It is best to send camera ready material or an e-mail attachment. The Volunteer welcomes submissions. Letters to the Editor or articles of interest to the fire service in general. These may be e-mailed to lloyd_delves@telus.net and/or mail/courier if needed to:

Lloyd Delves, 73-27111 0 Ave, Aldergrove, BC, V4W 2T2

Opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Volunteer Firefighters' Association of BC.

Check out our website www.firebc.org



2022 Volunteer Firefighters Association Membership

108 Mile House VFD
 Beverly Fire Rescue
 Bow Horn Bay VFD
 Britannia Beach FD
 Burton VFD
 Charlie Lake VFD
 Creston Fire & Rescue
 Deka Lake & District VFD
 Edgewood V F D
 Forest Grove VFD
 Gibsons VFD
 Gun Lake Fire Brigade
 Interlakes VFD
 Lake Country FR
 Lone Butte VFD
 Maine Island VFD
 Mill Bay VFD
 Nanoose Bay VFD
 Oliver VFD (2)
 Pemberton VFR
 Port Moody VFA
 Salmon Valley VFD
 Shawnigan Lake V.F.D.
 South Green Lake VFD
 Stewart VFD
 Tahsis VFD
 Thetis Island VFD
 Topley VFD
 Ucluelet VF Brigade
 Vavenby VFD
 Willowbrook VFD

150 Mile House VFD
 Blackpool VFD
 Bowen Island VFD
 Buckhorn VFD
 BX Swan Lake VFD
 Chase Fire Rescue
 Cultus Lake VFD
 District of Taylor FD
 Erris Volunteer Fire Assoc
 Fort Fraser Fire Dept
 Gillies Bay VFD (2)
 Hornby Island FR
 Kersley V.F.D.
 Lake Cowichan VFD
 Loon Lake Fire Dept
 Malaspina Volunteer FD
 Miocene VFD
 North Galiano VFD (2)
 Otter Point VFD
 Pender Harbour FPD
 Princeton VFB
 Sandspit VFD
 Ships Point VFD
 Southside VFD
 Sun Peaks VFD
 Telkwa VFD
 Tobiano VFD
 Tulameen & District VFD
 Valemount VFD
 West Fraser VFD

Barlow Creek Fire Dept
 Boston Bar/North Bend VFD
 Bralorne VFD
 Burns Lake VFD
 Cache Creek VFD
 Cranbrook Fire Dept
 Dashwood VFD
 Duncan VFD
 Fanny Bay VFD
 Gabriola Vol Fire Dept
 Greeny Lake VFD
 Horsefly VFD
 Lac La Hache VFD
 Little Fort VFD
 Mackenzie VFD
 McLure VFD.
 Nakusp & District VFD
 Okanagan Falls VFD
 Oyster River VFD
 Port Alice VFD
 Pritchard VFD
 Sasamat VFD
 Sidney VFD
 Sproat Lake VFD
 Sunshine Valley VFD
 Ten Mile VFD
 Tomslake & District VFD
 Tumbler Ridge VFD
 Vanderhoof VFD
 Wildwood VFD

Associate Members

Dynamic Rescue Systems Inc.
 Provident-Michael Crowe
 WFR Wholesale Fire & Rescue Ltd.

Irwin Air
 ResQtech Systems Inc.

KGC Fire Rescue Inc.
 Rocky Mountain Phoenix

Individual Members

Bob Claus
 Mac Gregory

Bob Dubbert (Firefighters Without Borders)
 Jake Jacobson (Wildwood Resources)

Scott Porritt

Attention All Departments

Please update the following information. This information is collected to track the demographics of the volunteer fire service on a year-to-year basis. The association may need this in discussion with the government or other organizations. This information will be aggregated so that individual fire departments cannot be identified.

Notes:

Firefighter Status:

Full Time: _____ Volunteer: _____ Paid on Call: _____ Not Paid: _____

Male: _____ Female: _____

Funding Body: _____

(Regional District/Municipal/Improvement District/Society Only)



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF BC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Date: ____/____/____ New Application ____ Renewal ____ For Which Year ____

Type of Membership: Fire Department ____ Associate/Manufacturer ____ Individual ____

(Complete the application/renewal based on your membership type)

Newsletter: Electronic Copy ____ Hard Copy ____ Number of copies (hard) ____

INDIVIDUALName: _____ Address: _____
PO/Street City Postal Code
Telephone: _____ Cell _____ Email: _____**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Name: _____ Fire Chief: _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email: _____

Address: _____
PO/Street City Postal CodeHall Tel: _____ Email Hall _____ Web Site _____ Number of
Firefighters: _____**ASSOCIATE/MANUFACTURER**

COMPANY NAME _____ CONTACT NAME _____ Product or Service

Related to Fire Services: _____

Address: _____
PO/Street City Postal Code

Tel: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____

FEES ENCLOSED Individual: \$15 / year (includes newsletter subscription)

Fire Department: \$7 / firefighter / year (minimum \$140 / maximum \$400)

Associate/Manufacturer: \$140 / year

Please send the completed form together with the appropriate amount of fees to the Association Office: The Volunteer Firefighters Association of British Columbia 921 Jubilee Street, Duncan, B.C. V9L 1Y2 Email: vfaofbc@telus.net E-transfers can be sent to this email address (autodeposit)

Please update the following information. This information is collected to track the demographics of the volunteer fire service on a year-to-year basis. The association may need this in discussion with the government or other organizations. This information will be aggregated so that individual fire departments cannot be identified.

Notes:

Firefighter Status: Full Time: ____ Volunteer: ____ Paid on Call: ____ Not Paid: ____

Male: ____ Female: ____

Funding Body: _____

(Regional District/Municipal/Improvement District/Society Only)



How will you #filltheboot?

Fire Fighters have been supporting Muscular Dystrophy Canada and Canadians impacted by neuromuscular disorders for more than 65 years. Due to COVID-19, many in-person fundraising events have been cancelled.

The needs of those impacted cannot be cancelled. MDC still needs to provide critical programs and services.

Keep the tradition of helping to Fill the Boot alive!
Visit filltheboot.ca to get started.



Contact Muscular Dystrophy Canada to find out how you or your Department / Association can be involved by calling 1-800-567-2873 or emailing info@muscle.ca