

Deployment Guide for Fire Personnel
and Apparatus
State of Emergency for the
Province of BC



INTRODUCTION

This guidebook is developed to provide guidance to Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue staff, management and Trustees. This step by step guide describes the pre-planning, response, and post response process in the event SSIFR responds to a request for Provincial assistance.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) establishes rental rates for fire apparatus and personnel when responding to a State of Emergency declared by the province of British Columbia.

The rates included in this document reflect the reimbursement rates for structural fire department response to a provincial deployment of fire apparatus, such as during a State of Emergency declared by the Province or a provincial request for resources.

The reimbursement rates and fee schedules contained within this report are for recognized structural fire department response to an Office of the Fire Commissioner request, a provincial state of emergency or provincial request for resources.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue's training program meets the SPP-WFF (Wildland Firefighter Level 1) as per NFPA 1051 Level 1 Standard and the requirements of Worksafe BC. This document provides guidance in preparation for a deployment and response protocols if required by the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC).

I would recommend that a policy be developed providing management with the process and authority to respond if required.

DEPLOYMENT

Apparatus and personnel deployed by the Province and reimbursed by the Province are considered a provincial resource and any decisions to re-deploy or release from an incident are determined by the Province. Regarding resources under direction of the Province, local governments or site Incident Commanders should consult with OFC representatives prior to any termination of incident or redeployment.

The primary objective of a Structural Fire Department during Wildland urban interface fires is considered protection of Priority Zone 1 as defined in FireSmart

(10 metre fuel modified area immediately adjacent to structures, otherwise known as defensible space).

While provincial liability and WorkSafeBC coverage is provided on provincial deployments via the EPA (EMBC task number), it is recommended that departments sending resources contact their respective insurer to ensure there are not any limitations preventing them from assisting in an out of jurisdiction deployment. It is also recommended the departments sending resources check their vehicle insurance policy to ensure they have coverage when travelling to another region.

Deployment Process

The OFC will maintain a database of fire apparatus that recognized structural fire departments. During Provincial Declarations of Emergency or a Provincial request for resources, the OFC will make lists of specific apparatus available for provincial deployment.

Depending on the geographical location of an incident, apparatus transport options such as commercial transport will be mutually determined. Apparatus deployed by the Province may be required to report to a provincial camp location where mechanical safety inspections, proof of insurance, equipment inventories, Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E.) inventories and crew briefings may be verified prior to deployment to provincial staging. Each department supplying apparatus for provincial deployment shall provide an equipment checklist for each vehicle. Provincial staging locations will be established, with provincial resources managed by OFC representatives.

Personnel Transport

Personal and department vehicles used to transport personnel will be reimbursed as per the current Provincial Government mileage rate, with prior Expense Authority approval. The province reserves the right to recommend and pay for other economical alternatives for apparatus and crew transport. The province will cover extraordinary costs such as ferry fares and highway tolls (receipts must be provided).

Personal Protective Equipment

Personnel responding to a provincial request for fire resources will report to a pre-designated location with all Personal Protective Equipment. Employers are required to provide all special clothing and maintain it in a good state of repair. The required equipment shall include, but not be limited to:

- Full Turn-Out Gear (Not required for SPU crews)
- Gloves
- Approved Eye Protection
- Approved Respiratory Protection or Dust Mask
- Approved Head Protection
- Coveralls or wildland shirts/pants made of Cotton or Nomex, preferably Nomex
- Minimum 6" high Lace or Zip-up Leather Work Boots □ Flashlight

Safety equipment such as leather gloves and dust masks will be replaced by the province if damaged or worn out during provincial response efforts.

Personal Protective Equipment not in the responder's possession at orientation will be issued by the province when practical, with actual cost deducted from the payment to the department or local government.

Deployment Periods

The deployment periods discussed in this document are intended for requests from the Office of the Fire Commissioner, a Provincial Declaration of Emergency or a Provincial request for resources.

On the initial day of deployment, reimbursement will be for actual hours travelled and/or worked. Subsequent days will be reimbursed at a minimum of 12 hours per day or for actual hours worked if greater than twelve hours. Departments returning to their home jurisdiction daily will be reimbursed for actual hours travelled and worked each day.

Deployment periods for long-term emergency events requiring provincial resourcing of apparatus and personnel will be for a minimum of 6 days and a maximum of 14 days. Costs associated with backfilling of **career personnel**, shall be agreed to prior to deployment and with Expense Authority approval. The province will reimburse fire departments for costs associated with crew rotations falling within the 6 to 14 day deployments (including transportation, wages and authorized expenses). Departments choosing to rotate personnel prior to a minimum 6 day deployment period shall do so at their own expense.

Food and Lodging

The provincial Logistics Section or local EOC may arrange for provision of meals and lodging for responders during Provincial Declarations of Emergency. This will be communicated to responding personnel at Provincial Camp and Staging. Crews are expected to stay in a fire camp during their deployment to wildland urban interface events.

When meals are not explicitly provided by the province, provincial government Group 1 per diem reimbursement rates apply. Where lodging is not explicitly provided by the province, BC government approved accommodation rates apply and use double occupancy where possible. In areas where meals and/or accommodation are in excess of provincially approved rates, prior approval by a Provincial spending authority is required.

The province is not responsible for any unauthorized expenses incurred by personnel responding on behalf of the province. Receipts for approved expenses must be provided for reimbursement.

Post-Deployment Procedures

Apparatus and personnel shall only be released by the Office of the Fire Commissioner or their representatives. Released apparatus and personnel may be subject to a check-out procedure and may be provided with a summary of their deployment to aid record keeping and invoicing.

Any damaged or lost equipment must be reported to OFC representative and a signed list of those items must be obtained prior to departure. This is particularly important for damaged or lost SPU equipment claims made for equipment that is under the care and supervision of their own personnel.

In the case of SPU equipment, substitute items may be provided until actual items are located during demobilization.

Invoices may be submitted to the province for reimbursement bi-weekly or following provincial deployment.

APPARATUS REMUNERATION GUIDELINES

Communities and fire departments providing apparatus requested by the province will be reimbursed by the province according to the following guidelines. Apparatus has been typed according to ICS 420-1 and minimum requirements for equipment and capabilities have been listed (**all capacities are listed in US and Imp Gallons**). Apparatus to be equipped with appropriate appliances, nozzles, spanners, and hand tools to be operationally ready.

Reimbursement rates listed are for All-Found and Bare apparatus. All-Found apparatus includes vehicle, insurance, all minimum required equipment and appliances, minimum personnel, fuel and routine maintenance costs. Bare apparatus rates cover the same basic requirements as All-Found with the exception of personnel. NOTE: Costs for additional personnel above the minimum number will not be covered unless authorized in advance by the OFC.

In some circumstances, bare rates have not been listed due to specialized knowledge required to safely operate the apparatus (i.e. Truck Company). If fuel is not readily available from commercial or retail sources it shall be provided by the province.

For both All-Found and Bare rates, routine maintenance is the responsibility of the supplying department. However, damage as a result of a provincial deployment that is reported to OFC representative prior to departure and release will be reimbursed for by the province with Expense Authority approval.

Engines*¹

Minimum Requirements	Types			
	Structure Engines		Wildland Engines	
	1	2	3 & CAFS	4
Pump	1000 GPM	500 GPM	120 GPM	50 GPM
	825 IGPM	425 IGPM	100 IGPM	40 IGPM
Water Tank	400 Gal.	400 Gal.	300 Gal.	200 Gal.
	325 IG	325 IG	250 IG	175 IG
Hose 2 ½"	1200 Ft.	1000 Ft.	-	-
Hose 1 ½"	400 Ft.	500 Ft.	1000 Ft.	300 Ft.
Hose 1"	200 Ft.	300 Ft.	800 Ft.	800 Ft.
Ladder	20 Ft. Ext.	20 Ft. Ext.	-	-
Master Stream	500 GPM	-	-	-
Personnel	4 with SCBA	3 with SCBA	3 with SCBA	3 with SCBA
All-Found Rate	\$565/hour	\$467/hour	\$439 /hour	\$329/hour
Bare Rate	\$294/hour	\$262/hour	\$237/hour	\$132 /hour

*Consumables such as foam will be supplied or reimbursed by the province

Truck Company

Minimum Requirements	Types	
	1	2
Aerial (Specify Aerial, Platform or Elevated Stream)	75 Ft.	50 Ft.
Elevated Stream*	500 GPM	500 GPM
	425 IGPM	425 IGPM
Ground Ladders	115 Ft. (Total)	115 Ft. (Total)
Personnel	4	4

¹ Type 1 and 2 engines are only used in municipal areas.

All-Found Rate	\$783/hour	\$673/hour
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Water Tender

Minimum Requirements	Types		
	1	2	3
Pump	300 GPM	120 GPM	50 GPM
	250 IGPM	100 IGPM	40 IGPM
Water Tank	2000 Gal.	1000 Gal.	1000 Gal.
	1600 IG	800 IG	800 IG
Personnel	2	2	2
All-Found Rate	\$350/hour	\$292/hour	\$265/hour
Bare Rate	\$213/hour	\$160/hour	\$130/hour

Brush Patrol

Minimum Requirements	
Pump	15 GPM
	12 IGPM
Hose 1"	150 Ft.
Tank	75 Gal.
	60 IG
Personnel	2*
All-Found Rate	\$209/hour
Bare Rate	\$75/hour

* Varies from ICS 420-1 typing requiring minimum of one operator

Mobile Communications

Minimum Requirements	Types		
	1	2	3
Consoles/Workstations	2	2	1
Frequency Capability	Multi-Range*, Programmable	Multi-Range*, Programmable	Single Range**, Programmable
Power Source	Internal	Internal	External
Telephone Systems	6 Trunk/16 Extension Lines		
Personnel	2	2	1
All-Found Rate	\$295/hour	\$239/hour	\$146/hour

*Multi-Range: 150-174 MHz, 450-470 MHz, 800 MHz (Simplex & Repeated)

**Single Range: 150-174 MHz only

Rescue Vehicle

Minimum Requirements	
Extrication Equipment	
Stabilization Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Recommended Additional Equipment	
Embankment Equipment	
Personnel	2-4
All-Found Rate	\$315/hour

Other Apparatus

Fire department vehicles and/or apparatus not included on the schedules above are not compensated unless agreed to in writing by a Provincial Contract

Manager and approved by an Expense Authority. Province of British Columbia Blue Book rates may apply.

Special Resources

Special Resources include, but are not limited to, Heavy Rescue, HazMat, Fire Boat, Technical Resources or Mechanical Services. Special Resources will be reimbursed at rates that have been negotiated by a contract manager and preapproved by an Expense Authority.

Damaged Apparatus/Equipment

Any damage or loss to apparatus or equipment shall be immediately reported to OFC representatives and Operations Section Chief. The Fire Commissioner's Office intends to reimburse for uninsured losses suffered to Local Government Fire Department equipment while in the service of the Office of the Fire Commissioner. Claims shall be based on the age, kind and quality of equipment.

PERSONNEL WAGE RATES

The province may require fire fighters and management personnel as additional resources during major emergency events. Those fire fighters and management personnel who are conscripted, seconded or contracted will be reimbursed according to the following schedules.

Fire Fighters

In some circumstances, fire fighters may be required to respond as single resources without apparatus. In addition, it may be necessary to assign personnel to apparatus to increase the minimum staffing identified in the tables above. Additional and single resource personnel will be reimbursed according to the following table.

Fire Fighter Wage Rates	
Volunteer Fire Department Personnel	Salary/wages at their regular place of employment or \$37.00/hour whichever is greater
Career Fire Department Personnel	Fire Fighter Collective Agreements (wages and benefits)

Overtime entitlement and rates shall be according to Collective Agreements for personnel covered by Fire Fighter Collective Agreements, all other responders shall be paid straight time for actual hours worked. This rate table shall only be

applicable for deployment purposes and where personnel are not considered part of an “all found rate” apparatus crew or Structure Protection Crew.

Specialist Positions

The OFC and province may require experienced fire service members to fill positions in the emergency management organization of the province. Personnel who are seconded, conscripted or contracted will be reimbursed according to the following schedule. Specialists will be reimbursed for actual hours travelled or worked on initial day of deployment and minimum 12 hours per day or actual hours worked if greater than 12 hours for subsequent days.

Deputies shall be paid the same rates as the Directors whom they work under since they are expected to fill the more senior position if the need arises. Where Collective Agreements, Management Contract rates, or regular hourly rates vary from the rates listed in this draft, the higher rate shall apply. All rates for specialist positions are hourly, reviewed annually and revised as required.

Ministry Operation Centre (or site level where applicable)

OFC Liaison Officer (PREOC & EOC)	\$56
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Site Level

Incident Commander (Unified Command)	\$56
Structural Branch Director	\$56
Structure Protection Specialist	\$56
Strike Force/Task Force Leader	\$56
Technical Specialist	\$56

Site or Provincial Fire Department

Regional Coordinator	\$56
Deputy Regional Coordinator	\$56
Fire Fighter	

Reference: [EMBC Interim Policy and Procedures Bulletin Fire Season 2016](#) Reimbursement Rates form the Office of the Fire Commissioner of British Columbia (OFC)

The Ministry of Forests Standard Operating Guideline #1.06.01 Wildfire Suppression
with Local Governments