

Coaldale & District Emergency Services Now Recruiting Volunteer Firefighters

In 2020, Coaldale Town Council approved a property tax rebate program to help drive recruitment.



From now until the first week of January, 2024, Coaldale & District Emergency Services (CDES) is accepting applications for the position of volunteer firefighter.

An all-hazard response fire department, the Coaldale Fire Department responds to fire calls, alarms, motor vehicle collisions, incidents involving hazardous materials, and water/ice incidents. It also assists Alberta Health Services (AHS) EMS by participating in AHS' Medical First Response Program.

What many people don't realize, however, is that the Coaldale Fire Department is predominantly staffed and run by volunteers. "Like so many fire departments in Alberta, the Coaldale Fire Department depends heavily on volunteers," said Clayton Rutberg, Director of Protective Services for the Town of Coaldale. "Right now, we have 33 dedicated individuals volunteering for the Department; but this really isn't enough to keep up with current call volumes. Ideally, we'd like to maintain a volunteer force of 45 firefighters, so we're looking for 12 more dedicated individuals who have a strong desire to help others, work well in a team environment, and are committed to ongoing training and development."

In 2020, Coaldale Town Council approved a property tax

rebate program to drive recruitment. "Under this program, volunteer firefighters can receive up to \$1,000 a year in relief from residential property taxes", said Rutberg. "You just need to own and occupy a home in Coaldale and log 129 or more hours of service per year."

To learn more about becoming a CDES volunteer firefighter, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/firefighter-recruitment>.

Preferred qualifications include:

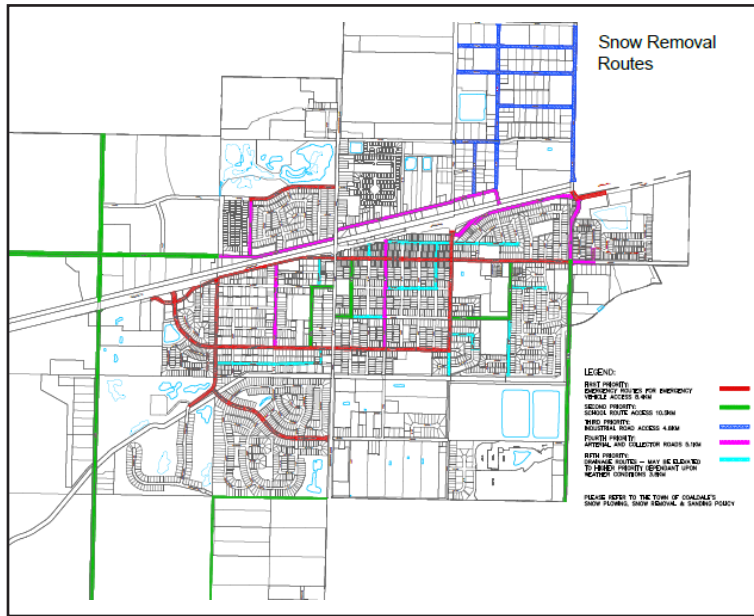
- having standard, up-to-date First Aid/CPR-BLS training;
- being a Alberta College of Paramedics Registered Practitioner (EMR, PCP, ACP);
- having firefighting/medical/rescue response experience;
- having NFPA firefighter training;
- having a Class 2 or 3 Alberta Driver's License with an Air Brakes Endorsement; and
- being available to respond to emergency calls during day and evening hours.

Minimum requirements include:

- living in the Town of Coaldale or working at a business that will allow you to respond to daytime calls;
- being 18 years of age or older;
- being a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- having a valid Class 5 Alberta Driver's License with a record demonstrating responsible and safe driving behavior;
- passing a clean criminal record check, including vulnerable sector search; and
- being physically and mentally fit to perform job-related functions of firefighting.

Town of Coaldale Snow Plowing and Removal Based on a Route Priority System

High priority areas include all routes used by emergency vehicles and roads that provide access to local schools.



With winter weather now on the horizon, Coaldale Town Council is encouraging Town residents to take a few moments to familiarize themselves with the Town's Snow Removal Policy.

Last revised in February, 2021, the policy specifies exactly when and where residents can expect to see Town crews operating snow plow and snow removal equipment through the 2023-2024 winter season. "Once again I want to remind our residents that the reason we have this policy is to demystify the Town's snow removal process," said Justin MacPherson, Director of Operational Services. "When large snow events occur, people naturally want to know why some roads are plowed before others and some not at all. This policy answers those questions and keeps residents in the loop about when and where they can expect to see our crews in the hours and days following a large snow fall."

According to the policy, after "large snow events" (where approximately 10 centimeters (4 inches) of snow has fallen), snow plowing will commence on a prioritized basis. Priority 1 routes are routes used by emergency vehicles and include 16th Ave, 20th Ave, Land O' Lakes Drive, 23rd Ave,

24th Street, and Cottonwood Drive. Priority 2 routes are routes that provide access to local schools and include 8th Street, portions of 11th Street and 22nd Ave, a portion of 19th Street, 21st Street, and 30th Street. Finally, priority 3 and 4 routes consist of industrial roads and arterial and collector roads, as well as drifted intersections, blocked streets, and other designated areas.

"As a Council, we strongly believe in transparent government, which not only means explaining our decisions to residents, but also, educating residents about operational processes that directly affect them and their businesses", said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. "As this policy makes clear, no one at the Town is arbitrarily deciding which roads get plowed first and which ones last. Coaldale residents can rest assured that when it comes to snow removal, the Town's resources are being used in a strategic well-thought-out manner."

To read the Town's Snow Removal Policy in full, and to download detailed maps of priority snow plowing routes and pathway snow removal routes, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/services/operations-public-works/snow-removal>. The policy also outlines the conditions under which sanding will occur, where snow fences will be placed, and what sidewalks will be cleared by the Town.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Saturday, December 2, the Town of Coaldale Winter Walk-in-the-Park will return for its 5th consecutive year at the Kin Picnic Shelter. The park will be open to the community every Saturday and Wednesday in December between 5:30pm and 8:30pm, excluding Dec 23 & Dec 30.

On Friday, December 9, the Coaldale Canadian Reformed Church will hold "The Gift of Love: A Christmas Celebration" from 7:30-9:00pm.

On Saturday, December 9, the Town of Coaldale will hold its annual Glow in the Dark Christmas Skate from 10:30-1:30pm at the Coaldale Arena.