



Meet Our Team

We are a composite fire department consisting of 8 career firefighting staff and 32 dedicated volunteer firefighters of all ages, gender and ethnicity delivering an effective fire and rescue service to our city. We are your neighbours and love our community.

Our department is situated in the middle of the growing West Shore area of Victoria, B.C. We take pride in our ability to have delivered consistent and quality protective service to our residents since 1946.

With a superior firefighter training program and modern fire equipment that is second to none in the Greater Victoria area, Colwood Fire Department has established itself as a confident, stable and reliable emergency service in the region that is well supported by our residents and municipal council. We continually seek out and adopt advancements in new technologies and operational procedures to ensure that we instill pride in every department member and maintain the confidence of those who require our services.

Colwood Fire Rescue proudly provides the following services to our residents and the community at large through Fire Department Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements with our neighbouring municipalities.

- Fire Prevention and Education
- Structural Firefighting and Suppression
- First Responder Medical Assistance
- Confined Space Rescue
- Motor Vehicle Extrication
- Water Rescue
- Wild Land Fire Suppression

Who Can Apply?

Colwood Fire Rescue encourages applications from men and women. Applicants are required to:

- ✓ Live in the City of Colwood.
- ✓ Be 19 years of age or older.
- ✓ Provide a Criminal Record Check and maintain a record that is satisfactory.
- ✓ Comply with NFPA 1582 Medical Requirements for Firefighters (check our website for details).
- ✓ Maintain a healthy lifestyle (e.g. no drugs, no drinking to excess, try to refrain from smoking).
- ✓ Be in good physical condition and able to carry out firefighting and rescue responsibilities. A physical dexterity test is required.
- ✓ Attend a mandatory information session about becoming a volunteer firefighter.

Preference is given to applicants who:

- ✓ Have a valid BC Driver's class 5 or class 3 license and a clean driving record.
- ✓ Can demonstrate that they are committed to serve and have the time.

Are You Interested?

To learn more about volunteer firefighting with the Colwood Fire Department, please contact:

COLWOOD FIRE RESCUE

250-478-8321 | 3215 Metchosin Rd, Victoria
Visit www.colwood.ca

Looking For A Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity?

Do you have what it takes to give back to your community

IN A BIG WAY?

Consider becoming a

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER



COLWOOD FIRE RESCUE

It's a Way of Life!

Details about our volunteer firefighting program inside

NOW RECRUITING



What Do Our Volunteers Do?

New recruits complete a probationary period of up to twelve months. During this time, they participate in an extensive training program to satisfy the requirements of the Provincial Firefighter Certification Program Levels 1 and 2 as well as numerous other training initiatives that are funded by the Fire Department. After receiving basic training, new recruits have the knowledge and skills they need to safely participate in fire and rescue incidents.

Firefighters wear full turnout gear (helmet, coat, pants and boots) which together may weigh up to 22 kg. If required to wear a breathing mask, another 18 kg is added.

Under the direction of department officers, volunteer firefighters work in noisy, stressful, hot, smoke-filled situations and carry out tasks which include:

- Carrying equipment between trucks and fire sites, and up and down stairs in buildings.
- Advancing charged hoses with 240 lbs of nozzle thrust.
- Breaking down doors, walls, ceilings and roof structures using equipment that may include chain saws, rotary saws and sledge hammers.
- Working overhead with a pike pole or hose lines.
- Raising and lowering ladders, equipment or victims rescued from buildings.
- Extricating victims from automobiles.
- Carrying out first responder medical protocols.

There are many reasons why people choose to become a member of the Colwood Fire Department: to protect their families, neighbours, community and way of life. For many, it's about becoming a part of a wonderful organization with a very proud history. Joining the Colwood Fire Department is a great way to give back to your community, learn important new skills and develop friendships that can last a lifetime.

What Is The Time Commitment?

Most volunteer firefighters spend approximately five hours per week on activities related to their responsibilities with the Fire Department. They must participate in a minimum of one 2.5 hour practice session each week, and maintain a minimum annual attendance rate of 70%. They are also required to carry a pager and respond immediately to emergency call-outs that can occur at any time of day or night. Our volunteer firefighters are committed to continuous learning to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to perform as a valued member of the fire department team.

Volunteer firefighting is not for people who have only a few hours to spare, once in a while. It's for people who want to dedicate themselves to joining an organization that will become a large part of their lives. Volunteer firefighting is a way of life.

When Are New Recruits Selected?

New recruits are usually selected once a year, depending on requirements. For details about the next recruiting information session, please contact the Colwood Fire Department at **250-478-8321** or visit www.colwood.ca.

Who Is The Ideal Firefighter?

- ✓ Honest, trustworthy, reliable, accountable.
- ✓ Understands the importance of learning and applying safe firefighting practices and unwilling to engage in behaviour likely to injure self or others.
- ✓ Lives in close proximity to the firestation and able to respond to calls quickly.
- ✓ A team player, willing and able to do what is required for the benefit of the team.
- ✓ Understands that team success relies on each team member's positive contribution.
- ✓ Dependable, arrives on time, achieves participation requirements.
- ✓ Willing and able to respond to emergencies on an on-call basis, understanding that call-outs can occur at any time 24/7/365.
- ✓ Willing to help people in emergency situations and at times dealing with critically injured people.
- ✓ Able to stay calm in emergencies, know their own role, and carry out responsibilities.

• **COMMITMENT**

• **DEDICATION**

• **OPPORTUNITY**

THIS IS COLWOOD FIRE RESCUE!