

Firefighter Recruitment Handbook



The Town of Grand Bay-Westfield Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department

You may be the ideal candidate as a volunteer firefighter if you want to help others and serve in your community.

Make a difference in your community.

Message from the Fire Chief

The Grand Bay-Westfield Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department is committed to providing the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency response. The members of the Department are proud of the long tradition of excellence in serving the community, and are focused on continuing to raise the level of service in ways to better serve the residents and visitors of Grand Bay-Westfield and the Local Service District of Westfield West.

As you read through this handbook, you will receive a greater sense of the role of a firefighter in Grand Bay-Westfield. If, as you read, you find yourself interested in becoming a volunteer applications are available from any member, at Fire Station No. 1, at the Town Office, or on our website.

We recruit new members only once or twice a year. We do however accept applications throughout the year and hold them on file.

Yours in fire safety,



Troy Gautreau, Fire Chief
Grand Bay-Westfield Vol. Fire-Rescue Department



Department Fleet



Department Web Page

About us

The Grand Bay-Westfield Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department was formed on February 9, 1998 following the amalgamation of the Village of Westfield and the Town of Grand Bay. The Department protects roughly 7400 people within the Town and the neighbouring Local Service District of Westfield West.



Vehicle Fire

The Department is comprised of 45+ highly trained and dedicated Volunteers who are supported by a full time Fire Chief, Deputy Chief/Equipment officer and a Training Officer.

Service is provided from two fire stations housing five firefighting apparatus, three support vehicles and one rescue equipment trailer. The Department responds to approximately 250 calls per year and takes part in various community events and fire prevention activities. The types of emergencies we respond to include medical first response, fires of all types, motor vehicle accidents, off road rescue, ice rescue, electrical problems, service calls such as flooded basements, and basically anytime our residents need us.

The Nature of our Business

Firefighting is one of the most challenging professions known today. It is this challenge that inspires most individuals to enter into the fire service, both as volunteers and perhaps even as a career.

As firefighters we have to deal with many assorted situations at any given time, seven days a week, and often under stressful and emotional circumstances, this is what makes our contribution to our profession very satisfying.

Basically, as firefighters we have two major roles to fulfill. First, to prevent fire or emergencies from occurring; which we do by conducting fire safety education, inspections and fire code enforcement programs. Secondly, we are here to prepare ourselves to control fires or emergencies should prevention not prevail. We can accomplish this through training, education and our state of the art equipment.



Annual Fire Prevention Week Open House

We cannot kid ourselves; this type of volunteering is not for everyone. You need more than a desire to help people. You need courage, dedication, assertiveness and a willingness to learn new skills, face difficult challenges, and most importantly - time. Nevertheless, the rewards and satisfaction received from being involved in the fire service are often beyond explanation.

What is a Volunteer Firefighter?

Being a volunteer firefighter will mean working two jobs, attending meetings and training drills. The position will sometimes take you away from your personal life and sometimes means missed family dinners. The work of a volunteer firefighter is very demanding requiring you to be on call and available, as much as possible day and night, weekends and holidays.



Live fire training at our training facility

The position of Volunteer Firefighter requires the incumbent to be physically and mentally competent to perform all of the functions associated with being a firefighter.

The tasks of a volunteer include, but are not limited to carrying, lifting, pulling, chopping, climbing, wearing heavy protective equipment, entering and working in confined spaces, driving emergency vehicles and working in hazardous and dangerous conditions. Firefighting requires a volunteer to go from minimal physical activity to peak physical activity while responding to and performing firefighting or related tasks. As well as physical stress, you could be exposed to emotional stress while performing medical or rescue activities.

Being a volunteer firefighter is based on teamwork. A strong sense of camaraderie comes from service to our community and knowing that we make a difference in the lives of people.

What is expected of you?

- ✦ Your selfless devotion,
- ✦ Training in all areas of firefighting, auto extrication, emergency medical first response and more. You will be expected to respond to emergency situations day or night 24/7,
- ✦ Attend regular weekly training, held on Monday evenings,
- ✦ Attend various fire prevention and public service activities.

What is offered to you?

- ✦ Satisfaction of knowing you help save lives,
- ✦ Provincially and internationally recognized firefighting and rescue training,
- ✦ Training in emergency medical services, i.e. First Responders,
- ✦ Access to the Department's physical fitness equipment,
- ✦ All Uniforms and equipment provided,
- ✦ Camaraderie and friendship,
- ✦ Family orientated social functions,
- ✦ Honorariums paid on basis of attendance at emergency calls and training sessions.



Who should apply?

- ✦ All women and men 19 years of age and older,
- ✦ Shift workers,
- ✦ People who enjoy a challenge and the rewards that come with them,
- ✦ Residents of Grand Bay-Westfield, the Local service district of Westfield West, and the City of Saint John communities of Martinon and Morna.

The application process

After your application is received it will be reviewed and you will be advised whether or not your application has been selected. Should your application be accepted you will be provided with the needed forms for you to complete the following:

- ✘ Medical Exam
- ✘ Driver's Abstract
- ✘ Criminal Records Check

Costs for above items will be reimbursed.

You will also be provided with information on our Physical Fitness Evaluation. Should you be successful and appointed as a firefighter, you will participate in our New Member Training Program.

How to apply

Women and men interested in applying can pick up an application at Fire Station No. 1, the Town Office, going to our recruitment page on our website (see QR code below, calling 738-6421 or by emailing fire@towngbw.ca.



Structure fire



Recruitment page

FIRE STATION LOCATIONS

Station No. 1 – 615 River Valley Drive

Station No. 2 – 293 Nerepis Road

Fire Administration

615 River Valley Drive (Allan St. Entrance)

Phone – 738-6421

Email – fire@towngbw.ca

We want to acknowledge the effort every applicant puts forth into the pursuit of becoming a firefighter and the desire each applicant possesses to assist in the protection of the residents of Grand Bay-Westfield and Westfield West LSD.

Thank you for considering joining the Grand Bay-Westfield
Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department

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