

BC WILDFIRE SERVICE JUNIOR FIRE CREW MEMBER PROGRAM

2024

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Schedule
 - Application
 - Interview
 - Training
 - Fit Test
 - Other Requirements
-
- About the BC Wildfire Service

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- All Grade 12 students in SD22
 - In the past we accepted applications from Grade 11 students but due to the nature of the work we have decided to consider only Grade 12 students in the Vernon Zone.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- Application Deadline: Friday March 15th
- Interview Invites: April 2nd
- Interviews: April 8th-12th
- Training Invites: April 15th
- Training: April 22nd-28th
 - Training will be every day after school plus 1-2 weekend days.
- Job Offers: By May 3rd
- Start Date: July 02nd (Not confirmed)

APPLICATION

Applications must consist of a resume and cover letter.

Some good points to highlight are in the cover letter/resume:

- Work experience
- Academic achievements
- Athletic achievements
- Any hobbies, interests, or other extra-curricular activities

Applications must be submitted to your Career Counsellor by March 15th.

INTERVIEW: TECHNICAL

The interview will consist of two parts:

- Technical Questions:

- Questions about firefighting and the BC Wildfire Service.
 - Firefighting methods
 - Fire behaviour principles
 - Tools and equipment used
 - Types of crews and their uses

You can find all the information for the technical questions at bcwildfire.ca > Wildfire Response.

INTERVIEW: BEHAVIOURAL

- Behavioural Questions:
 - Questions about difficult situations you have found yourself in.
 - Tell me about a time when...
 - Questions could be about teamwork, personal achievements, overcoming difficulties, etc
 - Use STAR method to answer.
 - Situation
 - Task
 - Action
 - Result

Research the STAR method prior to the interview.

TRAINING

Training will be a combination of fitness, classroom and field work.

It will be 2-3 hours after school every day for a week plus 1-2 days on the weekend.

Courses include:

- S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
 - S-185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance
 - S-232 Portable Pumps and Water Delivery Systems
- WFX Fitness Testing

FITNESS TEST

- Juniors need to perform the same fitness test as all wildland firefighters across Canada.
- The standard for Type-1 firefighters in BC is completing the test in 14:30.
 - The standard for Junior firefighters is 17:45
 - Preference may be given to applicants who meet the Type 1 standard.

FITNESS TEST

- Carry a 28.5kg simulated pump.
 - 4 laps over ramp with pump on back.
- Distance: 160m



FITNESS TEST

- Carry a 28.5kg simulated pump.
 - 2 laps around ramp carrying pump in arms.
- Distance: 80m



FITNESS TEST

- Carry a 25kg hose pack.
 - 25 laps over the ramp with hose pack on back.
- Distance: 1km



FITNESS TEST

- Drag 18.5kg sled.
- 2 laps.
- Distance: 80m



FITNESS TEST

- The fit test is called the WFX-FIT and information can be found at www.ciffc.ca/standards/wfx-fit/wfx-fit-test.
- There is a 6-week training program on the website that was developed specifically to train for the fit test.

You must pass this fitness test to be eligible for employment.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Enrolled in full-time studies within the past 6 months.
- Parental permission form must be signed.
 - Issued by the school.
- Valid Occupational First Aid certification.
 - Only required for successful applicants.
 - Discussed on next slide.
- Pair of suitable Vibram sole boots.
 - Also only required for successful applicants.

FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

- The minimum requirement is Occupational First Aid Level 1 and Transportation Endorsement certification.
- OFA Level 2 plus Transportation Endorsement or OFA Level 3 are also acceptable.
- All firefighters in BC are required to have these certifications.
- Cost to obtain these is around \$250 and takes 1 day each.

ABOUT THE BC WILDFIRE SERVICE

The BC Wildfire Service is made up of about 1100 firefighters who respond to 2000+ wildfires all over the Province.

There are 4 types of crews in the BC Wildfire Service:

- Initial Attack
- Unit Crew
- Rapattack
- Parattack

In addition to these crews there are hundreds of officers, dispatchers, and other support staff working for the BC Wildfire Service.

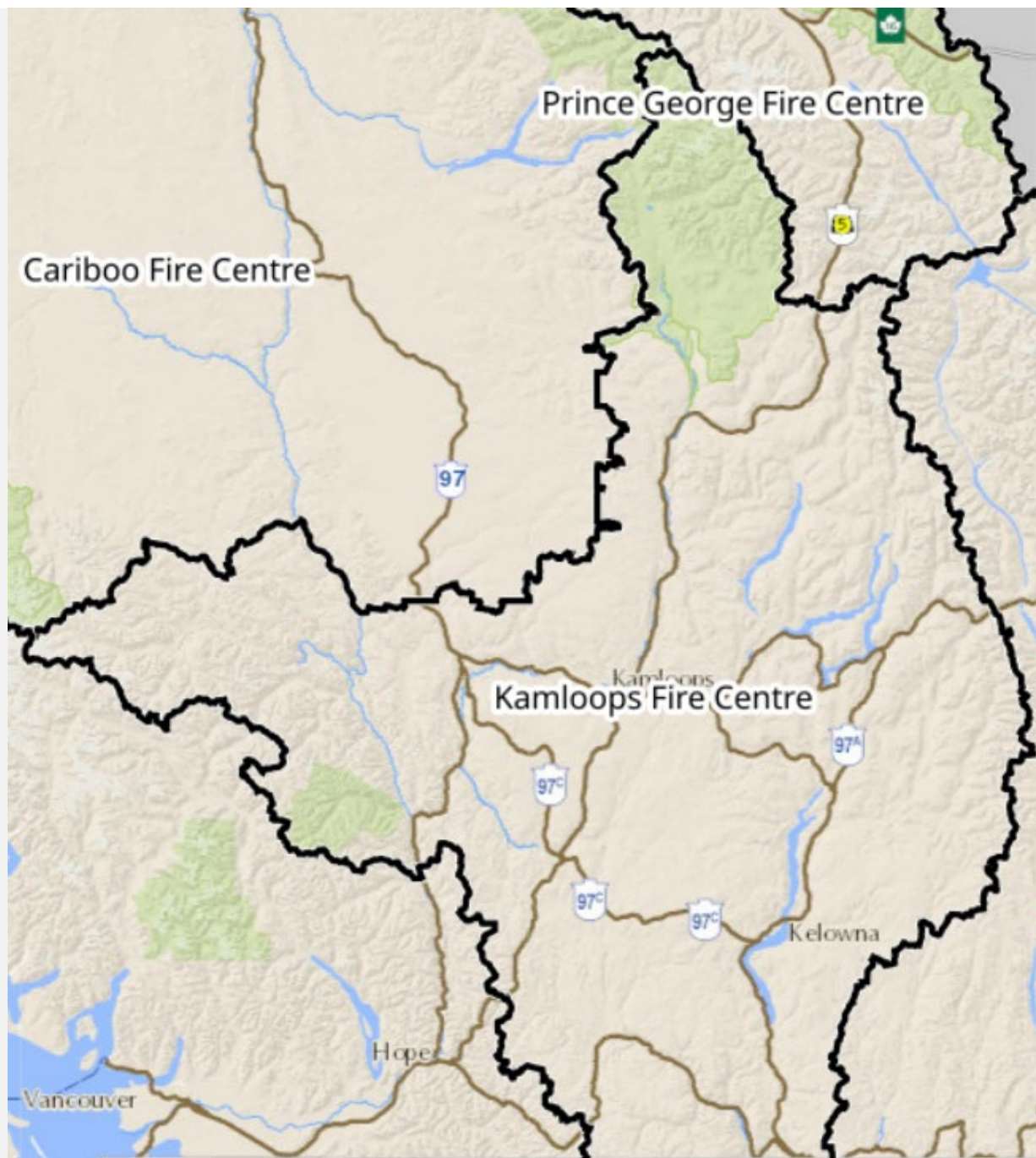
BC FIRE CENTRES

BC is divided into 6 Fire Centres.

The Vernon Zone is located in the Kamloops Fire Centre.

The KFC is one of the smaller fire centres geographically but one of the busiest by number of fires.

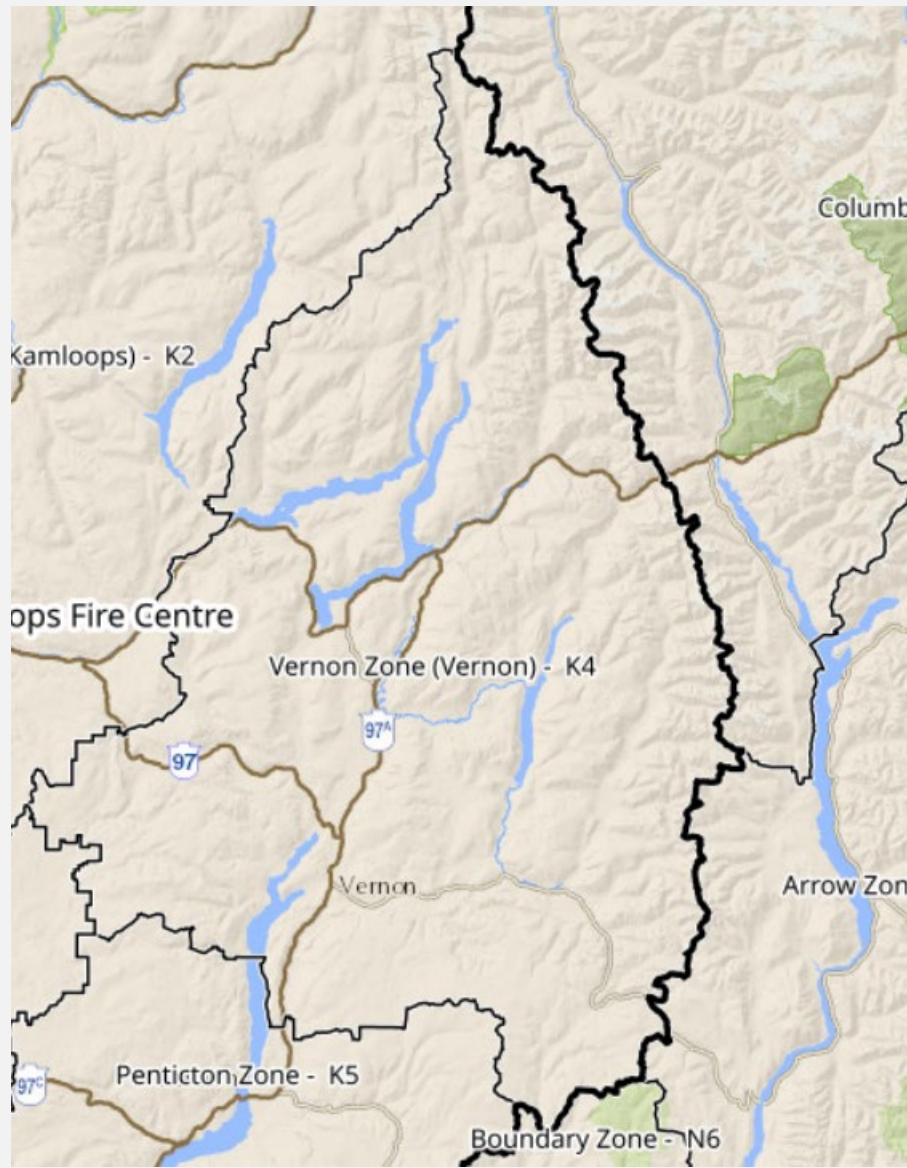




KAMLOOPS FIRE CENTRE

The Kamloops Fire Centre is divided into 5 Zones.

It stretches from Wells Gray in the north to the USA border. And from Pemberton in the west to Arrow Lake in the east.



VERNON FIRE ZONE

The Vernon Zone is one of the biggest and most diverse Zones in the KFC.

Fires range from grass fires in the valley to high elevation fires in large timber stands in the mountains.

It stretches from north of Shuswap Lake to the Kelowna Airport and from Chase to Arrow Lake.

INITIAL ATTACK

- 4-person crews.
- Respond to all new fires in BC.
 - Single crew can handle fires up to ~1 hectare in size depending on fuel type.
 - May call in additional resources for complex fires.
- Method of transport is Initial Attack truck or helicopter.
- Rappel and Parattack are also IA crews, but mode of deployment is different.
- IA usually stays in their local Zone but can get deployed as well.

IA MODES OF TRANSPORT

Initial Attack Truck



Helicopter



IA FIRES

Cosens Bay Fire 2022



High elevation near
Revelstoke



UNIT CREW

- 22-person crews.
 - 4 5-person squads, plus Crew Supervisor and Deputy Crew Supervisor.
- Responsible for expanded attack (big) fires.
- More likely to be deployed out of Zone vs. IA.
- Can be broken down and do Initial Attack in Zone but doesn't happen often.
- Drives to large incident camps but will be deployed onto fire out of helicopters often.

UNIT CREW

Building a helipad



Digging guard



DAY TO DAY - FIRES

Firefighting is often gruelling work. It is physically demanding, and typical days are 12-16 hours for 14 days straight, followed by 4 days off.

PPE (safety equipment) typically weighs ~10lbs plus backpack weighs ~30lbs plus any other gear you're expected to carry.

Typical firefighting tasks:

- Digging fire guards
- Setting up pump and hose systems
- Creating fuel breaks by falling trees and clearing brush
- Hiking gear up and down steep mountains

DAY TO DAY – OFF FIRES

The core fire season is typically from the start of July to the end of August.

During the “shoulder season” there will still be fires but more of our time is spent training.

Training includes:

- Fitness every day
- Classroom training
- Field work and fire scenarios
- Fuel management projects

FIREFIGHTER QUALITIES

- Physically fit
 - Firefighting is extremely physically demanding, and being fit is key to being an effective firefighter and preventing injuries.
- Team player
 - Firefighting is a team endeavour, and everyone needs to contribute.
- Hard worker
 - Firefighting is relatively simple in concept but difficult to accomplish. Hard work is what puts fires out.

JUNIOR SCHEDULE

- Junior contract runs from start of July to end of August with possibility of being extended through September
- Work schedule is Monday-Friday, 08:30-16:30.
 - On standby and fires as necessary
- Pay is \$20.19 per hour
 - Standby is 1/3 regular pay
 - Overtime is 1.5x regular pay after 7 hours and 2x after 9 hours and weekends

HOW TO APPLY

- Submit resume and cover letter to your career counsellor by March 15th.
 - Resume is maximum 2 pages
 - Cover letter is maximum 1 page

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Wayne Price

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You can also contact your career counsellor with questions.

QUESTIONS?