



# **RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE**

*Progressive, Professional, Proud.*

## **Firefighter Application & Hiring Guide**

**2026**

**People. Excellence. Leadership. Team. Innovation.**

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## Our Vision

To be the best fire department in Canada.

## Our Mission

We act as an effective team to proactively protect and enhance the City's livability by serving and educating our community, preventing harm and responding to emergencies.


## Our Values

People – Excellence – Leadership – Team – Innovation



## Timeline

The following date ranges are estimates only and are subject to change:

	February	=	Application Period
	April	=	Written Testing
	April / May	=	Physical Testing
	May / June	=	Panel Interviews
	May / June	=	Candidate Department Familiarization
	July	=	Fire Chief Interview & Background Checks
	July	=	Job Offers
	August	=	Start Date

## Important information before you begin the application process:

- Applications will only be accepted through the City of Richmond's online application system.
- Applications received via email, fax or hard copy will NOT be accepted.
- Use an email address that you check regularly. Communication to you will be primarily through email. Check your junk folder regularly.
- Ensure you complete your application properly and include all the required documentation, as outlined in this guide and in any subsequent communications.
- All uploaded documents, must be no more than 10mb in total.
- Incomplete applications or those without the required supporting documentation will be screened out of the process.
- Give yourself adequate time to complete your application; do not rush. Answer each question carefully.



## Hiring Process

### Application Period

Applications are only accepted during the Application Period and must be submitted through the City of Richmond's online application system [chooserichmond.ca](http://chooserichmond.ca).

Richmond Fire-Rescue is an equal opportunity employer and continues its efforts towards greater diversity to better reflect the community which we serve. We are committed to employment equity and encourage everyone to apply.

Applications (including Basic Qualifications, Preferred Qualifications and Resumes) are reviewed and screened to ensure that applicants have all the Basic Qualifications. Applicants whose applications do not indicate that they have met all the Basic Qualifications (required at the time of application) will be screened out.

Ensure that you are completely ready to apply before you start your application. You should have **all** your information and documents collected and ready to upload.

Ensure once you begin your application that you have enough time to complete it before the 11:59 p.m. deadline, otherwise your application may not be received.

If at any time during the recruitment process, the cost of testing places you in a position of financial hardship, please email [fire@richmond.ca](mailto:fire@richmond.ca) to explain your extenuating circumstances.

If you experience problems during the application period, email [fire@richmond.ca](mailto:fire@richmond.ca). This email is only monitored during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

Please do not contact Human Resources or Richmond Fire-Rescue for an update on your application's progress.

### Resume Requirements

Please outline your work and volunteer experience in your resume.

Please provide a minimum of three (3) employment references that can verify your work history, qualifications, skills and abilities and suitability for the role.

**All information provided must be true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge. Knowingly providing inaccurate, misleading, or false information will result in the applicant being disqualified from the process. There will be no refund of any testing costs incurred by an applicant.**

You will be asked about each of the following qualifications at the time of your online application through the application platform. Some will require you to upload supporting documentation.



## Basic Qualifications:

1. Ability to pass a Police Information Check.
2. Legally entitled to work in Canada.
3. Successfully completed Grade 12 or equivalent.
4. Possess a valid BC Class 3 Driver's Licence (Automatic or Manual) with airbrakes, or equivalent.
5. Possess a 5-year driving record that demonstrates responsible and safe driving behaviour.
6. Possess a minimum of First Responder Level 3.
7. Physically fit and able to successfully pass the Fitness Test.
8. Able to successfully pass the swim test (100 m front crawl or freestyle, continuous forward stroke, and five minutes treading water).
9. Able to successfully pass a medical examination compliant with standards set out in the National Fire Protection Association 1582 (NFPA 1582 Chapter 6).

## Preferred Qualifications:

1. Successfully completed an approved firefighting training program to the NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II.
2. Have a minimum of one year of work experience (1,820 hours = 35 hour work week).
3. Have experience in related environments, including paramedic, medical, fire service, coast guard, military, search and rescue.
4. Successfully completed a post-secondary education or apprenticeship program.
5. Completed fire-service related courses, including but not limited to: auto extrication, surface water rescue, swift water rescue, high angle/rope rescue, confined space, hazardous materials technician, incident command, shipboard firefighting, critical incident stress, wild land firefighting, aircraft rescue firefighting, BC Fire Code, sprinklers.
6. Possess a Life Saving Society Certification of Bronze Star or higher.
7. Proficient in a second language, both oral and written.
8. Possess an understanding of Richmond's diverse cultures.
9. Volunteer work in community and/or emergency services.
10. Committed to a lifestyle of fitness, health, and wellness.



## Written Testing

(BL Associates Corporate Psychologists Inc: Personal-Competency Assessment for the Job of Firefighter)

Applicants who meet all of the Basic Qualifications may be selected to move forward in the process. They will receive an email advising the details of this online testing, including how to register. Written testing will be done online on April 10 and 11, 2026. The test fee is \$400 and will be the applicant's cost. This fee is non-refundable, payable via Visa, MasterCard or AMEX and will be required at the time of registration. **There will be no opportunity to write this test other than the specified dates.** The written test takes approximately 3-4 hours.

If you have sat this exam with BLA for another fire department within the last 12 months, then your scores may be eligible for transfer. Additional information on this process will be provided to those selected to move forward.

For more details on the test and how to prepare for it, please visit <http://blassociates.ca/firefighter-competency-testing/>.

## Physical Testing

Applicants shortlisted will move on to the physical testing. The Swim Test and Fitness Test will be held in Richmond over a two-day period in late April or early May. Applicants will complete only one of the tests each day. Test order will depend upon scheduling, and details including exact dates and times, will be communicated to shortlisted applicants later in the process. Applicants do not have to pay for the Fitness Test or the Swim Test.

- **Swim Test**

The swim test will consist of a 100-meter swim, using a continuous forward stroke – front crawl or freestyle – followed immediately by 5 minutes of treading water. This test takes less than half an hour. Applicants will wear swimming attire. Applicants who are unable to successfully complete the swim test will be eliminated from the process.

- **Fitness Test**

The Fitness Test is administered by Ascent Lifestyle Management Inc. This takes approximately 3 to 4 hours. Applicants who are unable to successfully complete the Fitness Test will be eliminated from the process. Applicants should strive to achieve their highest score possible on each test.

Aerobic Fitness Test

Twenty Meter Shuttle Run to a minimum of Stage 7 with increasing test scores to Stage 10.

Job Simulation Performance Tests

1. Claustrophobia (crawl in confined area – pass/fail)
2. Acrophobia (aerial ladder climb – pass/fail)
3. Hose carry/stair climb (85 lb up & down 4 times – timed for pass)
4. Ladder lift (56 lb – pass/fail)
5. Rope pull (50 lb up & down 4 times – timed for pass)
6. Simulated hose advance (135 lb over 50 ft. – timed for pass)
7. Weighted drag (200 lb over 50 ft. – timed for pass)
8. Forced entry (pass/fail)
9. Ladder raise (pass/fail)
10. Auto-Ex tool carry/hold (pass/fail)



## Panel Interviews

Applicants shortlisted will proceed to a structured panel interview. This interview will be predominantly behavioural based questions.

## Candidate Department Familiarization

Applicants shortlisted will be invited for a Fire Hall Familiarization. This is an opportunity for applicants to meet the team and experience a day in the life of a Richmond firefighter. Details including date, location, and how to register will be provided to successful applicants at a later date.

## Fire Chief Interview & Background Checks

Applicants shortlisted will be invited to a Fire Chief's interview. This interview will be conducted by the Fire Chief or a designate.

- **Reference Checks and Education Verification**

Reference checks and education verification will be completed for shortlisted applicants.

- **Medical Examination**

Applicants moving forward in the process will be contacted at the appropriate time and asked to arrange their comprehensive NFPA 1582 Occupational Medical Examination by Ultima Medical Services Inc. The medical fee will be the applicant's cost.

The comprehensive NFPA 1582 Occupational Medical Examination includes:

- **Visual Acuity** (NFPA 1582 standard)
- **Depth Perception** (Stereopsis Test)
- **Normal Lung Function**
- **Hearing** (Audiometer, NFPA Standard)
- **Colour Vision** (City University Test or Farnsworth D-15 Test)

This examination takes approximately 90 minutes and the cost is payable by the applicant to the clinic. You will receive a Medical Certificate upon successful completion of the medical examination.

The medical examination is conducted by Ultima Medical Services Inc., Suite #390 – 3600 Lysander Lane, Richmond, BC V7B 1C3. Phone (604) 270 –1370

This certificate confirms that the applicant meets the minimum standards for candidate firefighters as per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1582, Chapter 6.

For your reference, a complete copy of the NFPA 1582 standards can be viewed online at the National Fire Protection Association at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

- **Police Information Check and Updated Driver's Record**

Applicants moving forward in the process will be contacted at the appropriate time and provided details on how to arrange to undergo a Police Information Check. An updated Driver's Record will also be required.

## Job Offers

Applicants who are successful through the process will receive offers of employment. Start date is anticipated for August 2026.



## Application Checklist

### Basic Qualifications:

1. Able to pass a Police Information Check.....
2. Must be legally entitled to work in Canada. Upload supporting documentation (Canadian Birth Certificate, Canadian Passport, Landed Immigrant papers, etc.). **Note:** A work visa is not acceptable.....
3. Successfully completed Grade 12 or equivalent. Upload supporting documentation. ....
4. Possess a valid BC Class 3 Driver's License (automatic or manual) with airbrakes, or equivalent. Upload a copy of your driver's license (front and back).....
5. Possess a 5-year driving record that demonstrates responsible and safe driving behavior. Upload a copy of your driving record. ....
6. Possess a valid First Responder Level 3. Upload supporting documentation. ....
7. Physically fit and able to successfully pass the Fitness Test. ....
8. Able to successfully swim 100m front crawl or freestyle, continuous forward stroke, and five minutes treading water.....
9. Able to successfully pass a medical examination compliant with standards set out in the National Fire Protection Association 1582, Chapter 6.....



Preferred Qualifications:

- 10. Successfully completed an approved firefighting training program to the NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II. Upload supporting documentation. ....
- 11. Have a minimum of one year of work experience (1,820 hours = 35-hour work week). ....
- 12. Have experience in related environments, including paramedic, medical, fire service, coast guard, military, search and rescue. ....
- 13. Successfully completed a post-secondary education or apprenticeship program. Upload supporting documentation. ....
- 14. Completed fire-service related courses, including but not limited to: auto extrication, surface water rescue, swift water rescue, high angle/rope rescue, confined space, hazardous materials technician, incident command, shipboard firefighting, critical incident stress, wild land firefighting, aircraft rescue firefighting, BC Fire Code, sprinklers. Upload supporting documentation.....
- 15. Possess a Life Saving Society Certification of Bronze Star or higher. Upload supporting documentation. ....
- 16. Proficient in a second language, both oral and written.....
- 17. Possess an understanding of Richmond’s diverse cultures. ....
- 18. Volunteer work in community and/or emergency services. ....
- 19. Committed to a lifestyle of fitness, health, and wellness. ....

Final Steps:

- 20. Have completed the online application.....
- 21. Have uploaded all documents including Resume, references, and all supporting documents for basic and preferred qualifications. **Supporting documentation for all basic and preferred qualifications must be provided at the time of application or they will not be considered**.....

