



November 29, 2019

Dear Fire Chiefs, Fire Service Coordinators, Protective Services Managers, and Chief Administrative Officers,

**RE: Office of the Fire Commissioner BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards Structure Firefighters Competency and Training “Playbook”**

I am writing to provide you an update regarding the Office of the Fire Commissioner’s BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards “Playbook”.

Under paragraph 3(3)(b) of the Fire Services Act (B.C.), the Fire Commissioner is required to establish minimum standards of training required for fire services personnel in British Columbia. In 2014, the “Playbook” was created and brought into force, replacing the previous Minister’s Orders on firefighter Training standards.

The Playbook sets out a competency-based tier that provides for a minimum level of sequential training and operational requirements that must be met by each fire department. The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is required to set the Service Level to be provided by its fire department (**Exterior; Interior; Full Service**), which in turn determines the minimum training competencies that must be met by that department and the standards from which they are drawn.

The Playbook is applicable to all fire services personnel in British Columbia, as defined in the Fire Services Act. It covers all fire departments and fire services, including municipal and regional district volunteer and career fire departments, fire brigades, and fire departments established as a society under the Society Act (B.C.).

The Playbook was last amended in 2015. A new Fire Advisory Committee has recently started the process of completing another review and update of this document. Stakeholders represented on this new committee are the Local Government Management Association (LGMA); Fire Chiefs Association of BC (FCABC); BC Fire Training Officers Association (BCFTOA); Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC (FPOABC); BC Professional Firefighters Association (BCPFFA); Volunteer Firefighters Association of BC (VFFABC); First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS); Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC); WorkSafeBC; BC Fire Training Academies (JIBC; VIERA; NVDFRS; and College of the Rockies); the Office of the Fire Commissioner; and the original members of the Playbook Committee (2014/2015).

As the Playbook has now been in effect for five years, the Office of the Fire Commissioner is contacting all fire services in BC to update our records to ensure each department or local

Authority Having Jurisdiction has identified and declared their fire service level (Exterior, Interior, or Full Service), and that the corresponding training programs are in place to meet the respective service levels.

Please reply to [ofc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ofc@gov.bc.ca) outlining the declared service level for your jurisdiction, and the status of your corresponding training program.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner is happy to provide advice and answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

***Jay Brownlee***

A/Fire Commissioner

Emergency Management BC | Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

[Office of the Fire Commissioner](#)

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Cc: Fire Chiefs Association of BC (FCABC)  
BC Fire Training Officers Association (BCFTOA)  
Local Government Management Association (LGMA)

Ref: Office of the Fire Commissioner "Playbook": <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/fire-safety/training/firefighter-playbook>