



# Alberta Fire Chiefs Association

Professionals Serving Professionals

## Who are we

Representing over 400 fire service leaders in Alberta, the AFCA is committed to excellence in creative solutions, promote and support life safety, preventative, and protective services based on the values and principles of our members.

Website: [afca.ca](http://afca.ca)

Contact: [executivedirector@afca.ca](mailto:executivedirector@afca.ca)





The Alberta Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) is proud to announce the launch of its new website designed to capture roadside safety incidents with ease and efficiency.

In an ongoing effort to improve the safety of first responders, public works personnel, and all individuals involved in roadside activities, the AFCA has developed a streamlined reporting system. This initiative aims to gather essential data on near-miss situations where crews and individuals were endangered by passing motorists or other hazards while responding to road or highway emergencies, providing roadside assistance, or working on public works and construction sites.



<https://afca.ca/project/roadside-safety-incident-reporting>





This survey is intended for firefighters, fire chiefs, and municipal representatives who have a volunteer department.

- For the purposes of this survey, "volunteer" is defined as those who serve without remuneration, are paid-on-call, receive a stipend, are part of a composite department, or hold any similar position that fits the category of non-salaried fire personnel
- The survey is structured into three streams, each tailored to a specific perspective: firefighters, fire chiefs, and municipal representatives. The first question will ask you to select the stream or perspective you are responding from, and the survey will then guide you through the appropriate set of questions.



### **Volunteer Fire Service Recruitment and Retention Survey Opening Question:**

\* 1. Are you responding from the perspective of:

- Volunteer' Firefighter
- Fire Chief with either partial or full time Volunteer Fire Service
- Municipal/community representative with either partial or full time Volunteer Fire Service

**NEXT**





## AFCA “Day at the Ledge”

### Topics:

- Volunteer Firefighter Pension
- Pension Reform; Years of Service Factor Reduction From 85 to 80
- Provincial Wildfire Strategy
- Provincial Fire Services Advisory Committee
- Core Competencies Framework
- Firefighter Cancer



*Alberta Fire Chiefs Association at the Legislature – April 2024*





## Addressing Firefighter Cancer

**We challenged Alberta to take the lead in policy change ahead of the federal trend, we recommend the following actions for Alberta:**

1. Modify the Workers Compensation Act Fire Fighters Primary Site Cancer Regulation to include all who serve their communities in some capacity as a firefighter to be provided with the protection of the Presumptive Cancer. In addition, recognize that potentially all Cancers in firefighters are occupational cancers, unless the contrary was proven.
2. Work with Alberta Medical Association to establish annual occupational medical evaluation protocol of fire fighters that shall include but cannot be limited to the following:
  - a. Identifying conditions that interfere with a firefighter's physical or mental ability to safely perform essential job tasks without undue risk of harm to self or others.
  - b. Monitoring the effects of exposure to specific biological, physical, or chemical agents on individual firefighters.
  - c. Detecting changes in a fire fighter's health that can be related to harmful working conditions.
  - d. Detecting patterns of disease or injury occurrence in the workforce that could indicate underlying work-related problems.
  - e. Providing firefighters with information about their current health, promoting wellness, and referring them for appropriate further evaluation and treatment.
  - f. Providing firefighters with information and education about occupational hazards.
  - g. Providing a cost-effective investment in work-related disease prevention, early detection, and health promotion for fire fighters.
  - h. Complying with federal, provincial, local, and/or other jurisdictional requirements.
3. Adopt the recommendations conveyed to the Federal Minister of Health in the report, *Towards a National Firefighter Cancer Framework: Building out the Awareness, Prevention, and Access to Care Puzzle*.





## AFCA Fire Services Data Committee

### **Project Objectives:**

1. Research and assess strategies for provincial fire data reporting including the exploration of diverse approaches tailored to the needs of all types of fire departments across Alberta.
2. Recommend relevant fire service data for provincial-level collection including the identification of data based on international best practices and ensuring compatibility with established standards and national partners.
3. Identify challenges in data collection, consistency, utilization, and technology implementation and create options to mitigate obstacles and encourage participation by all fire services for effective reporting.
4. Recommend methods for accessing and utilizing fire service data to inform local practices and provide insights for municipal leaders.
5. Identify opportunities for government utilization of provincial fire service data to support fire prevention and the local delivery of fire services by municipalities.





## **AFCA Fire Services Data Committee**

### **Key Deliverables/Actions**

The work plan and timelines associated with the scope and deliverables will be done with the use of a consultant to:

- a) Conduct an environmental scan/inventory of data systems used by fire departments throughout Alberta.
- b) Research current fire-related data in the province of Alberta through surveys or directly contacting provincial dispatch centers.
- c) Identify challenges to achieving provincial fire service data, such as data privacy concerns and technological barriers.
- d) Assess the extent of human input in current data processes.
- e) Research rural Alberta's capability to integrate into a fire services data network.
- f) Explore AI-driven models that may enhance fire service delivery or analysis.
- g) Liaise with other provinces on fire data models in use.
- h) Collaborate with the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Data consultant to align research, strategies, and goals on a national level.
- i) Gather input from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs on their data requirement needs and develop basic census-type data for the province of Alberta.
- j) Engage participants as identified and required through workplan development.
- k) Look to collaborate with other provinces, and what could align with Canada and align with national standards.





## AFCA 2024 Resolutions

### Inadequate Cellular Coverage in Alberta

AFCA will be bringing this forward to the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs to advocate on a national level to encourage the Federal Government to implement and enforce a “use it or lose it” clause specific to wireless spectrum purchasing policy, usage, and address the lack of reliable cellular network coverage for mobile wireless (cellular) service.







## AFCA 2024 Resolutions

### Wildfire Firefighter Training and Access to Curriculum Development

The Alberta Fire Chiefs Association will address CIFFC to:

- consider expanding its membership to include fire services from all provinces and territories across Canada; and
- increased financial contributions from member organizations towards CIFFC's curriculum development initiatives, aimed at enhancing the quality and relevance of wildfire fighter training programs.





## Join the AFCA

Yes, this is a plug for membership!

Persons eligible for Associate Membership include:

- Chief Forestry Officers or other designated heads of Forestry Districts or zones and Safety Codes Officers-Fire of Municipal Affairs or any successor provincial departments;
- Any Elected official of an Alberta Municipality, the CAO of any municipality in Alberta, Chief or Councillors of First Nations and Metis Settlements in Alberta;
- Members of a Fire Fighters', Pre-Hospital care workers', or related bargaining unit and Members of the Alberta College of Paramedics;
- Persons who are employees of a corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship interested in the protection of life and property from fire, medical, and other emergency incidents;
- Individual representatives of government bodies or agencies;
- Any person or an employee of an organization interested in the promotion or development of the Fire Service or persons who provide consulting services on a professional basis to the Fire Service or to Association members.





Thank you!!

Open floor to your questions and comments.

