



Coaldale and District Emergency Services

Fire Department FACTS!

- Coaldale and District Emergency Services is a combination of full-time and volunteer firefighters
- We have 1 full-time Fire Chief, 1 Full time Deputy Chief, and currently we have a full-time Firefighter Intern
- The Fire Chief of Coaldale is Kevin McKeown who has been in the fire service for 12 years. The Deputy Chief is Gary Gettman who has 29 years experience with Coaldale and District Emergency Services. When our roster is full, we have 33 Volunteer Firefighters
- We respond to all kinds of fire calls (structure, vehicle, wildland), alarms (fire, carbon monoxide), motor vehicle collisions, incidents involving hazardous materials and water/ice rescue and anything else where our skills may be required
- Our response area includes the Town of Coaldale, and a portion of Lethbridge County as per our Fire and Rescue Services Agreement

Volunteering Information

- Alberta has over 430 fire departments. Of these, approximately 95% depend entirely on volunteer firefighters
- Alberta has more than 10,000 volunteer firefighters, this is approximately 3 times the number of Alberta's total career firefighters
- On average the department responds to 30 calls per month. A large percentage of these calls are medical calls which the department provides assistance to AHS EMS on Delta and Echo level calls (emergent life threatening calls). We also provide medical first response to all levels of calls when there are no ambulances available in the community.
- The Fire Department trains every Monday night from 1900-2100 hrs
- Our department trains to the NFPA 1001 guidelines, which is internationally recognized and is the same training that career firefighters would receive

- There is no such thing as “just a volunteer” Volunteer firefighters are highly professional and highly trained response personnel that aim to provide the same level of service you would find in a bigger city
- Personal benefits of volunteering include: sense of pride, helping out your community, improvement of interpersonal, team building, leadership and crisis management skills, training opportunities.
- If your looking for an opportunity to contribute to your community in a meaningful way, consider applying to become a volunteer firefighter.

For more information on becoming a volunteer firefighter look at our application and recruitment process which is available online. Feel free to call or stop by the Firehall and speak to one of our firefighters about volunteering.



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Recruit Physical Assessment

This assessment is designed to depict the day to day abilities and skills of a working Firefighter. Each candidate will need to sign the medical release waiver prior to assessment. It is strongly encouraged that applicants talk to their family physicians prior to any physical activity. The physical assessment is made up of 5 events that will test the candidates both physically and mentally.

On the day of the assessment, candidate will need to arrive a minimum of 15 minutes early of their scheduled time. Candidates will need to bring a change of clothes, (athletic wear; running shoes, shorts, t-shirt) water bottle, and anything additional asked of by the Chief. When the candidate arrives, an overview of the assessment will be presented, followed by any questions that arise. Once the candidate has an understanding of the assessment, PPE introduction will take place. All personal protective equipment that will be worn will be clearly explained and demonstrated.

Vital signs will be taken prior to assessment including resting heart rate and blood pressure. The resting heart rate must be under 100 bpm and blood pressure must be no higher than 150/90. Candidate will complete all tasks listed below followed by another set of vital signs. Candidates must perform all tasks within a reasonable time to be successful.

Physical Assessment Events

Event 1: Charged Hoseline Advance

In this event you will advance 100 feet of charged 45mm hose attached to a nozzle. You will put the hose and nozzle over your shoulder and across your chest then quickly walk to the designated area. Once you have reached the designated area the event is over. The purpose of this event is to simulate pulling a charged hose line off of an engine and advancing the hose for fire attack.



Event 2: Equipment Carry

In this event you will use two forms of power tools. Two tools will be placed on elevated platform, one at a time you will need take the tool off of the platform and put it on the ground. Once both tools are on the ground, you need to pick both of them up (using proper lifting techniques) and briskly walk 150ft to the designated area. Once the walk is complete, candidate will need to place the saws on the ground, and one at a time place them back on the elevated platform. The purpose of this event is to simulate taking equipment off of the engine, and bringing the tools to the scene.



Event 3: Forcible Entry

In this event, you will be using a sledge hammer and a large diameter tire. There will be a large diameter tire placed on a table or the ground, and the candidate will need to swing the sledge hammer and strike the tire till the tire hits/passes the designated area. The purpose of this event is to simulate forcing a door to make entry into a room/structure.



Event 4: Victim Drag

In this event, you will be using an approximately 180lbs rescue dummy and a harness. There will be a large dummy that will be laying on the floor that the candidate will need to pick up (proper lifting technique), walk backwards 50ft around a pylon and return to the designated area. The purpose of this event is to simulate doing a firefighter/victim rescue. While doing a search in a building you find a victim or a downed firefighter, you will be able to properly rescue them and yourself.



Event 5: SCBA Search

In this event, you will be in full turnout gear and SCBA while being blacked out. The candidate will be fully dressed in gear while also being on SCBA and their mask blacked out. Candidate will be placed on a hose line where they will need to follow that hose line and manipulate themselves through obstacles that may arise. The purpose of this event is to simulate what it is like to be inside of a structure full of smoke. This will get the candidate familiar with the SCBA and put the candidate in a stressful situation.



Conclusion of Assessment

All events will be marked as pass/fail. There is no time limit however the examiners may halt tests if little to no progress is being made and the time is considered as unreasonable. If the examiner halts an

event due to time it will be considered a fail. All events must be successfully passed in order to achieve a passing grade on assessment.

Safety

PPE- Full PPE including bunker gear, helmet and SCBA will be worn (provided by Department)

TIME- If event is taking an unreasonable amount of time the event will be stopped by the tester

SAFETY ISSUE- The candidates will be monitored closely by trained personnel, if an unsafe act is witnessed the event will be halted and the safety issue will be corrected. If the unsafe act continues the event may be stopped and candidate will receive a fail on that event

HEALTH- Vitals are being taken prior to physical assessment. Candidates will be closely monitored throughout test by medically trained personnel. If at any point the candidate is feeling unwell it should be brought to the testers attention. The candidate will be watched by medically trained personnel trained to a minimum of Primary Care Paramedic. The test will be stopped if the candidate is in any medical distress. Vitals signs will be taken after the assessment and hydration will also be provided.