



# H O R N B Y I S L A N D F I R E R E S C U E

Box 28 Hornby Island BC V0R 1Z0 Tel: 250-335-2611 Fax:250-335-2699 hifr@telus.net

## QUESTIONS ASKED MOST OFTEN BY PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

- Q. What is the cost of the required training?**  
A. The required training for recruits and firefighters is provided by the department free of charge. Transportation to and from accredited additional training is funded by the department.
- Q. How much will I have to pay for my protective clothing?**  
A. All required protective clothing is provided by the department, at no cost to the individual.
- Q. What is the format of the recruit training schedule?**  
A. The Recruit Training program is spread over a 24 week period. Training will require two week nights and may include some full day weekends. Entry level CPR and first aid training is handled in a similar manner.
- Q. Who provides insurance coverage for my activities as a firefighter?**  
A. Normal WorkSafe BC coverage is in effect whenever the individual is volunteering for the department. The Department also has insurance coverage for auto liability when operating department vehicles. Members (not Recruits) all have accidental death, disability, and life insurance
- Q. Are firefighters directly paid in any way?**  
A. Firefighters receive an honorarium based on the number of regular practices and approved training sessions attended in each semi-annual period.
- Q. After my initial training, how much time will I be expected to give as an active member?**  
A. While the exact time requirements vary, the average training and call out time is about 18 hours per month. There is no ceiling on how much you can participate in optional duties such as tours and public education, as well as officer positions.
- Q. How often will I be on call to respond to emergencies?**  
A. Our system depends upon firefighters being available to answer all emergencies. The department therefore expects that firefighters, will be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This is a major commitment that needs careful consideration before you undertake it. The department realizes that no one can be available all of the time, but it relies on the commitment from members to respond whenever they are available. Potential members should be aware that this commitment cannot be taken lightly; their response to emergencies is a lifeline to the public that they serve.
- Q. How quickly will I have to respond to emergencies?**  
A. The department would normally expect that all available members would respond immediately to a page out.
- Q. How long do emergency call outs last?**  
A. The average call out lasts about an hour. A working structure fire may extend 4 or more hours.
- Q. If I have prior fire/rescue training and experience, will it count towards the Department's training requirements?**  
A. Prior training will likely reduce the time necessary to develop the minimum skills that the department looks for in its firefighters, but participation in all programs is still required in order to demonstrate your proficiency.
- Q. Is it possible for me to concentrate my participation and specialize in one area of fire department response?**  
A. All members are generalists, capable of doing any of the fire or rescue tasks that may occur at an emergency. Specialist training is provided, but not to the exclusion of the requirement to be able to participate in all department activities.

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- Q. Is there a medical and physical examination prior to acceptance by the department?**  
A. There is a medical and physical examination. Your doctor must complete a form provided by the department.
- Q. Will there be written or physical tests prior to acceptance by the department?**  
A. Not as part of the Application process. All Recruits are required to successfully complete a written exam and practical evaluation prior to acceptance as a Firefighter upon completion of basic training.
- Q. Can a woman be a firefighter with the department?**  
A. Yes. We encourage all applicants to become part of the department.
- Q. Is there a social aspect to belonging to the fire department?**  
A. Yes. In addition to the contribution to the community, firefighters often find a personal satisfaction in belonging to the fire department community. Members participate regularly in fire hall socials, as well as other department related activities.