



RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

WHAT DOES THE PICTURE BUTTE EMERGENCY SERVICES DO?

Picture Butte Emergency Services provides emergency services (fire, rescue, EMS) to the Town of Picture Butte and the surrounding Lethbridge County and rural communities. Our response area includes a large portion of the Lethbridge County, stretching from the Oldman River crossing on Highway 845, to the northern border of the County, west to Park Lake and east to the border of the M.D. of Taber.

Emergency calls include motor vehicle collisions, structural and wildland fires, rescue calls (high angle, water, and ice), and medical calls. The Picture Butte Emergency Services currently has a fleet of 8 frontline emergency vehicles, including one BLS Ambulance.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER?

Anyone living within the Town of Picture Butte or the immediate surrounding area is eligible to apply to become a volunteer. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age, hold a valid Class 5 or higher Alberta driver's license, have a clean criminal record, and be physically fit.

It is not necessary to have prior fire training, as the department will put you through required training, although previous experience will be considered a great asset when reviewing an application.

HOW MANY CALLS DOES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPOND TO EACH YEAR?

Picture Butte Emergency Services responds to over 1000 emergency callouts annually, of which about 85% of emergency medical responses. The department also responds to around 30 motor vehicle collisions and 100 fire events each year.

HOW MANY FIREFIGHTERS ARE THERE IN PICTURE BUTTE?

The department has the capacity for 30 volunteer firefighters and additional medical personnel as needed.

The department is staffed by full-time and casual primary care paramedics, who serve as the frontline EMS crew and handle administrative duties for the ambulance. Other ambulance shifts are covered by paid-on-call medical personnel who have assigned shifts.

Firefighters are expected to respond to all fire call outs, day and night, if they are nearby and able to respond.



HOW MUCH TIME IS INVOLVED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER?

Potential Volunteers must realize that it takes quite a lot of time and effort to reach and maintain the level of training and experience necessary for both their safety and the safety of the public. In addition to attending emergency calls, volunteer firefighters are expected to attend regular weekly training sessions on Thursday evenings, and at times training may take place on occasional weekends.

Volunteer firefighters must have a high level of commitment to the service and to the department and must be willing to train and respond to calls any day of the week and any time of day. Picture Butte fire department members are expected to maintain a minimum amount of required training hours each month in order to sustain their spot with the department.

In house training includes, search and rescue tactics, vehicle extrication, ice rescue, live fire training, and many other fire/rescue and medical related practices. Certified courses and training are also a mandatory component of being a volunteer firefighter and are conducted through certified instructors throughout the region.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL?

The Picture Butte Ambulance is currently under contract with Alberta Health Services and operates at a frontline BLS ambulance and BLS medical first response. All members participate in medical response from the Standard First Aid level to Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) to Primary Care Paramedic.

Any firefighter can volunteer to become involved in the Ambulance Service once they have successfully completed their probationary period as a firefighter, and once approved by the EMS Team Lead and Fire Chief; they will then be put through the appropriate training and/or orientation. Volunteers must understand that becoming part of the EMS team requires even more of a time commitment in order to obtain and uphold the training and level of competency expected of registered EMS practitioners in Alberta, as well as the standards of excellence that our organization is committed to. This time obligation is in addition to that expected of you as a volunteer firefighter.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS?

There are many benefits from becoming a volunteer firefighter. Volunteer firefighters are provided with a chance to grow as an individual, acquire training and skills that will enable them to make a career out of firefighting in the future, and most rewarding of all, is the opportunity to give something back to their community.

HOW DO YOU JOIN THE DEPARTMENT?

Picture Butte Emergency Services holds two recruitment periods annually, in the spring and fall, in which applications will be accepted. During the recruitment period, simply fill out an application form, along with a completed criminal record check, driver's abstract, and copies of any current related certifications you may hold, and bring it by the fire station between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm weekdays or on a Thursday evening after 6:30pm. Alternatively, you may scan your documents and send by email to pbfdrecruitment@gmail.com.

All applications will be reviewed and followed up on appropriately; potential applicants may be scheduled for an interview. After your application has been selected you will be informed of the start date for the recruit class. The recruit training is an eight-step process in which applicants are introduced to the functions of the department and the duties of a firefighter. Applicants will be evaluated throughout the process and upon successful completion will join the department as a Probationary Firefighter.