



BLACKFALDS FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTER APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION

The Blackfalds Fire Department is comprised of three career chiefs, and approximately 30 paid on call members. The Blackfalds Fire Department serves the Town of Blackfalds and a portion of Lacombe County, also providing mutual aid response to nearby communities on request. In addition to emergency response, fire department members are active in the community, providing presentations to the schools, open houses, fire hall tours, fire prevention week programs, and fire safety inspections.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants shall live within the town's fire district.
- Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of your application.
- Applicants are legally able to work in Canada.
- Beards and/or facial hair that will interfere with the requirements of wearing of Breathing apparatus shall not be permitted.
- Medical approval must be signed by a physician.
- A photocopy of a valid Driver's License and Drivers Abstract (3 years) is required.
- Must have a valid Class 5 Alberta Driver's license
- A Police Security/Criminal Records Check including vulnerable sector will be required

TRAINING

The training you receive as a firefighter with Blackfalds Fire Department will prepare you for tasks that are required at the scene of an emergency, but it will also prepare you for any emergency you may face outside the fire department. You will be trained to act at the scene of a structure fire, motor vehicle collision, and/or a medical emergency. Firefighters train weekly with some weekends to ensure their skills are maintained and they are current in industry best practices.

ESSENTIAL JOB TASKS and ENVIRONMENTAL

Environmental factors play a large role in the performance of a firefighter's duties. Some working conditions that firefighters experience as part of normal operating procedures include:

- The requirement to report to fire calls "fit for duty", both mentally and physically.



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- Responding to fire calls after working a regular workday at their regular occupation which may have involved an 8-14 hour workday with varied levels of mental and physical exertion. May be performing tasks with little or no sleep.
 - While wearing personal protective ensembles and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), performing firefighting tasks (e.g., hose line operations, extensive crawling, lifting, and carrying heavy objects, ventilating roofs or walls using power or hand tools, forcible entry), rescue operations, and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions including working in extremely hot or cold environments for prolonged time periods
 - Wearing an SCBA, which includes a demand valve–type positive-pressure face piece or HEPA filter masks, which requires the ability to tolerate increased respiratory workloads
 - Exposure to toxic fumes, irritants, particulates, biological (infectious) and non-biological hazards, and/or heated gases, despite the use of personal protective ensembles and SCBA
 - Depending on the local jurisdiction, climbing six or more flights of stairs while wearing a fire protective ensemble, including SCBA, weighing at least 50 lb. (22.6 kg) or more and carrying equipment/tools weighing an additional 20 to 40 lb. (9 to 18 kg)
 - Wearing a fire protective ensemble, including SCBA, that is encapsulating and insulated, which will result in significant fluid loss that frequently progresses to clinical dehydration and can elevate core temperature to levels exceeding 102.2°F (39°C)
 - While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, searching, finding, and rescue-dragging or carrying victims ranging from newborns to adults weighing over 200lb (90 kg) to safety despite hazardous conditions and low visibility
 - While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, advancing water-filled hose lines up to 2 1/2in. (65 mm) in diameter from fire apparatus to occupancy [approximately 150 ft (50 m)], which can involve negotiating multiple flights of stairs, ladders, and other obstacles
 - While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, climbing ladders, operating from heights, walking, or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces that might be wet or icy, and operating in proximity to electrical power lines or other hazards
 - Unpredictable emergency requirements for prolonged periods of extreme physical exertion without benefit of warm-up, scheduled rest periods, meals, access to medication(s), or hydration
 - Operating fire apparatus or other vehicles in an emergency mode with emergency lights and sirens
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- Critical, time-sensitive, complex problem solving during physical exertion in stressful, hazardous environments, including hot, dark, tightly enclosed spaces, that is further aggravated by fatigue, flashing lights, sirens, and other distractions
- Ability to communicate (give and comprehend verbal orders) while wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA under conditions of high background noise, poor visibility, and drenching from hose lines and/or fixed protection systems (sprinklers)
- Functioning as an integral component of a team, where sudden incapacitation of a member can result in mission failure or in risk of injury or death to civilians or other team members

FACTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE APPLYING

The Blackfalds firefighter recruitment selection process is structured to ensure we hire the most suitable people to join our service. It strives to select people that demonstrate desire and commitment to help their community and contribute as members of the department. You need to be prepared to complete the various stages on demand and in a short period of time. A commitment to maintaining a healthy lifestyle is essential to ensuring firefighter safety and longevity. Ethical behavior and accountability must be part of your nature.

Taking responsibility for and ownership of your actions is vital to success.

Fire suppression is amongst the most dangerous aspects of a firefighter's job. Certain medical conditions can put both themselves and their team members at risk. If a firefighter is to collapse or become incapacitated in a fire, both the public (if trapped and having to be saved) and firefighter team members (having to save a non-functioning team member in addition to other duties) are at risk, in addition to the individual.

Firefighters have a wide range of mental and physical requirements and job demands throughout their career. This is not just limited to fighting fires and includes duties such as medical calls, CPR, attending accidents or chemical spills/gas leaks, driving large vehicles, vehicle extractions and rescue calls amongst many other jobs this position demands including hot and humid environments. The job can range from highly physical and stressful/traumatic situations where most of their work occurs at night when their body is telling them to rest, mixed with periods of down time.

We recommend the Essential Job Tasks be reviewed by your physician and yourself in assessing an individual for pursuing a job in fire suppression and related duties.



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FACTS ABOUT THE POSITION

It is a requirement that to keep your active firefighter status you must attend:

- 20% of all calls on an annual basis. Blackfalds fire responds to approximately 250 calls per year.
- Regularly attended Wednesday night practices.
- Willing to respond to emergencies.
- Willing and able to participate in occasional weekend training programs.
- Training/duties will be approx. 4 hours per week.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Stage 1 | **Application form**

- Resume if available.
- Fully completed application form (including Physician sign off)
- Drivers' Abstract
- Criminal Record Check including Vulnerable Sector Check

STAGE 2 | **Application Review**

- Applications are reviewed by Fire Chief & Deputy Fire Chief. Screened to ensure the applicant meets minimum criteria.
- Successful applicants are contacted via telephone/email and booked for interview.

STAGE 3 | **Interview**

The interview stage will be conducted by the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief and will take place at the Fire Station. At the conclusion of the interview the applicant must have submitted the following to proceed to the next stage:

- Fully completed application form (including Physician sign off)
- Drivers' Abstract
- Criminal Record Check including Vulnerable Sector Check



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STAGE 3 | **Physical Fitness Test**

The applicant will perform the physical fitness test as outlined in the Blackfalds Medical and Physical Test.

STAGE 5 | **Commencement**

The applicant will be contacted by telephone/email and then be required to come into the Fire Station for final paperwork (Firefighter Info Form) and gear sizing.

STAGE 6 | **Probationary Firefighter / Training**

The new member is given a 6-month probationary period.



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Application Form *(Please print clearly)*

Name:

Date:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Length of time living in Blackfalds:

Drivers License Class:

Current Employer:

Employer Contact Name:

Employer Phone:

Will your employer allow you to attend calls during business hours? **Yes**

No

Education:

Experience:

Past & Present Volunteer Activities:

Additional information or interests:

Do you object to a doctor's examination for physical fitness: **Yes** **No**

Do you object to a police security/criminal records check: **Yes** **No**

Are you legally able to work in Canada: **Yes** **No**

Declaration: I declare that the information provided in this document is correct and that I understand the contents entirely.

Applicants Signature:

Date:



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Access and Privacy Declaration

Personal information provided on this form will be used for the sole purpose of firefighter recruitment by the Town of Blackfalds. This information is collected under the authority of Section 4(c) of the *Access to Information Act* and will be protected under Part 1 of the Act. Questions regarding the collection and/or use of this information may be directed to the Information Governance Coordinator at access@blackfalds.ca or by phone at 403.885.6370.

Blackfalds Fire Department Physical Fitness Testing - Medical Clearance Form

This candidate has applied to take part in our fire fighter recruitment process. The physical fitness testing component is comprised of the tasks listed below. Based on this physical fitness assessment, the applicant may be employed by the Blackfalds Fire Department.

Please review the physical testing requirements, and Essential Job Tasks (Appendix A) then indicate your recommendation for this individual's participation at the bottom of this form.

Perform the following simulated firefighting tests wearing the combined weight of firefighting personal protective clothing and equipment (50-75 lbs).

- Equipment Carry (50-60 lbs)
- Forcible Entry (Keiser Sled)
- Charged Hose Drag
- Hose Load
- Victim Carry
- Ceiling Pull Simulation



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Upon reviewing the physical fitness components as outlined above, and in my medical opinion,

is:

Candidate's Name (please print)

Fit to perform this test

Not fit to perform this test

Physician's Signature

Date:

Please print or stamp:

Physician's name:

Address/Phone: