

WELCOME
TO
BRITANNIA BEACH FIRE & RESCUE



360 Copper Drive
Britannia Beach, BC



Over 120 years of Service

Britannia Beach has enjoyed the protection of a Fire Department since the early days of the 20th Century. In those days, we were an industrial fire brigade charged with fire protection across the Britannia Mines property.



In 2010, the Britannia Beach Fire Department was established as a regional fire protection service under the jurisdiction of the Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and we moved into our new Fire Hall, purpose built to serve our growing communities. Recent plans for a new residential and commercial development in Furry Creek will see us adding a second Fire Hall to better support the expansion of that community.

As you will see in the following pages, our members are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds with many transferable and valuable skills. This diversity serves us extremely well as we continue to modernise and grow alongside the communities of Britannia Beach, Furry Creek and (eventually) Porteau Cove.

The whole department looks forward to welcoming our newest team members and we promise, should you join us, you will find good friends, a warm welcome and a rewarding role in the community.





Office of the Fire Chief

Welcome from Fire Chief Nicholls LAFC



Approximately 85% of the Firefighters in Canada are Volunteers, protecting 80% of Canadian communities. Research estimates the total size of the population of volunteer firefighters in Canada at about 100,000 and found that about 32 percent of the country's volunteer firefighters are over the age of 50, and about 11 percent are women.

Anyone with the courage, commitment, and compassion to serve is welcome and encouraged to take our training and become part of our team.

Diversity and Inclusion are essential, and all members of the department understand their importance in our communities.

The fire department's role has evolved over recent years; beyond putting out fires, we have taken on the increased responsibility of responding to climate disasters, hazardous material incidents, wildfires, vehicle extrication, emergency medical response, and a diverse range of rescues.

Being a volunteer firefighter isn't something you do; it's something you are. There is no stronger Brotherhood and Sisterhood than the bonds that exist in the fire service. We're doing it not so much because we get to play with the big red trucks and make lots of noise, but it's the best way some of us know to give back. So you make sacrifices; you miss birthdays, you miss dinners, you're the one getting called out at two in the morning.

Full-time career firefighters can finish a shift and climb right into bed. But volunteer firefighters, having spent the night responding to an emergency, quite often need to be ready for other jobs in the morning. Lots of us have gone straight from a call, right to the house to have a quick shower, and go to work. So it can make for a long day.



Volunteer firefighters are ordinary people serving as extraordinary heroes.

Rob Nicholls

Rob Nicholls LAFC
Fire Chief



Operations

Welcome from Deputy Chief Jackson



Welcome to the newest members of the Britannia Beach Fire family, and to those as yet undecided you've made the first step in learning about what it takes, we hope you decide to join.

A lot of work goes in to running a Fire Department, even a small department like ours has a great many moving parts, legislative requirements, record keeping, maintenance, facilities updates etc, and that's before we even start with training and responding to emergency call outs.

Operations refers to everything that is necessary to keep our department in a ready state and includes standardising our response protocols. Where training ensures that each member has the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their assigned tasks, operations ensures that our equipment and everything supporting our activities is also ready at a moment's notice.



Some of the key responsibilities of operations would be:

- Working with the Fire Chief and the Deputy Chief, Training to ensure our operational standards are aligned.
- Ensuring our Response Apparatus and all equipment and tools are maintained, working and ready to roll.
- Ensuring all members have the correct PPE and that it fits the user.
- Developing our Standard Operational Guidelines and our Incident Response Plans.
- Ensuring all annual maintenance checks are completed and documented (such as truck checks, ladder certification and SCBA fitness checks).
- Fixing what's broken (almost a full time job on its own) in the hall and on the trucks.
- Maintaining our Radio and Pager Communication Systems.
- Maintaining good relationships with key suppliers.

There's a lot more to it than just these activities, but you get the idea.

The important thing to remember for new recruits is that everyone is responsible for helping to ensure we're operationally ready at all times, that means:

- Putting equipment back correctly after each use.
- Notifying an Officer or myself about any equipment that needs maintenance.
- Cleaning up after yourself.
- Ensuring your personal equipment is clean, maintained and stored in a ready to use state.
- Immediately bringing to our attention any safety concerns around the hall or apparatus.
- Taking an active part in monthly maintenance activities and committing yourself to learning about our equipment and how it works.

I look forward to welcoming you to the team!

Martyn Jackson

Martyn Jackson
Deputy Fire Chief - Operations





Training

*Welcome from
Deputy Chief Jones*



Training starts with a new recruit program which lasts for four months and takes place on Monday nights. It covers basic competencies set out in the BC Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards to operate at the Exterior level. After 4 months you'll graduate from the program and join the rest of our crew for regular training and practices on Tuesday nights.



We train for all the emergency services we provide to our community, including: first aid, interior fire, highway rescue and vehicle extrication, low angle "over the bank" rope rescue, and wildfire protection.

It's a lot of ground to cover, but don't feel intimidated – your expertise will develop progressively over time at a pace you can handle. Firefighting is a team effort, and you're backed up by a talented and patient group of peers and officers who will help you grow.

Our training is delivered through a mix of in-house instruction, external providers, collaboration with other emergency services, and attending outside events and symposiums. We visit specialized facilities for activities like Live Fire, where you'll get the chance to practice under real, controlled fire.

There's no question our small department punches above its weight, and I'm immensely fortunate to work with such a dedicated and professional team of volunteers. We're looking forward to you joining our team.



Shawn Jones

Shawn Jones

Deputy Fire Chief – Training Officer

Britannia Beach Firefighters' Association

***Welcome from 2025 Association President
Lieutenant Catton***



The Britannia Beach Firefighters' Association is proud to support and represent the dedicated members of the Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Every practice and emergency response our firefighters attend contributes to the Association's fund, allowing us to reinvest directly into programs that benefit our members, strengthen the Department, and give back to our community.

The Association is deeply committed to community support and engagement. We proudly fund bursaries for local students and contribute to community charities and projects. Our members also play an active role in organizing beloved community events including our annual Britannia Beach Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, Canada Day Celebration and Children's Christmas Party that help build lasting connections with our neighbours.



We're equally dedicated to supporting our members. The Association offers programs that provide financial assistance for continuing education, helps with childcare costs for attending training, funds additional training opportunities such as the Oliver Fire Spring Training program Firepalooza, and manages a benevolent fund to support our fellow members when they are in need.

Through ongoing fundraising efforts, we've also been able to strengthen our operational readiness—helping to fund additional equipment on our newly commissioned Quint, adding advanced extrication tools for road rescue, and invaluable tools such as handheld multi-gas detectors and thermal imaging cameras to ensure our firefighters have the resources they need to serve safely and effectively.

Finally, and most importantly, the Association fosters the camaraderie and teamwork that define our department. We host social events for firefighters and their families, building the strong bonds that are essential to our success both on and off the fireground. Every member of the Department is a member of the Association, and we look forward to welcoming you to our team—where service, community, and connection are at the heart of everything we do.

Lieutenant Catton

2025 Britannia Beach Firefighter Association President

A special welcome from our female Firefighters



We are proud to have so many strong women on our fire department. They make up nearly half of our firefighters and bring an incredible range of experience, skills, and knowledge, from chemists and business owners to students, executives, career firefighters, accountants, teachers, rope experts, medical experts, and more.

No matter what your age or background, you have valuable skills to bring to our department. If you decide to join our team, the benefits include not only all the training, but also friendship, solidarity, and a great support network.

Here are testimonials from some of the female members of our team:

"I joined BBVF because I wanted to build stronger connections in my community. I love being a firefighter – it's part of my identity now and I've met some of my closest friends through it. It's also deeply empowering to put out fires, cut up cars and learn advanced medical skills."

Mags

"The fire department has not only given me the opportunity to learn some incredible, life-saving skills, but it's become like a family to me. There's something quite special about working with a group of volunteers like these, and I've met some of my very best Britannia friends right here. It's also a really great way to give back to the community."

Liv

We really look forward to welcoming you.

Alyssa, Carmen, Claire, Coni, Diane, Jane, Kate, Kathy, Laura, Liv, Lynne, Mags & Sandy