



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TIVFD ?

Pre-membership Requirements

- Volunteers must live or work on Thetis Island.
- Complete the application process.
- Provide a copy of valid Class 5 or higher driver's license and proof of automobile insurance.
- Sign a waiver giving authorization to conduct a criminal background check and a Transport Canada drivers' check.
- Be medically and physically fit to perform firefighter training and duties
- Complete an informal interview and orientation.

Membership Requirements

- All new volunteers will serve a probationary period of one year.
- Volunteer members must participate in a minimum of 9 drills each quarter (minimum 36 per annum). Any member unable to meet the minimum training requirements due to conflicts in work schedules, etc. may make arrangements to make-up the training activity approved by the Chief Officer or Training Officer.
- Drills are held Wednesday nights from 19:00 –21:00 and other training is scheduled on several weekends throughout the year. Opportunities of off-island firefighter training will be made available to new members as they progress through the TIVFD training program.

Equipment

Protective gear and other equipment will be distributed to new volunteers upon successful completion of the pre-membership requirements, informal interview and orientation. This gear and equipment belongs to the department and members are required to keep it clean and operational. Upon retirement from the department, the gear and other equipment must be returned.

Driving Apparatus

The ability to drive Fire Department equipment requires successful completion of required Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulations (EVDR) training, and the approval of the Fire Chief. Drivers must be 19 years of age and in possession of a full (unrestricted) driver's license to drive TIVFD equipment while responding to emergency calls. At this time, all fire apparatus have hydraulic brake and not air-brake systems and require only a Class 5 license to operate. A Class 4 license is required to drive the Rescue truck (ambulance vehicle) when a patient is being transported.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department is a fully volunteer fire department that “employs” for no salary remuneration fire fighters, and two Captains, one of which may be the Training Officer. The Fire Chief and the Deputy Chief receive a small yearly salary for administrative work.. The Thetis Island Improvement District is the “employer” and is the Authority Having Jurisdiction with the ability to approve a fire department budget to be funded by taxation on assessed Thetis Island property and structures. The TIID meets regularly as business requires, and there is an annual general meeting (AGM) in the spring where financial and other reports are made public and budget approved. The five member TIID Board is elected by island ratepayers and serve three year terms with no remuneration. The Improvement District employs two administrative staff, as required by the Province, at a nominal yearly salary.

The Thetis Island Volunteer Fire department is progressive and seeks volunteers who understand the modern demands of fire department to provide excellent emergency services to the community, The department is committed to safety, accountability, professionalism, respect for all, and strong community relations. Volunteers are an integral part and a valuable asset to Thetis Island community life. In making application to join the TIVFD as a volunteer, there are certain requirements that must be met. You may attend weekly drills as an observer until all eligibility requirements have been met.

BENEFITS

Besides the personal satisfaction you will receive from providing a truly significant service to your community, and the camaraderie with fellow volunteer firefighters, the following benefits are available to volunteer members:

1. Enrollment in the Volunteer Firefighters Health & Welfare program. This program provides some immediate funding for firefighters and their families if , sickness, injury or disability arises in the performance of their duties as firefighters and other insurance payments are delayed.
2. TheTIID provides a commercial Employee Insurance Program for death or disability while on-duty.
3. WorkSafe BC covers all activities that are related to employment with the TIVFD.
4. The TIVFD enrolls all members in the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association of BC, and that membership carries additional fire fighter insurance.
5. Participation in a volunteer reimbursement program to offset vehicle fuel costs. Earn a stipend for attendance at training drills, responding to calls, helping with community service projects, etc. and receive a fuel reimbursement check annually.
6. Training opportunities which could lead to career opportunities for those who are interested in applying to full-time career Fire Departments.
7. A yearly tax credit of \$3,000. if volunteer fire fighter hours exceed 200.

OTHER OPPORTUNITES

Besides fire and emergency medical service functions, there are several other volunteer opportunities with the TIVFD. Each of these areas is an integral part of the TIVFD:

Auxiliary Support Team

Auxiliary Team members may respond to the scene of an incident to provide support services such as providing food and drink to the working crew, traffic control, or water tending activities (water shuttle driving and dumping). Individuals who do not wish to actively fight a fire are encouraged to be part of the Auxiliary support team. Members of support services are required to attend First Aid/CPR training, and incident command training so they are familiar with fire ground operations. Auxiliary support team members performing traffic control duties must attend a Traffic Control Flagging course given by the TIVFD. Auxiliary Support Team members are covered by WorkSafe BC when the Incident Commander requests their assistance during a response.

Junior Firefighter Program

The Junior Firefighter Program is open to youth aged 15 to 18 with parental permission. Training takes place along side of full members and certification can be obtained. Past Junior members have found that the experience gained in the department was a valuable addition to resumes upon High School Graduation.

Civic Opportunities

The TIVFD must be operationally ready at all times and equipment must be kept in top condition. We would welcome volunteer assistance for mechanical work, office work, and manning the communications room during emergency responses. Also, throughout the year the TIVFD embarks upon various projects to enhance the fire suppression capabilities on the island, such as installation of dry hydrants at various ponds, and we would welcome community assistance on these work parties.

The TIVFD is well respected in the community and participates in numerous civic activities including fire education seminars, fire prevention week activities, guest speakers at various organization meetings, open house, etc.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Jeannine Caldbeck, Fire Chief at 250-252-0544 or e-mail firechief@thetisislandfire.ca or deputychief@thetisislandfire.ca